

**Textbook/Instructional Materials Waiver Requests:
Hawkins County (Virtual School)
Rutherford County (Adult High School)**

Hawkins County: Edmentum

Subject-Specific Feedback (from Department staff)

Subject/Course	Subject-Matter Expert Feedback
Art History and Appreciation	The correlation of Edmentum’s PLATO curricula for the course Art History and Appreciation do not align to the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts adopted in 2016 and implemented in 2018. This course appears to be aligned to the previous set (1994) of academic standards for fine arts.
Music Appreciation	Most of the standards adopted for 9-12 General Music contained in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts (2018) seem to be appropriately and sufficiently addressed in the course material for Music Appreciation presented by Edmentum.

Additional Criteria in Rule (from State Board staff)

Criteria	Staff Review
The explanation of the unique or unusual needs of the LEA necessitating the use of the requested Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials in the waiver application.	Hawkins County is attempting to establish a virtual school that will be option for students in grades K-12 and primarily use state-approved, adopted textbooks. However, the district is also seeking an outside digital content vendor for elective courses that are unable to be provided by local teachers
The extent of the Textbook 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 of some courses is aligned to Tennessee academic standards; however, one proposed course does not meet the currently approved standards. State Board staff recommends approval of only the aligned course aligned to currently approved standards at this time.
How the LEA will address deficiencies identified by the Textbook Commission, if applicable.	N/A: The proposed materials were not reviewed by the Textbook Commission.
Evidence of improved student outcomes in the LEA when utilizing Textbook and/or Instructional Materials waivers the LEA has been granted in the past, if applicable.	Hawkins County has not previously been granted a textbook or instructional materials waiver by the State Board.
The availability of state-approved Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials for the requested course and/or subject.	There are state-approved textbooks available for the requested courses and subjects; however, those options are not fully online options.

Rutherford County: Graduation Alliance

Subject-Specific Feedback (from Department staff)

Subject/Course	Subject-Matter Expert Feedback
Art Foundations	<p>Each of the standards adopted for Visual Arts HS1 contained in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts (2018) seem to be appropriately and sufficiently addressed in the course material for Art Foundations presented by Graduation Alliance. While each standard does not appear to be given the same prioritization of instructional time, the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts do provide flexibility under “Major Work of the Grade,” indicating that “some foundations require greater emphasis than others based on the depth of the ideas, the time that they take to master, and/or their importance to arts learning or the demands of college and career readiness.”</p>
Visual Arts I (Digital Photography)	<p>Most of the standards adopted for Visual Arts HS1 contained in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts (2018) seem to be addressed in the course material for Digital Photography (S1 & S2) presented by Graduation Alliance. There are several instances where specific units and activities are ambiguously aligned to multiple standards and assessing student mastery of multiple standards may be difficult. While much of the course material seems to align to Visual Art standards, there are many units and activities that may align more appropriately to Media Arts standards. To further strengthen the course, the district is encouraged to explore the incorporation of Media Arts standards where appropriate. The Media Arts standards are designed to be used in a standalone course -or- they may be integrated throughout any existing course within an arts content area to supplement the instruction.</p> <p>Course code recommendations from the Department: Recommended State Course Code (Semester I): G05H08 Visual Arts: Comprehensive I Recommended State Course Code (Semester II): G05H08 Visual Arts: Comprehensive I</p> <p><i>*Course code note: The state does not issue medium-specific course codes at the introductory/HS1 (I) level for visual arts (e.g. G05HC3 Visual Arts: Photography II, G05HC4 Visual Arts: Photography III). Generally, it is recommended students complete a comprehensive introductory course (such as Visual Arts: Comprehensive I) prior to attempting medium-specific specialization courses. As presented in the waiver, the material is aligned for the Visual Arts HS1 level of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts. The district is encouraged to reach out to the arts education program area for guidance in selecting appropriate course codes to ensure the accuracy of data reporting as aligned to the district’s intended course progression.</i></p>
General Music	<p>Most of the standards adopted for 9-12 Music Theory contained in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts (2018) seem to be addressed in the course material for Music Aesthetics presented by Graduation Alliance. The course units and student activities seem to suggest an intent to provide students with an overview of music theory, music history, and other studies in music, including careers, ethics and legal issues, et al. To further strengthen the course, the district is encouraged to realign the course materials to the 9-12 General Music standards because the depth and breadth of the course activities tend to be more appropriate in that area rather than music theory. The standards provide further clarification for general music, noting that, “traditionally, students in middle and high school general music class are non-musicians whose lifelong participation with music is more geared towards recreational music and are often more fulfilled through Responding and Connecting than Creating or Performing. This is not to say that the state standards for general music neglect to emphasize Creating and Performing, but to emphasize that these two areas are addressed differently in general music than they are in traditional and emerging ensembles.”</p>

	<p>Course code recommendations from the Department: Recommended Course Code: G05H11 General Music</p>
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Additional Criteria in Rule (from State Board staff)

Criteria	Staff Review
The explanation of the unique or unusual needs of the LEA necessitating the use of the requested Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials in the waiver application.	Rutherford County explained that its goal is to run its adult high school virtually through a partnership with Graduation Alliance. The adult high school would allow students flexibility to meet other responsibilities, such as work or family, while completing their high school program.
The extent of the Textbook 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 of the courses is aligned to Tennessee academic standards; therefore, State Board staff recommends approval at this time.
How the LEA will address deficiencies identified by the Textbook Commission, if applicable.	N/A: The proposed materials were not reviewed by the Textbook Commission.
Evidence of improved student outcomes in the LEA when utilizing Textbook and/or Instructional Materials waivers the LEA has been granted in the past, if applicable.	Rutherford County was recently granted waivers by the State Board (October 2021); however, there has not been sufficient time to evaluate the implementation of the waiver materials. The LEA did state that the vendor, Graduation Alliance, has positive outcomes in five other states, such as increased completion rates and more employment opportunities.
The availability of state-approved Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials for the requested course and/or subject.	There are state-approved textbooks available for the requested courses and subjects; however, those options are not fully online options.