



Office of the Director of Schools
101 South Main Street, Suite 501
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Larry M. Foster, Director

August 11, 2014

Kevin Huffman, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Commissioner Huffman:

I am writing in reference to the new law enacted from House Bill 1799 and assigned Public Chapter No. 672 of the 2014 Act by the Secretary of State's Office on April 21, 2014. As we understand, this act amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, relative to K-12 education, allowing LEAs to submit application for waiver to any State Board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals (with exception to certain federal and state civil and statutory requirements).

Specific to this new law, the Anderson County Schools Board of Education would like to apply for a waiver of all class size average mandates K-12 in all seventeen of our schools, while we continue to adhere to the class size maximums only. Our reason for requesting the waiver is directly related to our decrease in enrollment and how our students are dispersed throughout the county.

We have several schools with very low enrollment numbers in each grade. We also have some schools that are very close to the enrollment caps but do not exceed. Accordingly, the amount of BEP funding received does not meet the challenges our system faces as we assign teachers over the several schools. Adherence to the class average mandate would force our system to hire teachers at a time when we are struggling to maintain a balanced budget.

To offset the increased averages in those schools, the principals will be directed to utilize teaching assistants already in place in those affected classes.

To ensure that those classes with the largest enrollments are taught by our best teachers, we will use our differentiated teacher pay plan to encourage and compensate our "best" teachers to take on those classes.

Thank you,

Larry Foster
Director



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
9th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

August 28, 2014

Larry Foster
Director of Schools
Anderson County Schools
101 South Main Street, Suite 501
Clinton, TN 37716

Dear Mr. Foster,

Thank you for your August 1 request to receive a waiver from certain provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 relative to the average class requirements.

With the understanding that none of your classes will exceed the maximum number of students specified in law, your waiver request is approved for the 2014-15 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KEVIN HUFFMAN".

Kevin Huffman