



**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**

August 2, 2021

Chris Villaflor, Director of Schools  
Decatur County Schools  
59 West Main Street  
Decaturville, TN 38329

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Class Size for the 2021-22 School Year

Dear Director Villaflor:

I am in receipt of your July 30, 2021 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for Riverside High School in Decatur County Schools for the 2021-22 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 at Riverside High School 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 2021-22 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn  
Commissioner



Decatur County Board of Education

Chris Villaflor  
Director of Schools

59 West Main Street | Decaturville, TN 38329 | 731-852-2391

July 30, 2021

Dr. Penny Schwinn  
Commissioner of Education  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Pkwy.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

Decatur County School District (200) is requesting a waiver to address the CTE class size exceeding the maximum (25) at Riverside High School. The request for a waiver is due to several factors, one factor being that we continue to enroll new students. Another factor that has created the need for this waiver is that our schedule only allows for classes to be offered during specific periods during the day.

Decatur County 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 of our CTE classes will be over the building maximum average. Limiting the class size to 25 would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as business communications and family consumer sciences, that align with our current workforce needs. Eliminating the class size maximum will also allow us to expand learning offerings to our students. The mission of Decatur County Schools is to graduate competitive students.

Eliminating the class size of 25 students per CTE course will ultimately allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and allow us to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness 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 2021-22 school year. Riverside High School will keep CTE class sizes at 25 or less when possible and lab courses at 15, but we respectfully request that the class size maximum of 25 be lifted for non-lab courses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Villaflor, Director of Schools

Dr. Lyndi King, CTE Supervisor