



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

September 10, 2025

Dr. Tommy Arnold, Director of Schools
Jefferson County Schools
P.O. Box 190
Dandridge, TN 37725
tarnold@jcboe.net

Dear Director Arnold:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 as it relates to service models. You have requested flexibility in service times for students with significant cognitive and/or behavioral impairments who are placed in a self-contained setting, as determined by the individual student's individualized education program.

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 Jefferson County Schools 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 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.

Jefferson County School

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

District-Wide

School Name, if applicable

121 Gay Street Dandridge, TN 37725

School Address, if applicable

TArnold@JCBOE.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Tommy Arnold

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

 8/6/25

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.

0520-01-19-.03 IDENTIFICATION, SCREENING, AND SERVICE DELIVERY

2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.

2025 - 2026 School Year

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).

For students with significant disabilities, sustaining attention and engagement for extended periods of instruction can be exceptionally challenging due to their unique cognitive, behavioral, and sensory needs. Granting this waiver would provide the ILP team and the IEP team with the flexibility to customize ESL service minutes in alignment with each student's individualized education plan. This tailored approach ensures that instructional time is both meaningful and manageable, maximizing student growth while honoring their capacity for learning. It allows educators to deliver high-quality services in a way that is developmentally appropriate and responsive to each student's specific needs and strengths.



Jefferson County Schools
1221 Gay Street
Dandridge, TN 37725

ESL Waiver Additional Information

1. **ESL Supervisor:** Trevor Collins
2. **ESL Service Delivery Model being requested:** Tailored services for students who are placed in a self-contained classroom per an IEP. Either co-teaching or direct ESL instruction by the ESL teacher in the self-contained classroom. Flexibility may be necessary if an alternative schedule or modified day is put in place.
3. **Number of School:** Currently 1 school but requesting flexibility for additional schools is possible.
4. **Grade Levels:** Currently K – 12
5. **Proposed Implementation:** 2025 – 2026
6. **Monitoring Plan:** The student will be monitored quarterly through the ILP process using ILP and IEP goals.
7. **Description of Model/Plan:** The ESL teacher will provide individualized instruction within the self-contained classroom setting, using materials appropriate for students who receive core replacement for ELA, and other resources as needed. The ESL teacher will collaborate closely with the special education teacher and IEP team to ensure that instructional time is aligned to the unique needs of each student. This request is being made because many of these students are unable to tolerate a full hour of direct instruction and must remain in the self-contained environment to receive services in a manner that supports their learning and behavioral needs.

ESL Coordinator: Laury Darby

Federal Programs Director: Dr. Amy Sharp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Collins', is written over a horizontal line.

8/6/2025