



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

August 24, 2026

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

Dear Director Luna-Vedder:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for grades K-8 classes at all elementary and middle schools in Clarksville Montgomery County School System.

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 K-8 classes in Clarksville Montgomery School System will exceed the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is hereby granted for the remainder of 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: 2026.08.24
13:19:24 -05'00'

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

General Waiver Request

Local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools should review the Local Education Agency and Public Charter School Waiver Guidance posted on the [department's website](#) before submitting this request. The guidance outlines what can and cannot be waived, as well as the information required for commonly requested waivers.

To apply for a waiver, email the completed form to Education.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the requestor 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.

If this is a waiver request for a public charter school, please attach documentation that confirms the public charter school first submitted this waiver to its LEA authorizer and the LEA authorized denied the request.

Clarksville Montgomery County School System

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable

jean.luna-vedder@cmcsc.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

1. Statute(s) or State Board of Education (SBE) rule(s) for which a waiver is being requested.
TN Code 49-1-104, class size maximum to support Grow Your Own program
2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.
August 5, 2026-May 26, 2027
3. Explanation of how the statute(s) or SBE rule(s) inhibits or hinders the LEA's/public charter school's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission (attach additional pages if more space is needed).

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 and also increasing the class size average from 25 to 30 with no individual class size average to exceed in 30 in grades 4-6 at the following schools for the 2026-2027 school year; Barkers Mill Elementary School, Barksdale Elementary School, Byrns Darden Elementary School, Carmel Elementary School, Cumberland Heights Elementary School, East Montgomery Elementary School, Freedom Elementary School, Glenellen Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Kenwood Elementary School, Kirkwood Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Minglewood Elementary School, Montgomery Central Elementary School, Moore Magnet Elementary School, Norman Smith Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Oakland Elementary School, Pisgah Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, Rossvie Elementary School, Sango Elementary School, Spanish Immersion at Barksdale, 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 grades 4-6 and 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 2026-2027 school year; Kenwood Middle School, Kirkwood Middle School, Montgomery Central Middle School, New Providence Middle School, Northeast Middle School, Richview Middle School, Rossvie 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 or endorsements in the areas of K-5/Special Education, Middle Grade 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 to provide a solution for the teacher shortage in high needs areas and supports members of our community to meet the qualifications and develop the skills to be high qualified teachers in our district.

Complete numbers 4-10 if requesting a waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004.

4. Dates of the day(s) requesting to be waived.
5. Reason for the request.
 - ☐ Natural disaster
 - ☐ Serious outbreak of illness affecting or endangering students or staff during a school year
6. Number of stockpile days scheduled for PD for the current school year.
7. Number of PD stockpile days that have been utilized at the time the waiver is requested.
8. Confirmation that all stockpile days have been exhausted.
 - ☐ **Yes**, all stockpile days **have** been exhausted.
 - ☐ **No**, all stockpile days **have not** been exhausted.
9. Number of instructional days that have already been waived by the commissioner during the current school year.
10. Explanation of the impact of the event necessitating this request (attach additional pages if more space is needed).

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