

Textbook/Instructional Materials Waiver Request:

Blount County: ELA I-IV (CommonLit 360)

Subject-Specific Feedback (from Department staff)

Subject/Course	Subject-Matter Expert Feedback
English I, II, III, IV	The course content is appropriate and aligned to teach the standards for the course.

Additional Criteria in Rule (from State Board staff)

Criteria	Staff Review
The explanation of the unique or unusual needs of the LEA necessitating the use of the requested Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials in the waiver application.	Blount County Schools (BCS) has a long history with CommonLit instructional materials starting in SY 2015-2016. Propelled by the instructional shifts embedded in the Tennessee Academic Standards for English Language Arts, teachers were searching for literary and informational texts that met the complexity expectations and took students to the depth of the standards. At the same time, BCS began training and implementation to provide one-to-one technology access for all students. Teachers discovered CommonLit and began using the electronic library of texts, text sets, and themes as a part of the district-created curriculum framework. During SY 2018-2019 the CommonLit team invited BCS high schools to participate in a multi-year pilot of the 360 curriculum. When the adoption cycle occurred in SY 2019-2020, the district requested permission to continue the pilot relationship with the CommonLit 360 curriculum. TDOE granted a waiver until the 2024-25 school year BCS has seen great success with the CommonLit curriculum and are seeking to renew their waiver.
The extent of the Textbook and/or Instructional Materials' alignment to Tennessee Academic Standards and, if necessary, the extent to which the LEA's plan would remediate any areas of misalignment.	The content of the proposed textbook is mostly aligned to Tennessee academic standards and the district has provided supplemental materials to cover the areas of deficiency.
How the LEA will address deficiencies identified by the Textbook Commission, if applicable.	N/A: The proposed materials were not reviewed by the Textbook Commission.

Evidence of improved student outcomes in the LEA when utilizing Textbook and/or Instructional Materials waivers the LEA has been granted in the past, if applicable.	Blount County Schools provided documented evidence of improved outcomes under the previous waiver.
The availability of state-approved Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials for the requested course and/or subject.	There is a state list of ELA textbooks and instructional materials approved during the last ELA standards cycle in 2018-19.