

January 19, 2022

Dear Mr. Caldwell,

Thank you for your waiver submission on January 19, 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 **West Carroll Special School District for West Carroll Primary, West Carroll Elementary and West Carroll Junior and Senior High** is **approved** at this time.

The rationale for this approval is:

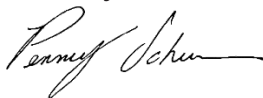
- The number of teachers, students and staff in isolation means the school is not in a place to support in-person learning.
- The school has taken the necessary steps where able; however, teachers and other personnel remain an issue at the school as do the number of students in isolation.

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 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.

West Carroll Special School District

Local Education Agency

1415 Hwy 77

Atwood, TN

38220

Street

City

Zip

Director of Schools (Signature)

Date

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

Grade of Classroom	Name of School	In Quarantine or Isolation					
		# 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:

2. Number of schools for which you are requesting a waiver: 3

Name of School	# of Teachers	% of Teachers	In Quarantine or Isolation				# of Students	% of Students
			# of Staff	% of Staff				
West Carroll Primary	7	33	5	28		23	10	
West Carroll Elementary	4	19	5	31		59	27	
West Carroll Jr. Sr. High Sch.	5	10	4	17		72	19	

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

WCSSD would like to request a temporary transition from in-person to remote instruction. The days requested for remote learning are 1/20, 1/21, and possibly 1/24. Number of key employees in quarantine 2 principals, 2 nurses, 9 cafeteria workers, and 1 SRO.