



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

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

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

February 3, 2017

Dr. Russell Dyer, Director of Schools
Cleveland City Schools
4300 Mouse Creek Road, NW
Cleveland, TN 37312
rdyer@clevelandschools.org

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Dr. Dyer:

I am in receipt of your January 23, 2017 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 Cleveland City School system for the 2017-2018 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 Cleveland 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 2017-2018 school year.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candice McQueen".

Candice McQueen
Commissioner



4300 Mouse Creek Road, NW • Cleveland, TN 37312 • phone (423) 472-9571 • fax (423) 472-3390

Russell Dyer, Ed.D.
Director of Schools

Cathy B. Goodman, Ed.S.
Assistant Director

January 23, 2017

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Pkwy.
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

Cleveland City Schools received an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 limiting the maximum number of students per CTE class to 25 and the building average to 20.44 for the 2016-17 school year.

Cleveland City Schools continues to see an increase in population, currently 5788 students up from 5638 students in 2015-16, and continues to grow. With the exemption granted in 2015-16, approximately 300 more students were able to take high demand, high skill, high wage CTE courses at Cleveland High School.

All of our CTE programs currently have the capacity and equipment to serve 25 students per class. Limiting the average class size to 20 results in equipment sitting idle and students not being served during part of the school day. The goal of Cleveland City Schools CTE Department is to provide our students with a quality education and meet the needs of industry while making the best use of our resources.

Labor Market data projects that total employment will grow over the next decade. Occupations that require some postsecondary training for entry are expected to grow the fastest. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Employment Projections for 2010-2020, project that health care, personal care and social assistance, and construction will have the fastest job growth. Office and administrative support occupations are expected to add the largest number of new jobs during this time period.

To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 be extended for the 2017-18 school year so Cleveland High School can continue to maintain the 25 students per class maximum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Russell Dyer


Cleveland City Schools
Director of Schools

Renny Whittenbarger



Cleveland City Schools
Supervisor of Career and Technical Education