



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 & USPS

May 17, 2019

Michael L. Swafford, Director of Schools
Marsha Talley, Career & Technical Education Supervisor
Sequatchie County Schools
P.O. Box 488
Dunlap, TN 37327

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Director Swafford and Ms. Talley:

I am in receipt of your May 15, 2019 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for Sequatchie County Schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

The commissioner's waiver authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) is limited by T.C.A. §49-1-104(a), which states that "neither the commissioner nor the state board of education shall grant waivers from the maximum class sizes established in this section."

With the understanding that none of the Career and Technical Education classes in Sequatchie County Schools will exceed 25, the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Schwinn".

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Sequatchie County Schools
Achieving Tomorrow's Excellence Today

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Date: 05/15/2019

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

Sequatchie County Schools has requested an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 statute that limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students. Sequatchie County Schools is requesting for the 2019-20 school year; Sequatchie County Schools is requesting an exemption to the building-level class-size average.

Sequatchie County Schools continues to see an increase in our high school population and currently we are seeing an increase in course requests for our CTE programs. Projected numbers show that all of our CTE classes will be at maximum capacity. Limiting the class size average to 20 would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as health science, agriscience, computer apps, construction, automotive, mechatronics, that align with our current workforce needs.

The mission of Sequatchie County Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the class size average of 20 students per CTE course will allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and will allow us to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness skills.

To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the TCA Code, section 49-1-104 be granted for the 2019-20 school year. Sequatchie County High School will keep CTE class sizes at 25 and clinical internship courses at 15, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael L. Swafford, Director of Schools

Marsha Talley, CTE Supervisor