
Textbook/Instructional Materials Waiver Requests:
Houston County (Virtual School)
Rutherford County (Adult High School)

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(9) states that it is the duty of the board, and the board has the power to, “prescribe the use of textbooks and other instructional materials, based on recommendations of the state textbook and instructional materials quality commission, for the various subjects taught or used in conjunction with the public schools.” In addition, Public Chapter 770 of 2020 provided the State Board with the authority to approve or deny waiver requests from local education agencies (LEAs) that wish to use textbooks or instructional materials that are not on the state-approved adoption list due to the unique or unusual needs of the LEA. The State Board established the Textbook and Instructional Materials Waivers rule chapter 0520-01-18 to provide more details on the procedures for LEAs requesting textbook waivers.

In accordance with the requirements of the rules, two LEAs submitted limited-adoption waiver requests: Houston County for a proposed virtual school, and Rutherford County for its adult high school. State Board staff requested subject-matter experts at the Department of Education provide feedback on the proposed waiver materials’ alignment to Tennessee Academic Standards. Based on that feedback, the other criteria listed in the rules, and requirements of several state laws, the State Board staff developed the final recommendations.

The Recommendation:

Based on the subject matter review conducted by Department staff and the additional criteria described in the rule, the State Board staff recommends the following actions:

Houston County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
English 1	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 2	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 3	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 4	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
Algebra 1	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Algebra 2	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.

Geometry	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Pre-Calculus	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Biology	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Chemistry	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Earth and Space Science	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Environmental Science	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Physics	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Physical Science	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.

Rutherford County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
English 1	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 2	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 3	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
English 4	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
Integrated Math 1	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Integrated Math 2	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Integrated Math 3	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Biology	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle in 2023.
Chemistry	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria
Physical Science	Approve until next science textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Anatomy	Pending; LEA may submit supplemental materials to meet standards alignment criteria