



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

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

PENNY SCHWINN
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail and US Mail

October 8, 2019

Millard L. House II, Director of Schools
Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools
621 Gracey Avenue
Clarksville, TN 37040
millard.house@cmcss.net

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

Dear Director House,

I am in receipt of your October 8, 2019 letter requesting for a waiver of the class size average found in T.C.A. § 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 2019-2020 school year:

- Grade 1 at Moore Elementary School
- Grade 7 at Rossvie Middle School

In addition, you are requesting a waiver for the following class size averages for the 2020-2021 school year:

- K-3 at Burt Elementary School
- K-3 at St. Bethlehem Elementary School
- K-3 at Moore Magnet Elementary School
- K-3 at Liberty Elementary School
- K-3 at Ringgold Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Burt Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at St. Bethlehem Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Moore Magnet Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Liberty Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Ringgold Elementary School
- Grades 4-6 at Kenwood Middle School
- Grades 4-6 at Montgomery Central Middle 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 T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) is limited by T.C.A. §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 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years respectively.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Millard L. House II
Director of Schools
Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

October 8, 2019

Commissioner Penny Schwinn
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

I am writing to request a wavier 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 exceed the stated maximum of 25 students in the first grade at Moore Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 30 to with no individual class to exceed the maximum of 35 per class in the seventh grade at Rossvie Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year.

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 2020-2021 school year; Burt Elementary School, St. Bethlehem Elementary School, Moore Magnet Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, and Ringgold 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 2020-2021 school year; Burt Elementary School, St. Bethlehem Elementary School, Moore Magnet Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, Kenwood Middle School, Montgomery Central Middle 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 2020-2021 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, and Middle Grade Science/Special Education. 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.