



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

August 29, 2019

Tim Haney, Director of Schools
Trenton Special School District
201 West Tenth Street
Trenton, TN 38382

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Class Size

Dear Director Haney:

I am in receipt of your August 21, 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 Trenton Special School District 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 Trenton Special School District 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,


Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Tim Haney
Director of Schools

Trenton Special School District

201 West Tenth Street
Trenton, Tennessee 38382

Phone 731-855-1191
Fax 731-855-1414

www.trentonssd.org

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Re: Waiver for CTE class size requirements

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

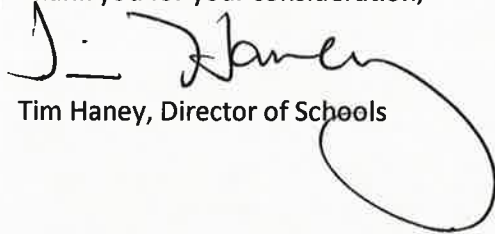
Trenton is respectfully requesting an exemption to the Tennessee Code Annotated statute, 49-1-104, which limits CTE class sizes to 20 students/class.

We have three issues unique to us this year: an uptick in transfers "in", a schedule change at Peabody High School from Trimesters to a 4x4 block, and an increase in student requests for CTE courses. We could have worked around any one of those issues, but all three in the same year has created a problem as we would rather not restrict students from taking their preferred classes in the offered areas (Ag, Health Sciences, STEM, Human Services, and Early Childhood Education).

I should note that we have worked to reduce the average to its current level of about 21 students/class and have not exceeded the 25 class limit in any of them. But, we can't get any lower without pulling students who truly need/want these courses due to area workforce opportunities. In order to work toward the fulfillment of our mission to graduate college and career ready students, eliminating the 20 average will provide the opportunity for these students to participate in the CTE elective focus of their choice.

Therefore, to better prepare our students for their post-secondary lives, we respectfully request the exemption to TCA 49-1-104, to be granted for the 2019-20 school year.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tim Haney, Director of Schools

June McCourt, CTE Director

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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AUG 29 2019

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL