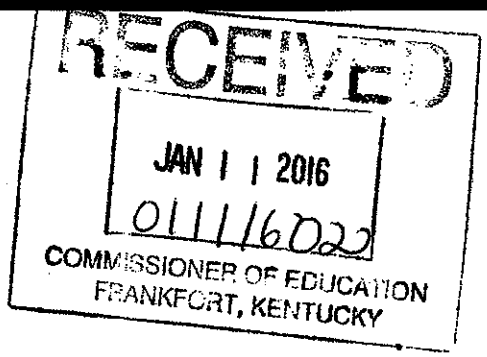
FORT THOMAS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

HIGHLANDS HIGH
HIGHLANDS MIDDLE
JOHNSON ELEMENTARY
MOYER ELEMENTARY
WOODFILL ELEMENTARY

Rich in Tradition on the Focused Future

January 6, 2016



Commissioner Stephen Pruitt
Kentucky Department of Education
Capital Plaza Tower
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Commissioner Pruitt,

The Fort Thomas Independent School District is composed of three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. Enrollment as of December 2015 was 3,031 students. Due to the fact that we are an urban district, with students living very close to school, bus transportation is not provided. The District currently owns three smaller school buses that are utilized for special needs students and small trips, when available. When it is necessary to transport students to field trips or extra-curricular activities, there are innumerable occasions when a school bus is not available. On these occasions, charter bus services need to be utilized.

Pursuant to 702 KAR 5:060 6(2) all student trips that involve a common carrier require board approval on a case by case basis. Such approval is impractical in Fort Thomas since these charter services are used for over 200 trips annually for athletic trips, field trips, class trips, and other extra-curricular activities.

In light of this information, at its board meeting on December 14, 2015, the Fort Thomas Board of Education again asked that I apply to the Kentucky Department of Education for a continued waiver of the requirement of case by case approval, to allow the Board to approve all transportation carriers at the beginning of the school year for the 2016-17 school year, and to give the Superintendent authority to approve transportation on a case by case basis. They also asked for permission to do this every year, without needing to ask for this waiver on a yearly basis, which will allow us to continue this process at the beginning of each school year. Due to the layout and make-up of our District, this need is on-going and will not change in the coming years.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gene Kirchner
Superintendent

Cc: Kay Kennedy, Director
Division of District Support

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