

January 14, 2022

Dear Mr. Poynter,

Thank you for your waiver submission on January 12, 2022.

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 waiver submitted by **Maury County Schools** for the 5-8 classroom at Mt. Pleasant Middle School is **approved** at this time.

The rationale for this approval is:

- The positivity rate among staff has limited capacity, and the school is not in a place to support inperson learning.
- The district has taken necessary steps to staff where able; however staffing remains an issue.

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 <a href="mailto:Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov">Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov</a>. 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.

Mount Pleasa	ant Middle School Ma	aury County P	ublic Schoo	ols				
Local Education Age	ency							
410 Gray Lane		Mount Pleasant				38474		
Street	)		City			Zip		
Envil 1	In					1	17 - 7477	
Director of Schools						<u>1-12-2022</u> Date		
1. Number of <u>clas</u>	srooms for which you are	requesting a wa	niver:1					
Grade of Classroom	Now a set Call and the set of the				e or Isolati % of Staff	of # of % of		
5-8	Mt. Pleasant Middle	0	0	1	50%	1	s Students 13%	
Our one CDC tea	this waiver is necessary and acher is on medical leav ave accepted the vacar	ve. One of two				t students	s has COVID.	
	ols for which you are requ		:					
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Name of Sci	# of Teachers	% of Teachers	In Quaran # of Sta	是1000年1月4日的1000年1月1日日本11日本11日本11日本11日本11日本11日本11日本11日本11	Staff	# of tudents	% of Students	

Please explain why this waiver is necessary and in-person instruction is not feasible at this time: