



Shawn Halbrook

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South Conway County School District

Love, Serve, Care

December 16, 2022

Deborah Coffman
Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall, Box 19
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Coffman,

The South Conway County School District (SCCSD) is seeking a waiver of 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 SCCSD’s enrollment has fluctuated this year and has been as low as 168, which has put our district in compliance with Standard for Accreditation at various points in the year. Currently the SCCSD’s fifth grade enrollment is 171. One of those fifth grade students is in a self-contained special education class. That places 170 students enrolled in regular education classes. The SCCSD currently has six (6) 5th grade classroom teachers for those 170 students. The maximum class size is 28 students. The SCCSD 5th grade class size is over by two (2) students. To remedy this situation, The SCCSD has asked two regular education 5th grade classroom teachers to increase their class size to 29 and an art and music teacher to increase that same class size to 29 to meet the learning of our students. We have signed contract addendums for each teacher paying them on the following formula:

1. **(Teacher Contract/190)/28 = Pay per student per day**
2. **Pay per student per day * number of students over 28 = amount per student owed for being over 28.**
3. **Amount per student owed for being over 28 * number of days over 28 students**

An approved waiver will allow the SCCSD to not have to hire a licensed teacher for two students over the Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5 Class Size. With enrollment fluctuations and the likelihood of the District’s enrollment dropping in the spring semester, it would be unwise use of our learning community’s funds. In addition, with the shortage of teachers, our District would have a difficult time securing a highly qualified teacher for our students during this time of the year.

Sincerely,