



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

August 10, 2021

Dr. Jeanny Phillips, Director of Schools
Oneida Special School District
195 North Bank Street
Oneida, TN 37841

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

Dear Director Phillips:

I am in receipt of your August 10, 2021 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for Oneida High School in the Oneida Special School District for the 2021-22 school year.

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 Career and Technical Education classes at Oneida 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

Oneida Special School District

Dr. Jeanny Phillips, Ph.D. | Director of Schools

195 North Bank Street, Oneida, TN 37841

www.oneidaschools.org Phone: 423-569-8912 Fax: 423-569-2201

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

Oneida Special School District 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. For the 2021-22 school year, Oneida Schools is requesting an exemption to the building-level class-size average. Oneida Schools continues to see an increase in our high school population and currently we are seeing an increase in course requests for our CTE programs. Projected enrollment shows that of our CTE classes will be over the building maximum average. Limiting the class size average to 20 would prohibit students from being able to participate in CTE courses. The mission of Oneida Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the class size average of 20 students per CTE course will ultimately allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and allow us to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness skill. To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the TCA Code, section 49-1-104 be granted for the 2021-22 school year. Oneida High School will keep CTE class sizes at 25, but we respectfully request that average of 20 students be waived to 22.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dr. Jeanny Phillips

Administration

Zacch Brown, Ed.S. | Assistant Director of Schools
Dr. Melinda McCartt, Ph.D. | CSH & FRC Director
Kim Burrell, M.A. | Special Education & 504 Director
Jason Terry, Ed.S. | CTE, Attendance & Maintenance Director
Allison Mays, M.A. | Finance Director
Lori Marcum | Technology Coordinator
Cathy Buttram | Food Services Director



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