



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

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

LIZZETTE REYNOLDS
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

June 24, 2026

Jake Jones, Director of Schools
Alcoa City Schools
5524 Faraday Street
Alcoa, TN 37701

Dear Director Jones:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for grades 6-12 CTE courses in Alcoa City Schools.

The commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) is limited by Tenn. Code Ann. § 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 grades 6-12 CTE courses in Alcoa city Schools will exceed the maximum number of students per class specified in the above-mentioned law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is hereby granted for the 2026-27 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette
Reynolds_CLB

Digitally signed by
Lizzette Reynolds_CLB
Date: 2026.07.29
10:41:51 -05'00'

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any State Board of Education (SBE) rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Waivers may not be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

LEAs applying for waivers must email this completed form to LEA.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the LEA will be notified in writing if the waiver request is approved or denied. Unless otherwise stated, all waivers granted by the commissioner shall be granted for one-year terms.

Alcoa City Schools

Local Education Agency

Alcoa High School and Middle School

School Name, if applicable

524 Faraday Street. Alcoa TN 37701

School Address, if applicable


Director of Schools Signature & Date
Jake Jones

6-2-2026

Director of Schools Printed Name



List the statute or SBE rule for which a waiver is being requested.

TCA Code, Section 49-1-104-that limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students.

Explanation of how the statute or SBE rule inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission.

For the past seven 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. Once again, for the 2026-27 school year, Alcoa City Schools is requesting an exemption to the building-level class-size average for CTE courses in grades 6-12. 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 enrollment shows that some CTE classes will be over the building maximum average. Limiting the class size average, for the building to 20, would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as health science and engineering, that align to our workforce needs. Eliminating the building-level average will also allow us to expand work-based learning offerings to our students. The mission of Alcoa City Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the building-level average of 20 per course will ultimately allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and allow our district to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career awareness skills.

To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the TCA Code, section 49-1-104 be granted for the 2026-27 school year. We will keep our class sizes capped at 25 per high school course, 30 per middle school course, and 15 for clinical internships, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request: 2026-27