



**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

**LIZZETTE REYNOLDS**  
COMMISSIONER

**Via Electronic Mail**

August 28, 2023

Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder, Director of Schools  
Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools  
621 Gracey Avenue  
Clarksville, TN 37040

Re: Waiver for Class Size Average at Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools

Dear Director Luna-Vedder:

I am in receipt of your August 22, 2023 letter requesting for a waiver of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for classes within certain schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools. According to your letter, you are requesting a waiver for the following class size averages for the 2023-24 school year:

- Grades K-3 at Barkers Mill Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Burt Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Glenellen Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Hazelwood Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Liberty Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Montgomery Central Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Moore Magnet School
- Grades K-3 at Northeast Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Oakland Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Pisgah Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Ringgold Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at St. Bethlehem Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at West Creek Elementary School
- Grades K-3 at Woodlawn Elementary School
  
- Grades 4-6 at Burt Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Cumberland Heights Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Hazelwood Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Liberty Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Pisgah Elementary School

- Grades 4-6 at Ringgold Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Woodlawn Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at New Providence Middle School
- Grades 4-6 at Northeast Middle School
- Grades 4-6 at West Creek Middle School
  
- Grades 7-8 at Kenwood Middle School
- Grades 7-8 at Montgomery Central Middle School
- Grades 7-8 at New Providence Middle School
- Grades 7-8 at Northeast Middle School
- Grades 7-8 at West Creek Middle School

The commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) is limited by Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104(a), which states that "neither the commissioner nor the state board of education shall grant waivers from the maximum class sizes established in this section."

With the understanding that none of the classes at the aforementioned schools will exceed the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the 2023-24 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds  
Commissioner



**Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder**

Director of Schools

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

August 22, 2023

Commissioner Lizette Reynolds  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

I am writing to request a waiver related to the average class size for selected elementary and middle schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools. According to State Board of Education Policy (Chapter 0520-01-03-.03); the average class size in grades K-3 should not exceed 20 students with a maximum of 25 per class, the average class size in grades 4-6 should not exceed 25 students with a maximum of 30 per class, the average class size in grades 7-8 should not exceed 30 with a maximum of 35 per class.

Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 20 to 25 with no individual class size average to exceed in 25 in K-3 at the following schools for the 2023-2024 school year; Barkers Mill Elementary School, Burt Elementary School, Glenellen Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Montgomery Central Elementary School, Moore Magnet School, Northeast Elementary School, Oakland Elementary School, Pisgah Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, St. Bethlehem Elementary School, West Creek Elementary School, and Woodlawn Elementary School.

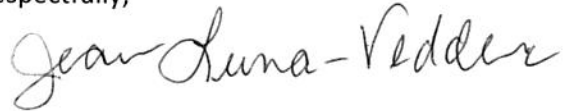
Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 25 to 30 with no individual class size average to exceed in 30 in 4-6 at the following schools for the 2023-2024 school year; Burt Elementary School, Cumberland Heights Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Pisgah Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, Woodlawn Elementary School, New Providence Middle School, Northeast Middle School, and West Creek Middle School. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 30 to 35 with no individual class size average to exceed in 35 in 7-8 at the following schools for the 2023-2024 school year; Kenwood Middle School, Montgomery Central Middle School, New Providence Middle School, Northeast Middle School, and West Creek Middle School.

Allowing our class sizes in the designated schools to increase to the maximum, supports Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools teacher pipeline work to expand in the designated schools. Each teacher position that we are able to surplus provides two educational assistants that will work as teacher residents and have the opportunity to receive a college education and professional dual certifications in the areas of K-5/Special Education, Middle Grade Math/Special Education, Middle Grade Science/Special Education, Middle Grade ELA, and Middle Grade Math. The adult to student ratio actually goes down through this model.

As we make this request, we also remain cognizant that class size average and maximum is well supported by educational research. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is dedicated to use the waiver to reduce adult to student ratios and support teacher pipeline work. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools

teacher pipeline works increases teacher diversity, provides a solution for the teacher shortage, and supports members of our community to meet the qualifications and develop the skills to be high qualified teachers in our district.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean-Luna Vedder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jean-Luna Vedder