

ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to request a waiver for the Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5 Class Size, which requires that “Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding class size and teaching load.” The district will be seeking a waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A). The reason for the request for the following waiver is due to the increase of enrollment for the sixth grade. At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, we only had 26 students enrolled in sixth grade, which is under the classroom size allotment of 28. Our enrollment has now increased to 32 students in sixth grade. However, at this point in the year students are in a well established routine, rotating amongst three teachers to receive instruction in literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. These teachers are highly qualified teachers within their content areas. We feel it would be detrimental at this point in the year to hire another teacher who may not be of the same caliber. This could potentially cause a setback to learning as well as disrupt the schedule of the students’ day. Therefore we request this waiver for the remainder of this school year. This will allow us to continue giving students the best opportunities for learning as well as time to find a qualified teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have any additional questions or concerns please reach out to myself or our superintendent Anthony Dowdy. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

Michael Smith
Elementary Principal

