



January 20, 2022

Dear Director Armstrong,

Thank you for your waiver submission on January 5, 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 **Purpose Preparatory Academy** for twelve classrooms is **approved** at this time.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Schwinn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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. § 49-1-201 (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 Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov. 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.

Purpose Preparatory Academy

Local Education Agency

220 Venture Circle

Nashville

37228

Street

City

Zip



1.5.22

Director of Schools (Signature)

Date

1. Number of **classrooms** for which you are requesting a waiver: 12

Grade of Classroom	Name of School	In Quarantine or Isolation					
		# of Teachers	% of Teachers	# of Staff	% of Staff	# of Students	% of Students
K-4	Purpose Preparatory Academy	17	54.8%	11	58%	4	1.1%

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

Over the course of the 2021 Holiday break, students, staff, and administrators have been and continue to be impacted by exposure to COVID-19 breakthrough and non-breakthrough infections. Also, we are unaware of student statuses fully given the Holiday break, but expect more follow-up from families once the break concludes. Moreover, this does not allow Purpose Prep to execute in-person instruction at full capacity. We are requesting virtual instruction for **Thursday and Friday, January 6 and 7, 2022**. This decision also serves as one of several safety measures we remain committed to. In addition, it is important to be aware that the two virtual instruction days allow staff time to test and provide negative PCR COVID-19 test results in preparation for returning safely to in-person instruction on **Monday, January 10, 2022**.

2. Number of **schools** for which you are requesting a waiver: 1

Name of School	In Quarantine or Isolation					
	# of Teachers	% of Teachers	# of Staff	% of Staff	# of Students	% of Students
Purpose Preparatory Academy	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above

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

Same as above.