



September 20, 2021

Dear Director Suite,

Thank you for your waiver submission on September 20, 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 South Carroll Special School District for 1 classroom is **approved**.

The rationale for this approval is:

- While there may be limited staff absent, the needs of the student populations impacted is such that a waiver is warranted.
- There is a reasonable description about the importance of in-person instruction and the rationale for why you are prioritizing in the way that you are.

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 'P. 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. § 49-1-209 (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. 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.

South Carroll Special School District - 095

Local Education Agency

145 Clarksburg Road Huntingdon, TN 38344

Street

City

Zip

Lex C. Suite

9/20/2021

Director of Schools (Signature)

Date

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

| Grade of Classroom | Name of School | In Quarantine or Isolation | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | # of Teachers | % of Teachers | # of Staff | % of Staff | # of Students | % of Students |
| Pre-K (P3 & P4) | Clarksburg School | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

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

We have a staff of 3 in this student group. We presently have a total of 3 of our 25 Teachers out with COVID. Our 6-12 SPED Teacher is currently out with COVID. If this waiver is approved, my Pre-K Teacher (who has an SPED Endorsement) can be inserted into 6-12 Special Ed to meet the needs of those students.

I do **NOT** want to shut down a larger population of students at this time (9-12), (7-12), (K-6), etc. I firmly believe that students learn better in person. Clarksburg School did NOT shut its doors for any part of 2020-21; and we were recently recognized as an Exemplary School.

If I could have a variance with our Pre-K students this week (9/21 – 9/24), I am optimistic we can weather the storm while keeping our K-12 students on track with in person instruction.

2. Number of **schools** for which you are requesting a waiver: ___ N/A ___

| Name of School | <i>In Quarantine or Isolation</i> | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | # of Teachers | % of Teachers | # of Staff | % of Staff | # of Students | % of Students |
| | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | |

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