



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

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

February 5, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Chris Barbic, Superintendent
Achievement School District
cbarbic@tnasd.org

Dear Mr. Barbic:

I am in receipt of your December 15, 2014 letter requesting a waiver on behalf of The Achievement School District (ASD), from the average class size requirements included in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104, for the four elementary schools and one middle school directly run by the ASD.

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 your classes will exceed the maximum number of students specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average for the four elementary schools and one middle school directly run by the ASD is granted for the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen



Commissioner Kevin Huffman
Tennessee Department of Education

December 15, 2014

Dear Commissioner Huffman:

By this letter, I am requesting a waiver of the class size averages in T.C.A. § 49-1-104 for the four elementary schools and one middle school directly run by the Achievement School District. This request is made pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-201(d)(1).

I understand that the schools would still be required to meet the class size maximums established in T.C.A. § 49-1-104.

Waiving class size averages would be helpful, even while meeting the maximum class size requirement. For example, if we have 58 students in Grades 4-5 at a school, we currently have to hire 3 teachers to adhere to the 25:1 class size average rule. However, if we had that cap lifted, we could go with two classes of 29 students (since the maximum class size for the grade 4-6 span is 30 students).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Barbic", written in a cursive style.

Chris Barbic
Superintendent