



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

January 6, 2026

Dr. Versie R. Hamlett, Director of Schools
Milan Special School District
1165 South Main Street
Milan, TN 38358
hamlettv@milanssd.org

Dear Director Hamlett:

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 staffing ratio at schools within Milan Special School District due to a teacher shortage and an increase in the English Learner student population impacting your district.

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 teacher shortage due to an influx of ESL students outlined in your waiver request, your request is hereby granted for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner