



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

July 22, 2022

Dr. Gary Lilly, Director of Schools
Collierville City Schools
145 West Poplar Avenue
Collierville, TN 38017-2625

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Class Size for the 2022-23 School Year

Dear Director Lilly:

I am in receipt of your July 20, 2022 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for Collierville High School in Collierville City Schools for the 2022-23 school year.

The commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) 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 the Career and Technical Education classes in Collierville High School 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 2022-23 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



COLLIERVILLE SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIP · INTEGRITY · SERVICE

Gary Lilly, Ed.D., *Director of Schools*

145 West Poplar Avenue Collierville, TN 38017-2625 | Phone: 901.861.7000 | Fax: 901.861.1447
website: www.colliervilleschools.org

July 20, 2022

Dr. Penny Schwinn, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee. 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

Collierville Schools is seeking a waiver on the CTE class size average requirements at Collierville High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Collierville High School currently offers a plethora of CTE programs and has seen an increased interest in career and technical education courses among students and parents in our community. Additional factors supporting this request are listed below:

- Collierville High School is implementing a four-by-four block schedule in the 22-23 school year, causing additional constraints on staffing and increasing our student-to-teacher ratio.
- New programs, such as criminal justice, aviation flight, and aviation maintenance technology have increased enrollment in introductory level CTE courses among incoming freshmen.
- Heightened community awareness of CTE offerings because of Career Day events, PTA meeting presentations, and vertical alignment between middle school career exploration and program offerings at Collierville High School.

This waiver will allow more students to access CTE programs, which will help them develop the skills necessary to become career ready upon graduation from high school. Students in these programs will also gain access to early post-secondary opportunities and engage in work-based learning experiences that are not available in many of our general education courses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Lilly, Superintendent