



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

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

LIZZETTE REYNOLDS
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

September 22, 2023

Colby King, Director of Schools
cc: Alice Brown, ESL Coordinator
1400 E. Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

Re: Waiver for English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs

Dear Director King:

I am in receipt of your September 21, 2023 waiver request of State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 as it relates to the use of an alternate English as a Second Language (ESL) service model. You have requested to use a content-based instruction (CBI) model for ESL services at six schools within Putnam County Schools.

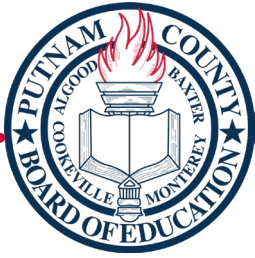
This CBI model will allow the ESL teacher and the content teacher to plan together using grade level curriculum and accommodation for the language needs of ESL students. The purpose of the CBI model is to provide ESL students with access to high quality core instruction and interactive language lessons.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) grants the commissioner the authority to “waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA’s ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission.” On the condition that the school district: (1) continue to monitor classes on a quarterly basis to ensure ESL students’ language needs are being met, (2) provide coaching in the use of language objectives within the content lesson, and (3) monitor schedules for common planning time between the ESL teacher and content teacher, your request is hereby granted for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



ENGAGE INSPIRE ACHIEVE

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1. LEA ESL Coordinator: Alice Brown
2. ESL Service Delivery Model being requested: Co-Teaching using Content Based Instruction (CBI).
3. Number of Schools: 6
4. Grade Levels: 3-8, 11-12
5. Proposed implementation date 9/1/2023-5/28/2024
6. Monitoring Plan: Common planning time opportunities will take place such as common planning and/or use of digital planning such as shared lesson plans through Google. Schedules will be monitored for common planning time between ESL teacher and Content teacher. ESL Coach will visit the classrooms quarterly to monitor teaching strategies, using the IPG instrument. ESL teachers will have further coaching in the use of language objectives within the content lesson. The goals within the ILPs are monitored quarterly in order to determine that the students' language needs are being met. If a change is determined to be needed, that will be implemented by the team. Access scores will be analyzed to determine if we will continue with this model in the subsequent year.
7. Description of Model: The foundation of the model is "content-based instruction (CBI) as outlined in the ILP Instructional Guide. The ESL teacher and content teacher plan together using grade level curriculum, accommodation for the language needs of the ESL students. The purpose is to provide access to high quality core instruction with engaging, interactive language lessons. Students with lower WIDA and screener levels are served in pull-out classes to meet their specific needs. This model is for intermediate and higher students or those that have been in U.S. schools for more than three years. Our goal is to provide high quality curriculum and peer interaction with a focus on academic language.
8. Confirm board attorney has reviewed and approved this waiver request: Yes
9. ESL Coordinator: Alice Brown
10. Federal Programs Director: Bridgett Carwile