



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

April 22, 2020

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

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,  
For the 2020-21 school year, Oak Ridge Schools is requesting an exemption 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 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



**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**

May 28, 2020

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 2020-21 School Year

Dear Director Borchers:

I am in receipt of your April 22, 2020 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 2020-2021 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 in Oak Ridge Schools 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 2020-2021 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn  
Commissioner