

Textbook and Instructional Materials Waiver Request
7.31.26 Knox County Schools
McGraw Hill: SOAR!
ELA Grades 9-12

Local Education Agency

Criteria	LEA Submission
The LEA's explanation of the unique or unusual needs that necessitate the use of the requested textbook(s) and/or instructional materials in the waiver application	"With the extension of the 2019-2020 ELA adoption cycle, our district has experienced the emergency circumstance of having our state-approved Springboard curriculum for grades 9-12 sunsetted by its publisher, College Board, leaving us in a gap between contracts. Our understanding is that many other districts are experiencing the same emergency circumstances. The intellectual property for Springboard was acquired by McGraw Hill, which has repackaged it into a new curriculum product called SOAR!. While technically a different product from Springboard and therefore not formally reviewed by the State in 2019, our local review of SOAR! has shown it to be nearly identical to Springboard in substance. We are therefore seeking a waiver to use SOAR! to cover the ELA contract gap, rather than selecting a different option from the 2019 approved list, in order to minimize the transition for our teachers and support greater instructional coherence and continuity for our students." - Knox County Schools Application
Optional: Evidence of improved student outcomes or materials' quality	N/A; The district did not submit data.

TN Department of Education

Criteria	Staff Review
The extent of the textbook(s) 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 is aligned to teach standards for grades 9-12 ELA based on initial and follow-up materials submitted.
How the LEA will address deficiencies identified by the Textbook & Instructional Materials Quality Commission, if applicable	N/A; The Textbook & Instructional Materials Quality Commission did not review the proposed materials.

State Board of Education

Criteria	Staff Review
The availability of state-approved textbooks and/or instructional materials for the requested subject(s) and course(s) and/or grade(s)	There are other approved 9-12 ELA textbooks and instructional materials available for the duration of the extended ELA adoption cycle.
Compliance with applicable state laws (e.g., T.C.A. § 49-6-2206 related to Common Core and T.C.A. § 49-6-1019 related to Prohibited Concepts).	Yes, the materials were found to be in compliance.