



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 21, 2025

Jeff Luttrell, Director of Schools
Wilson County Schools
415 Harding Drive
Lebanon, TN 37087

Dear Director Luttrell:

I am in receipt of your request of a waiver of the maximum transit time requirements in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-2105. You have requested this waiver in the event of a bus driver shortage that may impact Wilson County Schools.

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



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:

Wilson County Schools

School Information (if applicable):

School Name:

Street:

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

TCA 49-6-2105 Maximum Time in Transit (School Bus)

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:

In being proactive, this waiver would allow Wilson County Schools to have an additional 20 minutes per route (maximum 110 minutes) in the event of severe driver shortage. These issues, which can be caused by illness as well as the overall school bus driver shortage nationwide, often requires districts to double and even triple routes. Having this safeguard in place would allow Wilson County Schools to remain in compliance should this scenario arise.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

As needed through the 2025-2026 school year.

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name

Jeff Luttrell

Date

7/17/2025