



**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

**LIZZETTE REYNOLDS**  
COMMISSIONER

**Via Electronic Mail**

August 23, 2023

Robert W. Greene, Director of Schools  
Athens City Schools  
943 Crestway Drive  
Athens, TN 37303

Re: Waiver Request for Library Information Specialists at Athens City Primary School and Athens City Intermediate School

Dear Director Greene:

I am in receipt of your August 23, 2023 request for a waiver of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-02-.07(2), requiring schools to employ a certain number of library information specialists per school who hold endorsements as library information specialists.

Pursuant to my authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d), your waiver request is hereby granted for the 2023-24 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds  
Commissioner



## Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Please submit completed forms to [Commissioner.Education@tn.gov](mailto:Commissioner.Education@tn.gov). Following review by the commissioner, the LEA will be notified in writing if the waiver request is approved or denied. Unless otherwise stated, all waivers granted by the commissioner shall be granted for one-year terms.

Waivers may **not** be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

### Local Education Agency:

Athens City Schools

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### School Information (if applicable):

School Name: Athens City Primary School and Athens City Intermediate School

Street: 316 McMinn Avenue and 255 Keith Lane

City: Athens Zip Code: 37303

**Please list the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) for which waiver is being requested:**

SBOE Rule 0520-01-02-.07(2) Library Information Center Personnel – Requires schools to employ a certain number of licensed library information specialists based on grade span and enrollment.

**Explanation of how the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) inhibits or hinders the local education agency's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission:**

Athens City Primary School (K-2, 584 students) and Athens City Intermediate School (3-5, 589 students) present unique circumstances with staffing and space. The schools share space and personnel as they are connected by a common area consisting of a media center, cafeteria, STEM, Art, and Music rooms serving K-5 students daily.

Under the SBOE Rule cited above, the school is required to have one full-time library information specialist with endorsement as a library information specialist. I am requesting flexibility to employ one full-time licensed library information specialist serving all K-5 students and two classified staff. The responsibility of the library media specialist will include instruction and oversight of books and materials for all K-5 students. Under the supervision of the certified library media specialist, two full-time library assistants will assist with the processing of books and materials as well as the operation of the circulation desk. This staffing will allow us to better support students and teachers.

**Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:**

We are requesting to pilot this approach in the 2023-24 school year. If successful based on feedback from teachers, and school administrators, we will continue to apply for this waiver annually.

**Director of Schools** (Signature)

  
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Print Name Robert W. Green

Date 8-23-23