



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

August 21, 2024

Corby King
Putnam County Schools
1400 East Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38506-4313

Re: Waiver for English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs

Dear Director King:

I am in receipt of your August 6, 2024 waiver request of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 as it relates to the use of an alternate English as a Second Language (ESL) service model. You have requested to use a co-teaching model using Content Based Instruction for ESL programs for students within Putnam County Schools.

According to your request, this alternative model will allow the school district to provide services to English Learners (ELs) in accordance with their specific needs and will provide high quality curriculum and peer interaction with a focus on academic language.

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 complies with the provisions of State Board Rule 0520-01-19 by implementing the monitoring steps and requirements under the Rule, your request is hereby granted for the 2024-25 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
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 (LEA) for one 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.Education@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the LEA 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:

Putnam County School District

School Information (if applicable):

School Name:

Street: 1400 E. Spring St.

City: Zip Code: Cookeville, TN 38501

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

0520-01-19-.03 (10)

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:

This waiver is being submitted as a request to use an alternate ESL instructional model of co-teaching with Content-Based Instruction (CBI) to meet the requirements of ESL programs within ESL Rule.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

2024-2025 School Year

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name

Corby King

Date

8/6/24

ED5535 2 RDA Pending



ENGAGE INSPIRE ACHIEVE

(931) 526-9777/ F: (931) 528-6942

1400 E. Spring Street

Cookeville, TN 38501

www.pcsstn.com

1. ESL Coordinator: Alice Brown
2. ESL Service Delivery Model being requested: Co-Teaching using Content Based Instruction (CBI).
3. Number of Schools: 6
4. Grade Levels: 3-8, 11-12
5. Proposed implementation date: 07/31/2024-05/31/2025
6. Monitoring Plan: Common planning time opportunities will take place such as common planning and/or use of digital planning such as shared lesson plans through Google. Schedules will be monitored for common planning time between ESL teacher and Content teacher. ESL Coach will visit the classrooms to monitor teaching strategies. ESL teachers will have further coaching in the use of language objectives within the content lesson. The goals within the ILPs are monitored quarterly in order to determine that the students' language needs are being met. If a change is determined to be needed, that will be implemented by the team. Access scores will be analyzed to determine if we will continue with this model in the subsequent year.
7. Description of Model: The foundation of the model is "content-based instruction (CBI) as outlined in the ILP Instructional Guide. The ESL teacher and content teacher plan together using grade level curriculum, accommodation for the language needs of the ESL students. The purpose is to provide access to high quality core instruction with engaging, interactive language lessons. Students with lower WIDA and screener levels are served in pull-out classes to meet their specific needs. This model is for intermediate and higher students or those that have been in U.S. schools for more than three years. Our goal is to provide high quality curriculum and peer interaction with a focus on academic language.
8. Confirm board attorney has reviewed and approved this waiver request: Yes
9. ESL Coordinator: Alice Brown
10. Federal Programs Director: Bridgett Carwile