

---

**Textbook and Instructional Materials Waivers Rule 0520-01-18**

---

**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(9) charges the State Board to “prescribe the use of textbooks and other instructional materials, based on recommendations of the state textbook and instructional materials quality commission” by approving statewide, subject-based textbook adoption lists from which districts may choose. T.C.A. § 49-6-2206 authorizes the State Board to approve or deny waiver requests from local education agencies (LEAs) that wish to use textbooks and instructional materials that are not approved if the LEA demonstrates unique or unusual needs. The State Board’s Textbook and Instructional Materials Waivers Rule 0520-01-18 governs the process and procedures for LEAs requesting textbook and instructional materials waivers from the State Board.

On first reading, this item proposed:

- Clarifying the process for LEAs if there are no approved textbooks and instructional materials for a given course or grade level based on LEA and TDOE feedback.
- Providing the option for LEAs to submit research or evaluation on the proposed textbook(s) and instructional materials to support high-quality adoption.
- Other clarifying and technical edits to support public transparency and effective implementation.

State Board staff held a rulemaking hearing on May 2, 2025, between the first and final readings to collect public feedback. No comments were received.

On final reading, this item proposes:

- Additional clarifying and technical edits to support public transparency and effective implementation.

**Connection to the Master Plan:**

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on Literacy and Postsecondary and Career, outlined in the Master Plan, by clarifying and strengthening the process for LEAs to select alternative materials to drive student learning and postsecondary and career preparation.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires the Department of Education to prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no additional financial impact on an LEA.

**The Recommendation:**

The State Board staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.