



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

October 31, 2023

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

Re: Waiver for Average Class Size at Woodland Elementary School

Dear Director Borchers:

I am in receipt of your October 23, 2023 waiver request of the class size average found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for grades K-3 classes at Woodland Elementary School in Oak Ridge Schools.

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 Woodland Elementary School 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 2023-24 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS
304 NEW YORK AVE.
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

Telephone: 865.425.9001
Fax: 865.425.9070

October 23, 2023

Re: Local Education Agency Waiver Request – Oak Ridge Schools

Dr. Lizette Gonzales Reynolds,

Since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, Woodland Elementary School has experienced a steady increase of new student enrollments. Woodland Elementary is a K-4 school with a K-3 average of 19.78 currently. Due to the current enrollment trend, we are confident Woodland Elementary will continue to see an increase of student enrollments, thus exceeding the current K-3 student average.

We are requesting a waiver allowing Woodland Elementary K-3 average to adhere to the current maximum class size standard.

Respectfully,

Dr. Bruce T. Borchers, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Oak Ridge Schools



Tennessee Department of Education – Office of The Commissioner

710 James Robertson Parkway - Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor - Nashville, TN 37243

Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Please submit completed forms to Commissioner.Education@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the LEA 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.

Waivers may **not** be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

Local Education Agency:

Oak Ridge Schools

School Information (if applicable):

School Name: Woodland Elementary School

Street: 168 Manhattan Avenue

City: Oak Ridge Zip Code: 37830

Please list the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) for which waiver is being requested:

TCA 49-1-104

Explanation of how the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) inhibits or hinders the local education agency's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission:

Woodland Elementary is a K-4 school and has a current K-3 average of 19.78. Oak Ridge Schools is seeking a waiver to allow Woodland Elementary to have a K-3 average up to the maximum class size standard.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

Until the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name Dr. Bruce T. Borchers, Ph.D.

Date October 23, 2023