



**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 Email and US Mail

October 18, 2021

Steve Starnes, Director of Schools  
Greeneville City Schools  
129 W. Depot Street  
Greeneville, TN 37743  
[starnes@gcschools.net](mailto:starnes@gcschools.net)

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Director Starnes:

I am in receipt of your October 18, 2021 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for K-3 classes found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 at Tusculum View Elementary School for the 2021-22 school year.

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 K-3 classes at Tusculum View Elementary 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 contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn  
Commissioner



**Steve Starnes, Ed.S.**  
Director of Schools  
**Suzanne C. Bryant, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Director for Instruction  
**Beverly W. Miller, MBA**  
Assistant Director for Administration

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October 18, 2021

Penny Schwinn, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Education  
Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

The Greeneville City Schools Board of Education would like to request a waiver of the class size average mandates in grades K-3 for Tusculum View Elementary School. **The school will continue to adhere to the class size maximums for all grades.**

The current K-3 class average at Tusculum View Elementary is 21.6. The Greeneville City School district goes above state requirements in every area of teacher and student support. All kindergarten classes at the school have a teacher assistant that is fully dedicated to each classroom. There are also additional adult supports in place in all classrooms in grades 1-3 with additional teacher assistant time, as well as additional classroom support from related arts teachers. The school has 2-3 adults in each classroom for the majority of the day.

We will adjust staffing prior to the 2022-2023 school year. However, this waiver is needed for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Please let me know if you need additional information or further clarification or justification for this request.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steve Starnes

Director of Schools

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