



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

February 16, 2023

Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder, Director of Schools
Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools
621 Gracey Avenue
Clarksville, TN 37040

Re: Waiver for Class Size Average at Various Schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools

Dear Director Luna-Vedder:

I am in receipt of your February 16, 2023 request for a waiver of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for various elementary and middle schools within Clarksville-Montgomery County 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 schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools will exceed the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced statute, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder
Director of Schools

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

I am writing to request a waiver related to the average class size for selected elementary and middle schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools. According to State Board of Education Policy (Chapter 0520-01-03-.03); the average class size in grades K-3 should not exceed 20 students with a maximum of 25 per class, the average class size in grades 4-6 should not exceed 25 students with a maximum of 30 per class, the average class size in grades 7-8 should not exceed 30 with a maximum of 35 per class.

Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 20 to 25 with no individual class size average to exceed in 25 in K-3 at the following schools for the 2022-2023 school year; Barkers Mill Elementary School, Barksdale Elementary School, Burt Elementary School, Byrns Darden Elementary School, Glenellen Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Kenwood Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Minglewood Elementary School, Montgomery Central Elementary School, Moore Magnet School, Norman Smith Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Oakland Elementary School, Pisgah Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, Spanish Immersion at Barksdale Elementary School, St. Bethlehem Elementary School, West Creek Elementary School, and Woodlawn Elementary School.

Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 25 to 30 with no individual class size average to exceed in 30 in 4-6 at the following schools for the 2022-2023 school year; Barkers Mill Elementary School, Burt Elementary School, Byrns Darden Elementary School, Cumberland Heights Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Kenwood Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Minglewood Elementary School, Norman Smith Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, Spanish Immersion at Barksdale Elementary School, Woodlawn Elementary School, Kenwood Middle School, Montgomery Central Middle School, New Providence Middle School, Northeast Middle School, and West Creek Middle School. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is requesting increasing the class size average from 30 to 35 with no individual class size average to exceed in 35 in 7-8 at the following schools for the 2022-2023 school year; Kenwood Middle School, Montgomery Central Middle School, New Providence Middle School, Northeast Middle School, and West Creek Middle School.

Allowing our class sizes in the designated schools to increase to the maximum, supports Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools teacher pipeline work to expand in the designated schools. Each teacher position that we are able to surplus provides two educational assistants that will work as teacher residents and have the opportunity to receive a college education and professional dual certifications in the areas

of K-5/Special Education, Middle Grade Math/Special Education, Middle Grade Science/Special Education, Middle Grade ELA, and Middle Grade Math. The adult to student ratio actually goes down through this model.

As we make this request, we also remain cognizant that class size average and maximum is well supported by educational research. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools is dedicated to use the waiver to reduce adult to student ratios and support teacher pipeline work. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools teacher pipeline works increases teacher diversity, provides a solution for the teacher shortage, and supports members of our community to meet the qualifications and develop the skills to be high qualified teachers in our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Luna-Vedder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "V".

Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder
Director of Schools