



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 31, 2026

Dr. Clint Durley, Director of Schools
Grundy County School System
309 Main Street
Altamont, TN 37301

Dear Director Durley:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for grades K-3 classes at North Elementary in Grundy 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-3 classes at North Elementary 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
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.

Grundy County School System

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

North Elementary School

School Name, if applicable

309 Main Street Altamont, TN 37301

School Address, if applicable

ddurley@grundyk12.com

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Clint Durley

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

 8.28.20

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
2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.
2026-2027 School Year
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).

The enrollment in grades K-3 at North Elementary has gradually increased due to the number of students returning from home school programs, and the closure of a private school located right outside of our school district. Parents are reenrolling students from the closed school who would originally would be eligible to attend North due to their residence. The average for K-3 is 20.8, but none of the classrooms are over the maximum number of students. All students are currently place with a highly qualified teacher. Due to the lack of qualified teacher candidates, our district feels this option is better for the students. We respectfully request a waiver for the K-3 average at North to accommodate the numbers.