

September 10, 2021

Dear Director Hebrand,

Thank you for your waiver submission on September 10, 2021.

The commissioner of education may consider waivers related to of the provisions of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. Chapters 0520-01-03 and 0520-01-13 related to remote instruction to the extent necessary to allow students affected at the classroom or school level by COVID-19 isolation or quarantine to participate in remote instruction. As stated, your district still has the authority to quarantine students and staff on an individual case-by-case basis (not in the aggregate). Waivers will only be considered when a LEA can document and demonstrate a significant impact of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation on school operations, impacting students, teachers, and/or staff. Please note, if a waiver request is granted to a school, all extracurricular activities for that school must also be cancelled for the duration of the waiver period.

The waiver submitted by Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District for 2 schools is **approved**.

The rationale for this approval is:

- Central Elementary: With 71.4% of staff and approximately 20% of students absent at the elementary school level, there is clearly not enough staff to provide coverage at the school. This is especially true in a small district that has limited central office staff to support.
- Central High: Proposing the A/B schedule is a strong solution to account for the same number of in-person instructional days during a 2-week time period. This also addresses the shortage is staff and teachers, while still ensuring safety and instruction for students. Again, this is especially true in a small district that has limited central office staff to support.

If not already in place, *the department also continues to encourage all districts to implement as many mitigation strategies as possible* to contain the spread of COVID-19, limit quarantines, and remain in-person, such as utilizing:

- The same or enhanced mitigation strategies used last school year such as temperature checks, physical distancing, frequent handwashing, etc.
- Seating charts in all settings, including classrooms, cafeteria/meals, bus routes, etc.
- Proactively stocking non-perishable items for breakfasts/lunches to account for meal staff absences
- Cohorting students to limit close contacts
- The consideration of masking

I continue to be incredibly grateful for the work of your district, educators, students and families as we collectively address and respond to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Schwinn'.

Penny Schwinn, PhD, MAT  
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education

### Local Education Agency Waiver Request Application: COVID-19 Relief

Upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one (1) or more of its classrooms or schools, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201 (d), the commissioner of education will consider waivers of the provisions of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. Chapters 0520-01-03 and 0520-01-13 related to remote instruction to the extent necessary to allow students affected at the classroom or school level by COVID-19 isolation or quarantine to participate in remote instruction. This waiver process is not required for individual students on quarantine.

Waivers will only be considered when a LEA can document and demonstrate a significant impact of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation on school operations, impacting students, teachers, and/or staff. Please note, if a waiver request is granted to a school, all extracurricular activities for that school must also be cancelled.

Please submit completed applications to [Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov](mailto:Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov). Following review by the commissioner or designee, the local education agency will be notified in writing if the waiver request application is approved or denied. If approved, the waiver will only be valid for seven (7) calendar days. If conditions warranting a waiver persist, then the LEA may submit additional waivers.

## Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District

Local Education Agency

29590 Broad Street

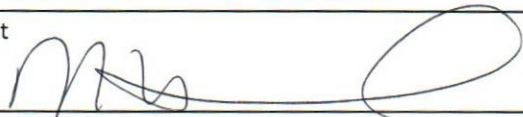
Bruceton

38317

Street

City

Zip



09.10.21

Director of Schools (Signature)

Date

1. Number of **classrooms** for which you are requesting a waiver: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of Classroom	Name of School	In Quarantine or Isolation					
		# of Teachers	% of Teachers	# of Staff	% of Staff	# of Students	% of Students

Please explain why this waiver is necessary and in-person instruction is not feasible at this time:

Transfer of Covid-19 symptoms is preventing school from maintaining a feasible number to run. School is under one roof and is requesting to move to an A/B schedule for the next two weeks. We will monitor numbers and make adjustments as needed.

2. Number of **schools** for which you are requesting a waiver: 2

Name of School	In Quarantine or Isolation					
	# of Teachers	% of Teachers	# of Staff	% of Staff	# of Students	% of Students
Central Elementary	2	9	10	71.4	61	17.8
Central High	2	16.7	4	26.7	62	20.9

Please explain why this waiver is necessary and in-person instruction is not feasible at this time:

Transfer of Covid-19 symptoms is preventing school from maintaining a feasible number to run. School is under one roof and is requesting to move to an A/B schedule for the next two weeks. We will monitor numbers and make adjustments as needed.