



**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**

February 6, 2024

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

Re: Waiver Request for Maximum Time in Transit

Dear Director Luttrell:

I am in receipt of your February 5, 2024 of a waiver of the maximum transit time requirements in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-2105. You have requested this waiver for use in the event of a bus driver shortage that may impact your district. Your request for a waiver of the maximum transit time is granted for the remainder of the 2023-24 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

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### School Information (if applicable):

School Name:

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Street:

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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 remainder of 2023-24 SY.

**Director of Schools (Signature)**

  
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Print Name Jeff Luttrell

Date 2/5/2024