

September 27, 2021

Dear Director Cash,

Thank you for your waiver submissions on September 27, 2021.

The commissioner of education may consider waivers related to of the provisions of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. Chapters 0520-01-03 and 0520-01-13 related to remote instruction to the extent necessary to allow students affected at the classroom or school level by COVID-19 isolation or quarantine to participate in remote instruction. As stated, your district still has the authority to quarantine students and staff on an individual case-by-case basis (not in the aggregate). Waivers will only be considered when a LEA can document and demonstrate a significant impact of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation on school operations, impacting students, teachers, and/or staff. Please note, if a waiver request is granted to a school, all extracurricular activities for that school must also be cancelled for the duration of the waiver period.

The waivers submitted by Bradley County Schools for 1 classroom at Waterville and 1 classroom at Prospect are **approved**.

The rationale for this approval is:

- The Pre-K classroom waivers make sense given the proximity of children in this age group and the number of students and staff who are isolated and in quarantine.
- As a reminder, if 100% of individuals have been quarantined or isolated, you do not need to request a waiver under current State Board of Education policy.

If not already in place, the department also continues to encourage all districts to implement as many mitigation strategies as possible to contain the spread of COVID-19, limit quarantines, and remain in-person, such as utilizing:

- The same or enhanced mitigation strategies used last school year such as temperature checks, physical distancing, frequent handwashing, etc.
- Seating charts in all settings, including classrooms, cafeteria/meals, bus routes, etc.
- Proactively stocking non-perishable items for breakfasts/lunches to account for meal staff absences
- Cohorting students to limit close contacts
- The consideration of masking

I continue to be incredibly grateful for the work of your district, educators, students and families as we collectively address and respond to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Penny Schwinn, PhD, MAT

Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education



## **Local Education Agency Waiver Request Application: COVID-19 Relief**

Upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one (1) or more of its classrooms or schools, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-209 (d), the commissioner of education will consider waivers of the provisions of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. Chapters 0520-01-03 and 0520-01-13 related to remote instruction to the extent necessary to allow students affected at the classroom or school level by COVID-19 isolation or quarantine to participate in remote instruction. This waiver process is not required for individual students on quarantine.

Waivers will only be considered when a LEA can document and demonstrate a significant impact of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation on school operations, impacting students, teachers, and/or staff. Please note, if a waiver request is granted to a school, all extracurricular activities for that school must also be cancelled.

Please submit completed applications to <u>Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov</u>. Following review by the commissioner or designee, the local education agency will be notified in writing if the waiver request application is approved or denied. If approved, the waiver will only be valid for seven (7) calendar days. If conditions warranting a waiver persist, then the LEA may submit additional waivers.

Sherronda Thompson Family Resource Agency, Program Director 9/27/21  rector of Schools (Signature) Date  Number of classrooms for which you are requesting a waiver: 1  Grade of Classroom Name of School Teachers Teachers Staff Staff Students Students Pro-K Prospect Elementary 2 100 20 100  Rease explain why this waiver is necessary and in-person instruction is not feasible at this time:  We are requesting to temporarily pivot Prospect Pre-K to remote learning, due to a child testing positive for Covid-19. We have identified two teachers and 20 students as close contacts to the positive case. Per TN Dept of Health, close contacts to a positive case must quarantine a minimum of 10 days.	cal Education Ag	ency						
Sharronda Thompson   Family Resource Agency, Program Director   9/27/21	00 South Lee	Hwy		Cleve	and		37311	
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