



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

June 10, 2021

Dr. Bruce Borchers, Director of Schools
Oak Ridge Schools
304 New York Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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

Dear Dr. Borchers:

I am in receipt of your June 6, 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 Oak Ridge 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 Oak Ridge 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



Oak Ridge Schools
304 New York Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865.425.9001

June 6, 2021

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

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,
For the 2021–2022 school year, Oak Ridge Schools is requesting a continuation of the exemption we were granted in 2020-2021 to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 statute that limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students.

Oak Ridge High School continues to see an increase in our high school population, thus an increase in course requests for our CTE programs. Projected enrollment shows that our CTE classes will be over the building maximum average. Limiting the class size average to 20 prohibits many students from being able to participate in these courses that align with our current workforce needs.

Eliminating the building class size average will allow us to expand work-based learning opportunities, and to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness skills.

Oak Ridge High School will keep CTE class sizes at a maximum of 25 and clinical internship courses at a maximum of 15, and desire to keep first-year hands-on lab-based courses such as welding and automotive at 20, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Bruce Borchers
Superintendent

Dr. Holly Cross
Supervisor of Career and Technical Education