



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

July 22, 2025

Dr. Danny Weeks, Director of Schools
Robertson County Schools
808 M.S. Coutts Blvd.
Springfield, TN 37172
dweeks@rcstn.net

Dear Director Weeks:

I am in receipt of your request of a waiver of the maximum transit time requirements in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-2105 as a result of a bus driver shortage. Your request for a waiver of the maximum transit time is granted for the 2025-26 school year upon the condition that no student is in transit for longer than 110 minutes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

General Waiver Request

Local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools should review the Local Education Agency and Public Charter School Waiver Guidance posted on the [department's website](#) before submitting this request. The guidance outlines what can and cannot be waived, as well as the information required for commonly requested waivers.

To apply for a waiver, email the completed form to Education.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the requestor 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.

If this is a waiver request for a public charter school, please attach documentation that confirms the public charter school first submitted this waiver to its LEA authorizer and the LEA authorized denied the request.

Robertson County Board of Education

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

Transportation

School Name, if applicable

800 MS Courts Blvd.

School Address, if applicable

dweeks@rcstn.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Danny Weeks

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

 21 July 25

1. Statute(s) or State Board of Education (SBE) rule(s) for which a waiver is being requested.
TCA 49-6-2105: Maximum transit time
2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.
2025-2026 SY
3. Explanation of how the statute(s) or SBE rule(s) inhibits or hinders the LEA's/public charter school's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission (attach additional pages if more space is needed).

We respectfully request a waiver of the maximum allowable time in transit rule for student transportation for the 2025–2026 school year, in accordance with Tennessee Department of Education waiver provisions. Our district continues to face significant challenges related to school bus driver shortages, which are compounded by the geographic realities of our large, rural coverage area. Despite active recruitment efforts and route optimization strategies, the limited availability of qualified school bus drivers has made it operationally unfeasible to maintain route times within the statutory maximums without compromising service to all eligible students. The current statutory and/or State Board rules governing maximum time in transit were designed to protect student well-being goals that we fully support. However, under current conditions, strict adherence to these limits is hindering our ability to meet our mission of providing safe, equitable, and timely access to education for every student. In some cases, students may be at risk of losing transportation access altogether if a waiver is not granted. We respectfully request approval of a waiver for the 2025–2026 school year to allow us temporary flexibility in route length and student time in transit, while we continue working toward long-term staffing and routing solutions. We appreciate your consideration and your continued support of Tennessee's public-school systems.