



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

PENNY SCHWINN
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

May 24, 2023
Sandra Burchette
Newport City Schools
301 College Street
Newport, TN 37821-3699

Re: Waiver Request for Library Information Specialists at Newport Grammar School

Dear Director Burchette:

I am in receipt of your May 23, 2023 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 2023-24 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Tennessee Department of Education – Office of The Commissioner

710 James Robertson Parkway - Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor - Nashville, TN 37243

Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency for one (1) or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Please submit completed forms to Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the district 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.

Waivers may **not** be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

Local Education Agency:

Newport City

School Information (if applicable):

School Name:

Newport Grammar School

Street:

301 College Street

City: Newport

Zip Code: 37821

Please list the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) for which waiver is being requested:

SBOE Rule 0520-01-02-.07(2) Library Information Center Personnel - Requires schools to employ a certain number of licensed library information specialists based on grade span and enrollment.

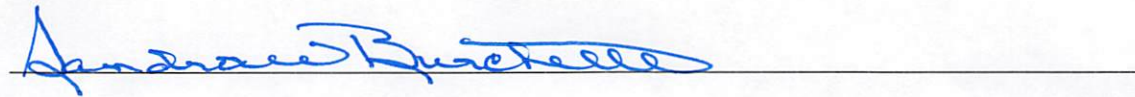
Explanation of how the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) inhibits or hinders the local education agency's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission:

The role of the library and the library personnel have changed to require supporting the literacy and technology needs of students and teachers, beyond the necessary library endorsements. We are requesting flexibility to seek out a licensed educator to manage our library that has a background in teaching literacy, as well as a demonstrated strength in technology utilization in student learning. We expect to then support the educator in obtaining the necessary endorsement as a library information specialist. This flexibility would allow us to meet both needs through prioritizing candidate's ability to support these identified areas and work towards endorsement.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

We anticipate hiring a candidate for the 2023-2024 school year that fits the above description, and will work with this licensed educator to develop a timeline for obtaining the necessary library information specialist endorsement. Based upon expected course/degree requirements, this is likely to take 18-24 months, requiring this waiver for up to two school years.

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name Sandra W. Burchette

Date May 23, 2023