



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

November 3, 2021

Corby King, Director of Schools
Putnam County Schools
1400 East Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38506-4313
kingc11@pcsstn.com

Re: Waiver for Maximum Time in Transit

Dear Director King:

I am in receipt of your November 2, 2021 waiver request form requesting a waiver of the maximum time in transit requirements found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-2105. You have requested this waiver in response to a school bus driver shortage that is currently impacting your district.

Your waiver request for maximum transit time is granted for the 2021-22 school year upon the condition that no student is in transit for longer than 110 minutes.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



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 for one (1) 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.Schwinn@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the district 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: Putnam County Board of Education

School Information (if applicable):

School Name: Transportation Department

Street: 515 E. Veterans Drive

City: Cookeville

Zip Code: 38501

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

Board Policy 3.401 - Line 8

Students shall not be in transit to and from school more than one and one half hours each way.


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:

We have increased driver pay and made almost all of our drivers eligible for benefits. We provide the training for new drivers and pay for their CDL physical. Even with these added benefits, we continue to experience driver shortages. We need to combine routes in order to continue to serve all students across the district. This will increase our route times by as much as 30 minutes.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

The duration is unknown. We will continue to ask for more pay and benefits for our drivers but there seems to be an industry wide shortage of employees with commercial drivers licenses.

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name Corby King

Date 11/2/21