



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Martin E. Ringstaff, Director of Schools
Cleveland City Schools
4300 Mouse Creek Road, NW
Cleveland, TN 37312

Dear Dr. Ringstaff:

I am in receipt of your January 14, 2015 letter requesting a waiver for the 2015-2016 school year of the class size average for Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104.

The commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code Ann. §49-2-704(b) is limited by Tenn. Code Ann. § 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 your CTE classes will exceed the maximum number of 25 students specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average for CTE classes is granted for the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner



4300 Mouse Creek Road, NW • Cleveland, TN 37312 • phone (423) 472-9571 • fax (423) 472-3390

Martin E. Ringstaff, Ed.D
Director of Schools

Cathy B. Goodman, Ed.S.
Assistant Director

January 14, 2015

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Pkwy.
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

Cleveland City Schools received an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 limiting the maximum number of students per CTE class to 25 and the building average to 20 for the 2014-15 school year.

Cleveland City Schools continues to see an increase in population, currently 5334 students up from 5200 students in 2013-14, and continues to grow. Approximately 400 requests for CTE classes were denied due to lack of available seats for the 2013-14 school year. With the exemption granted in 2014-15, we were able to fulfill most CTE class requests this school year.

All of our CTE programs currently have the capacity and equipment to serve 25 students per class. Limiting the average class size to 20 results in equipment sitting idle and students not being served during part of the school day. The goal of Cleveland City Schools CTE Department is to provide our students with a quality education and meet the needs of industry while making the best use of our resources.

Labor Market data projects that total employment will grow over the next decade. Occupations that require some postsecondary training for entry are expected to grow the fastest. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Employment Projections for 2010-2020, project that health care, personal care and social assistance, and construction will have the fastest job growth. Office and administrative support occupations are expected to add the largest number of new jobs during this time period.

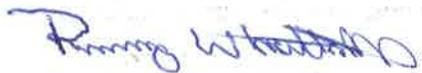
To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 be extended for the 2015-06 school year so Cleveland High School can continue to maintain the 25 students per class maximum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Martin Ringstaff


Cleveland City Schools
Director of Schools

Renny Whittenbarger


Cleveland City Schools
Supervisor of Career and Technical Education