
**Textbook/Instructional Materials Waiver Requests:
Hawkins 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: Hawkins 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.

Both these LEAs have submitted waivers for additional subjects as well. Some of those waiver requests were voted upon at the October 2021 State Board meeting. For the remaining waiver requests, the State Board staff will develop recommendations when the Department subject-matter experts provide feedback on those courses and subjects for a future State Board meeting.

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:

Hawkins County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
Art History and Appreciation	Not recommended for approval.
Music Appreciation	Approve until next fine arts textbook adoption cycle in 2024.

Rutherford County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
Art Foundations	Approve until next fine arts textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
Visual Arts I	Approve until next fine arts textbook adoption cycle in 2024.
General Music	Approve until next fine arts textbook adoption cycle in 2024.