



September 22, 2021

Dear Director Hall,

Thank you for your waiver submission on September 22, 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 waiver submitted by Scott County Schools for 5 classrooms is **approved**.

The rationale for this approval is:

- 40% of support staff are isolated or quarantined.
- Over 1/3 of students are isolated or quarantined.
- With the number of student absences, in addition to 61% of students absent schoolwide, it is reasonable to implement this classroom-level waiver.

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, appearing to read "Penny Schwinn".

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 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.

Local Education Agency: Scott County School System

Street: 208 Court Street, City: Huntsville, Zip: 37256

Director of Schools (Signature): Brad Haele, Date:

1. Number of classrooms for which you are requesting a waiver: 5

Table with 8 columns: Grade of Classroom, Name of School, # of Teachers, % of Teachers, # of Staff, % of Staff, # of Students, % of Students. Data for 4th-5th and 6th-8th grades at Winfield Elementary.

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

PK-2 will return to school. Middle grades are now being quarantined/isolated. We cancelled 2 football games this week to try to curb the spread, but we have so many siblings + related families that are in 4th-8th. School-wide we have 61% absent today.

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

Table with 7 columns: Name of School, # of Teachers, % of Teachers, # of Staff, % of Staff, # of Students, % of Students.

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

Empty box for explanation.