



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 & USPS

March 25, 2019

Dr. Brian Bell, Director of Schools
Ms. Patty Thomas, Director of Career & Technical Education
Alcoa City Schools
524 Faraday Street
Alcoa, TN 37701

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Dr. Bell and Ms. Thomas:

I am in receipt of your February 28, 2019 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for the Alcoa City School system for the 2019-2020 school year.

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."

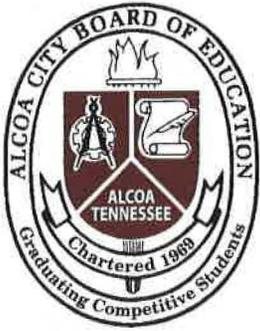
With the understanding that none of the Career and Technical Education classes in the Alcoa City School system will exceed 25, the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Schwinn" followed by a stylized initial "CS".

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



ALCOA CITY SCHOOLS GRADUATING COMPETITIVE STUDENTS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
RIGOROUS EXPECTATIONS
RELEVANT INSTRUCTION

524 FARADAY STREET
ALCOA, TENNESSEE 37701
(865) 984-0531
FAX (865) 984-5832

BRIAN BELL, ED.D.
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

February 28th, 2019

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

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

For the past two years, Alcoa City Schools has requested an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 statute that limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students. Former TDOE Commissioner Candice McQueen respectfully granted those waivers. Once again, for the 2019-20 school year, Alcoa City Schools is requesting an exemption to the building-level class-size average.

Alcoa City Schools continues to see an increase in our high school population and currently we are seeing an increase in course requests for our CTE programs. Projected numbers show that all of our CTE classes will be at maximum capacity. Limiting the class size average to 20 would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as health science and mechatronics, that align with our current workforce needs. The mission of Alcoa City Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the class size average of 20 students per CTE course will allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and will allow us to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness skills.

To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the TCA Code, section 49-1-104 be granted, once again, for the 2019-20 school year. Alcoa High School will keep CTE class sizes at 25 and clinical internship courses at 15, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Brian Bell

Director of Schools

Mrs. Patty Thomas

Director of Career & Technical Education