



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

September 2, 2026

Mike Craig, Director of Schools
Stewart County Schools
1031 Spring Street
Dover, TN 37058

Dear Director Craig:

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 shortage of qualified bus drivers. Your request for a waiver of the maximum transit time is granted for the 2026-27 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_CLB

Digitally signed by
Lizzette Reynolds_CLB
Date: 2026.09.17
09:44:34 -05'00'

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.

Stewart County Schools

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable

mikecraig@stewartcountyschools.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Mike Craig

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Mike Craig 9/1/26

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

1. Statute(s) or State Board of Education (SBE) rule(s) for which a waiver is being requested.

90 minute transport time on a school bus.

2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.

2026 - 2027 School

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).

Due to our bus driver shortage, we request this
Waiver for the duration of the 2026-2027
School year ending May 21, 2027.