



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

March 10, 2016

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Linda Gilbert, Director
Murfreesboro City Schools
2552 South Church Street, Suite 100
Murfreesboro, TN 37127-6342
Linda.Gilbert@cityschools.net

Dear Dr. Gilbert:

I am in receipt of your email requesting a waiver of the class size average for kindergarten through third grade classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for John Pittard Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year.

The commissioner's waiver authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) is limited by T.C.A. §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 kindergarten through third grade classes at John Pittard Elementary School will exceed twenty-five, 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 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Candice McQueen

March 8, 2016

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

Dear Commissioner McQueen:

Murfreesboro City continues to add students. That is a very, very positive thing. But during this time of the year, adding teachers to a school can be a challenge. John Pittard Elementary School has now exceeded the K-3 pupil-teacher average requirement; however none of the classes has exceeded the maximum individual class size. The principal feels strongly that it would be very difficult to find an exceptional teacher candidate and to incorporate that teacher into the school culture without disturbing that culture at this critical time of year.

I concur with the principal that this is not an ideal time of year to be adding a teacher. In fact, instead of creating a beneficial situation, it may create a detrimental one.

Here are the numbers for Pittard's teachers, students, and pupil-teacher ratio, and individual class sizes :

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|--------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | 7 | 147 | 21.0 | all classrooms have 21 students each |
| First Grade | 7 | 134 | 19.1 | 1 classroom has 20; 6 have 19 |
| Second Grade | 8 | 171 | 21.4 | 3 classrooms have 22; 5 have 21 |
| Third Grade | 7 | 148 | 21.1 | 1 classroom has 22; 6 have 21 |
| K-Third | 29 | 600 | 20.7 | |

We have completed rezoning that will take effect next fall and relieve Pittard of its growing pains. But, for the remainder of this school year, I am requesting a waiver from the average PTR requirement for K-3. I understand that by law, no class can exceed the maximum individual class size. Please let me know if there is additional information you need or if you wish me to clarify any of the reasons for requesting the waiver.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Linda Gilbert
Director of Schools