

ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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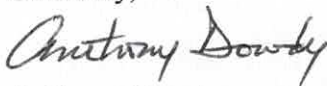
Attn: Deborah Coffman (ADE)
Matthew Sutherlin, Ph.D. (ADE)

Good afternoon,

The purpose of this letter is to request a waiver of the Standards for Accreditation 1-A.5, 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 Alpena School District is seeking a waiver under Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A). The reason for this request is due to the change in attendance from the beginning of the year to current and the lack of qualified teaching staff available to implement an additional classroom.

At the start of the 2021-2022 school year our second grade student numbers were well below the maximum allowable class size. We also lost four certified teaching staff and without qualified replacement teachers to fill all of those positions, we did not replace one of the second grade teachers. Upon returning from our winter break we had an unexpected influx of second grade students that has now put our second grade class over the maximum class size, now at 26 students. We do have a full time aide that is designated to assist the second grade teacher in that room. Our second grade teacher in this position is able to meet the needs of all the students at this time. We ask that you grant us the waiver outlined above to hold us compliant according to the Standards for Accreditation for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,



Anthony Dowdy
Superintendent