



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

Via Email and USPS

April 30, 2018

Dr. Leah R. Watkins, Director of Schools
Roane County Schools
105 Bluff Road
Kingston, TN 37763
lwatkins@roaneschools.com

Re: Waiver Request

Dear Dr. Watkins:

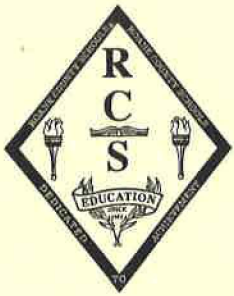
I am in receipt of your April 23, 2018 letter requesting a waiver for Roane County Schools of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-03-.07(2), requiring schools to employ a certain number of library information specialists per school who hold endorsements as library information specialists.

Pursuant to my authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d), your waiver request is hereby granted for Rockwood High School and Oliver Springs High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Candice McQueen
Commissioner



Roane County Schools

Dr. Leah Rice Watkins, Director of Schools

105 Bluff Road
Kingston, TN 37763-9781

Phone: (865) 376-5592
Fax: (865) 376-1284
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April 23, 2018

RECEIVED
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

APR 27 2018

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Commissioner McQueen:


I am formally submitting a request for a waiver to the requirement of a full-time librarian at two (2) of our high schools. As you are aware, we are a rural school district with limited funding. To maximize our ability to meet the needs of our students, I am requesting permission to focus this position to serve as an RTI specialist/Resource Specialist within the building. The role would very much involve providing solid Tier 1 resources to our teachers and servicing our RTI needs as well. To accomplish this, I am requesting a waiver from the requirement of including a library information specialist at Rockwood High School and Oliver Springs High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

I am including the link to the law below:

0520-1-3-.07 LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTER, REQUIREMENT F. (1) School library information center. (a) All school library information centers shall serve as resources for students, teachers and community members to strengthen student learning. School library information specialists shall work closely with classroom teachers to integrate both curricular concepts and information skills that assist research and other learning activities. The collection and the services of the library information center shall adequately support the curricular priorities within the school. (b) School library information centers shall create an environment that allows efficient access to both print and electronic resources. Schools must be organized to allow the library program to operate a flexible schedule that allows students and teachers to access resources at the point of need. (c) School library information centers shall provide access to parents and community members, so that the school library information center serves as a community resource. (2) Library Information Center Personnel (a) Schools including grades K-8 or any combination thereof shall provide library information personnel as follows: January, 2008 (Revised) 32 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHAPTER 0520-1-3 (Rule 0520-1-3-.07, continued) (b) *Schools including any high school grade shall provide library information personnel as follows: 1. A school with a current average daily membership of more than 300 but less than 1,500 students shall have a full-time library information specialist with endorsement as a library information specialist. 2. A school with a current average daily membership of fewer than 300 students shall have a half-time library*

information specialist. During the time that the library is open during regular school hours and the library information specialist is not present, the principal shall designate staff member(s) to provide supervision to students in the library. 3. A school with a current average daily membership of 1500 or more students shall have two full-time library information specialists, each with endorsement as a library information specialist. 4. When the library is open outside the regularly scheduled school day and the library information specialist is not present, the principal shall designate staff member(s) to provide supervision to the students in the library. School boards may develop policies regarding the appropriate use and training of volunteers.

With sincere appreciation of your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leah R. Watkins', followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Leah R. Watkins, Ed.D.
Director of Schools

LRW:dnw