

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**March 9, 2023**

**OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

- I. Approval of recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4

Background Information: Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-151-77 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 19.1 State Board Policy Chapter 19 Rule 19.1 - Class Size, indicate that the State Board of Education is authorized to waive the pupil-teacher requirements for districts with exceptions to the enrollment ratio of 27:1 in grades 1-4.

If a school district does not meet the class size requirement for grades 1-4 as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-77, the state aid for the following fiscal year shall be reduced. The reduction will be based on the required pupil-teacher ratio mandated in the statute. A waiver may be granted by the State Board of Education if school districts are making good faith effort to comply with the statute by complying with the statute is physically impossible, and the cost of temporary classroom space cannot be justified.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) staff have reviewed the records of districts out of compliance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-151-77 and have determined that one (1) district does meet the class size requirements and does not qualify for the exemption allowed in Standard 28.2 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022* for schools meeting the highest levels of performance.

The waiver request for the Covington County School District has an accountability rating of "D."

Back-up material attached

Recommendation: Approval

# CLASS SIZE WAIVER REQUEST SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

## Covington County School District

School	School Accreditation Level	Grade Level	Total number of Class Periods with overload	Number of Students in Each Class Periods
Mount Olive Attendance Center	D	1st	4	28, 28, 28, 28

Covington County School District is requesting a waiver for one (1) 1st grade class at Mount Olive Attendance Center.

### **Other Factors Related to the Overloads:**

The district was not aware of this overload before the first day of school. The district did provide a full-time assistant in the class with an overload. The district did not request a waiver for this school last year. There is no school reasonably close by to which the children over the maximum could be transferred.

### **Justification of Exemption Request:**

- 1. Provide a clear description of why an additional class cannot be added to alleviate the overload. There is only one student over the allowed number of 27 in the first grade classroom.*
- 2. Describe the emergency, hardship, or other special situation that justifies this overload. It has been difficult to find teachers to fill all the teaching slots at Mt. Olive Attendance Center. The students are currently being taught by an experienced, credentialed teacher with a full-time assistant.*
- 3. Describe plans to resolve this overload for the next school year. As we plan and budget for teacher for the 2023-2024 school year, student/teacher ratios will be carefully considered, and the teacher placements will be adjusted to meet MDE guidelines/requirements.*