



**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 and USPS**

April 7, 2017

Dr. Linda Gilbert, Director of Schools  
Murfreesboro City Schools  
2552 South Church Street, Suite 100  
Murfreesboro, TN 37127-6342  
[linda.gilbert@cityschools.net](mailto:linda.gilbert@cityschools.net)

Re: Waiver for Average Class Size for K-3 Classes at Cason Lane Academy

Dear Dr. Gilbert:

I am in receipt of your March 28, 2017 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for K-3 classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for Cason Lane Academy for the remainder of the 2016-2017 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 K-3 classes at Cason Lane Academy 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 remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

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

Sincerely,

  
Candice McQueen  
Commissioner

March 28, 2017

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

RECEIVED  
STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

APR 07 2017

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Commissioner McQueen:

Over the past month, Murfreesboro has received several immigrant families through collaboration with World Relief. We are serving the twenty-nine new students well; but their arrival has caused Cason Lane Academy to now exceed the K-3 pupil-teacher ratio requirement. We have hired additional ESL teachers to help the students; however, we feel strongly that it would be very difficult to find an exceptional teacher candidate for an additional classroom and are opposed to disturbing the school culture at this critical time of year. Instead of creating a beneficial situation, we believe that it may create a detrimental one.

While the pupil-teacher ratio of K-3 is 20.86 overall, no individual class exceeds the 25 student limit; in fact, no classroom has more than 22 students.

Here are the numbers for Cason Lane's teachers, students, and pupil-teacher ratio:

Kindergarten	5	102	20.40
First Grade	5	107	21.4
Second Grade	6	122	20.33
Third Grade	6	128	21.33
K-Third	22	459	20.86

For next year, we will certainly adjust the numbers. However, I am requesting a waiver from the PTR requirement for K-3 for the remainder of this school year. Please let me know if there is additional information you need or if you wish me to clarify the reasons for requesting the waiver.

Sincerely,



Linda Arms Gilbert, Ed.D.  
Director of Schools