



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

March 4, 2022

Dr. Norma S. Gerrell, Director of Schools
Paris Special School District
1219 Highway 641 South
Paris, TN 38242

Re: Waiver Request for Library Information Specialists

Dear Director Gerrell:

I am in receipt of your November 11, 2021 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. You requested this waiver for Inman Middle School in the Paris Special School District.

Pursuant to my authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d), your waiver request is hereby granted for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



Paris Special School District

1219 Highway 641 South
Paris, TN 38242
(731) 642-9322
(731) 642-9327 Fax
www.parisssd.org

November 11, 2021

Mr. Jay Klein
Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Legislation
Department of Education
Ninth Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 38243-0375

RE: Request for Waiver 2021-2022

Dear Mr. Klein:

I am writing to request an additional year of waiver of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-03-07 requiring schools to employ a certain number of library information specialists per school who hold endorsements as library information specialists. We were granted an additional year in April 2020 and May 2021 due to the review of the Rule and any possible changes that had not been completed.

This waiver has given Paris Special School District the flexibility of utilizing a teacher who is a reading specialist to both deliver Tier III instruction and manage our library needs at Inman Middle School. At the middle school level, we have found that a library specialist does not always have the training to provide the Tier III instruction, but a reading specialist has the ability to manage the library. Tier III instruction at the middle school level is our last best chance at students reading on grade level before they begin the rigor and challenges of high school curriculum. Our students benefit tremendously from the ability to utilize our personnel in this method.

We respectfully request that we be granted another year of this flexibility. Please review our request and present it to the Commissioner for approval.

Sincerely,

Dr. Norma S. Gerrell
Director of Schools

W.G. Rhea Elementary School
115 South Wilson Street
Paris, Tennessee 38242
(731) 642-0961
(731) 642-5171 FAX

Paris Elementary School
650B Volunteer Drive
Paris, Tennessee 38242
(731) 642-3675
(731) 644-0734 FAX

W.O. Inman Middle School
400 Harrison Street
Paris, Tennessee 38242
(731) 642-8131
(731) 642-8209 FAX