



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

November 5, 2025

Dr. Mark Griffith, Director of Schools
Marion County Schools
204 Betsy Pack Drive
Jasper, TN 37347
mgriffith@mctns.net

Dear Director Griffith:

I am in receipt of your waiver request of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 as it relates to English as a Second Language (ESL) program delivery time for a specific student. You have requested to tailor this student's ESL direct instruction for an appropriate number of instructional minutes based on this student's specific needs and 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 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 outlined in your waiver request, your request is hereby granted for the remainder of the 2025-25 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.

Marion County Schools

Local Education Agency/Public Charter School

South Pittsburg Elementary

School Name, if applicable

310 Elm Ave. South Pittsburg, TN

School Address, if applicable

mariffith@mctns.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

Mark A. Griffith

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

M. A. Griffith

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

10-21-2025



1. Statute(s) or State Board of Education (SBE) rule(s) for which a waiver is being requested.
RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAPTER 0520-01-19 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS 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
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).

A waiver is being requested for Marion County Schools to be allowed to tailor the ESL service times for the following student:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the request is for her ESL Time to be tailored in order to allow for an appropriate number of ESL instructional minutes.

Dual served students will continue to be monitored quarterly as required by ESL rule with the ability to increase ESL service time if the quarterly monitoring shows a need.

The goal is to maximize instructional time for students with unique learning needs such as students who qualify for both special education and ESL. With the ability to tailor ESL service times for these specific students, the LEA can focus on meeting their individual needs.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request: