



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

March 19, 2026

Dr. Kristy Walker, Director of Schools
Bledsoe County Schools
41068 TN-30
Pikeville, TN 37367
KristyWalker@BledsoeCountySchools.org

Dear Director Walker:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 as it relates to staffing ratios for English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. You have requested to use an alternative schedule to provide ESL services to a student at Pikeville Elementary School due to careful consideration of the student's performance which determined that a continuous one hour model is not appropriate given the students identified intellectual disability.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) grants the commissioner the authority to "waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission." On the condition that the school district comply with the provisions of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 by implementing the monitoring steps required under the Rule as well as implementing the additional action steps to address the student's performance which determined that a continuous one hour model is not appropriate given the students identified intellectual disability. outlined in your waiver request, your request is hereby granted for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

General Waiver Request

Local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools should review the Local Education Agency and Public Charter School Waiver Guidance posted on the [department's website](#) before submitting this request. The guidance outlines what can and cannot be waived, as well as the information required for commonly requested waivers.

To apply for a waiver, email the completed form to Education.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the requestor 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.

If this is a waiver request for a public charter school, please attach documentation that confirms the public charter school first submitted this waiver to its LEA authorizer and the LEA authorized denied the request.

Bledsoe County Schools

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

Pikeville Elementary School

School Name, if applicable

41068 TN-30 Pikeville, TN 37367

School Address, if applicable

kristywalker@bledsoecountyschools.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Kristy Walker

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Kristy Walker 1-7-26

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

1. Statute(s) or State Board of Education (SBE) rule(s) for which a waiver is being requested.
English as a Second Language Program Rule 0520-01-19-.01(7a)
2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.
January 2026-December 2026
3. Explanation of how the statute(s) or SBE rule(s) inhibits or hinders the LEA's/public charter school's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission (attach additional pages if more space is needed).

Bledsoe County Schools respectfully requests a waiver of the requirement for one full hour of daily direct services for [REDACTED]. After careful review of data and student performance, the ILP and IEP team determined that a continuous one-hour direct service model is not appropriate given the student's identified intellectual disability.

The team recommends delivering direct services in shorter, targeted instructional sessions throughout the day to better support the student's attention, engagement, and learning needs while maintaining fidelity to the goals outlined in the ILP and IEP.