



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

June 24, 2026

Dr. Ted Horrell, Director of Schools
Lakeland School System
5020 Lions Crest Drive
Lakeland, TN 38002

Re: Waiver Request for Library Information Specialists

Dear Director Horrell:

I am in receipt of your June 15th 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 2026-27 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette

Reynolds_CLB

Digitally signed by
Lizzette Reynolds_CLB
Date: 2026.07.29
10:40:32 -05'00'

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.

Lakeland School System

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

Lakeland Middle Preparatory School, Lakeland Preparatory School

School Name, if applicable

5020 Lions Crest Dr., Lakeland, TN 38002

School Address, if applicable

thorrell@lakelandk12.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Dr. Ted Horrell

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

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.
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.
2. Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request. Please note that the department will not grant waivers beyond one year.
We are requesting this waiver for the 2026-2027 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).
Lakeland Preparatory School (9-12) and Lakeland Middle Preparatory School (5-8) present unique circumstances with staffing and space. The schools share space and personnel as they are connected by a common area.

Under the SBOE Rule cited above, each 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 5-12 students and the utilization of two Instructional Technology Facilitators. The responsibility of the library information specialist will include instruction and oversight of books and materials for all 5-12 students. Our Instructional Technology Facilitators will work both within the library and throughout the building to ensure that all students have access to reading materials and instructional supports. This staffing will allow us to better support students and teachers.

Complete numbers 4-10 if requesting a waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004.

4. Dates of the day(s) requesting to be waived.
5. Reason for the request.
 - ☐ Natural disaster
 - ☐ Serious outbreak of illness affecting or endangering students or staff during a school year
6. Number of stockpile days scheduled for PD for the current school year.
7. Number of PD stockpile days that have been utilized at the time the waiver is requested.
8. Confirmation that all stockpile days have been exhausted.
 - ☐ **Yes**, all stockpile days **have** been exhausted.
 - ☐ **No**, all stockpile days **have not** been exhausted.
9. Number of instructional days that have already been waived by the commissioner during the current school year.
10. Explanation of the impact of the event necessitating this request (attach additional pages if more space is needed).

Lakeland Preparatory School (9-12) and Lakeland Middle Preparatory School (5-8) present unique circumstances with staffing and space. The schools share space and personnel as they are connected by a common area.

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