

A waiver request has been submitted by POYEN SCHOOL DISTRICT.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

DISTRICT: POYEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL: Poyen Elementary

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WAIVER REQUEST INFORMATION

TOPIC: Class size/teacher ratio 2nd Grade

STANDARD/STATUTE/RULES REQUESTING WAIVED: Standard 4.03

SCHOOL YEAR(S): ["2025-2026","2026-2027","2027-2028"]

GRADE(S): ["2","3","4"]

BRIEF OVERVIEW: Our current 2nd grade class has experienced an influx in students this year. I am requesting the waiver through these 2nd grade student's 4th grade year as they progress through the grade levels at the current class size/teacher ratio. We are a very small, rural school district with only 2 teachers per elementary grade level.

Provide a detailed rationale explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation, or increase access to effective teachers.

Our district is requesting a temporary waiver for two 2nd grade classroom that exceeds the 25-student limit due to an unexpected enrollment increase. Keeping students together with their highly effective teacher ensures stability, preserves fidelity to our HQIM, and maintains consistent services for students requiring interventions or special supports. To address the larger class size, we have assigned one full-time paraprofessionals (adding an additional para beyond the one part-time para already in place), which allows for flexible grouping and a much lower adult-to-student ratio during core instruction. This structure supports small-group literacy and math interventions, protects push-in SPED and MTSS services, and ensures every child receives targeted attention. We considered splitting the class, creating a combination grade, or assigning a long-term substitute, but each option risked disrupting instruction and lowering quality. Parents, staff, and our leadership emphasized that stability with the current teacher, reinforced by paraprofessional and interventionist support, is the best path forward. This waiver will allow us to maintain instructional continuity, maximize the impact of our strongest teacher, and ensure students continue to grow in this pivotal year for literacy and numeracy, while we actively recruit additional certified staff to return to full compliance.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the intent of the requirement being waived will be upheld.

The intent of the class size requirement is to ensure safe, high-quality instruction with sufficient individual attention. Although this 2nd-grade class is temporarily over 25, we are preserving that intent through staffing, structure, and monitoring:

- Staffing & supervision: 1.5 paraprofessionals support the certified teacher, maintaining an adult-to-student ratio of approximately 1:12 during core instruction.

- Interventionists and SPED staff provide scheduled push-in support.
- Instructional design: Full fidelity to HQIM and Science of Reading routines is maintained with whole-group lessons followed by flexible small groups (≤6–7 students) for reading and math. Paras facilitate centers and skill stations to allow the teacher to focus on targeted instruction.
- IEP/504/MTSS services: All minutes are preserved with push-in

scheduling, protecting the Least Restrictive Environment. The additional adult support strengthens proximity, prompting, and progress monitoring. • Safety & environment: Classroom layout and supervision plans ensure safe transitions, supported by PBIS/MTSS routines and clear traffic patterns. • Data & accountability: Biweekly progress monitoring, grade-level data meetings, and administrative walk-throughs focus on grouping, pacing, and feedback. Adjustments will be made promptly if indicators decline. • System safeguards: The K–4 building average remains within the 20:1 ratio. This waiver is temporary, and we are actively recruiting an additional certified teacher to return to compliance as soon as possible.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver.

The district will monitor the effectiveness of this waiver through biweekly progress monitoring in reading and math, grade-level data team meetings, and monthly administrative walk-throughs focused on instructional grouping and student engagement. We will track student growth on district benchmarks, attendance, and behavior data, while also gathering feedback from teachers and parents. If indicators show a decline, adjustments will be made immediately, including reallocation of staff or schedule changes. This ensures the waiver remains focused on maintaining student achievement and instructional quality until full compliance is restored.