

BYRNEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, INC.
1600 Byrneville Road
Century, Florida 32535
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December 18, 2007

Ms. Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1214
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Dear Ms. Champion,

The Board of Directors of Byrneville Elementary School, Inc. and its Administrator are fully committed to the class-size reduction amendment.

Byrneville is a rural community lacking in commerce, but fully dedicated to its school. When the Escambia County School District decided to close the school as not being economically viable, the Byrneville community and the existing faculty and staff successfully applied to keep it open as a conversion charter school. Since July of 2002 we have earned a reputation of having a strong academic program and students who are well behaved and safe and secure in their school environment.

Traditionally, Byrneville, as a regular public school and its first two years beginning in July, 2002 as a conversion charter, has had one teacher per grade level. Since July of 2004 we have added one teacher per year to meet the needs of our students and to be proactive in meeting the requirements of the class-size amendment. This school year, even with the addition of another teacher, our enrollment growth gave us an average of 22.5 students per teacher in our fourth and fifth grades, a "half student" over the mandated limit.

Seeing the situation coming, we addressed the possible hiring of yet another teacher, but found that adding another salary and fringe benefits for a half student was not financially feasible or fiscally sound for our school.

Since the October FTE reporting period one of the students in the fifth grade has withdrawn and we are now in compliance. We also have put students on a waiting list in order that we stay in compliance of the class-size requirements.


With the fractional-student infraction of the limit, already corrected and with our academic success demonstrating that we are very much in compliance with spirit of the class-size reduction amendment and with the State's determination to raise the academic

standards of its schools; we herewith petition our appeal be approved and we respectfully await your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Wolfe-Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dee Wolfe-Sullivan,
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Killam". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melanie Killam,
Chairperson, BESI Board of Directors

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