



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

August 13, 2024

Dr. Tim Parrott
Anderson County Schools
101 South Main Street
Clinton, TN 37716

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

Dear Director Parrott:

I am in receipt of your August 1, 2024 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 co-teaching model for ESL programs for students at Claxton Elementary School.

According to your request, this alternative model will allow the school to initiate an instructional schedule with co-teaching, will support Tier 1 instruction for English Learners (ELs), and will minimize the amount of time ELs are pulled out of the general classroom to receive English Language Arts instruction and ESL services.

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.” Therefore, in accordance with your request, your waiver is hereby granted until the revised ESL State Board of Education Rule allowing for co-teaching goes into effect in September 2024.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette
Reynolds_clb

Digitally signed by
Lizzette Reynolds_clb
Date: 2024.08.22
11:15:52 -05'00'

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



Tennessee Department of Education - Office of The Commissioner

710 James Robertson Parkway - Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor - Nashville, TN 37243

Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency for one (1) or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Please submit completed forms to Commissioner.Education@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the district will be notified in writing if the waiver request is approved or denied. Unless otherwise stated, all waivers granted by the commissioner shall be granted for one year terms.

Waivers may **not** be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

Local Education Agency:

Anderson County Schools

School Information (if applicable):

School Name: Claxton Elementary School

Street: 2218 Clinton Hwy.

City: Powell, TN Zip Code: 37849

Please list the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) for which waiver is being requested:

RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAPTER 0520-01-19 ENGLISH AS A
SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
0520-01-19-.03 IDENTIFICATION, SCREENING, AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Explanation of how the statute(s) and/or state board rule(s) inhibits or hinders the local education agency's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission:

We are requesting allowance to use Co-teaching as an ESL Delivery Model prior to its availability in policy, which, according to our specialists from the Tennessee Department of Education, should be in effect in September of 2024. Being able to implement this ESL Delivery Model earlier will allow the school to initiate the instructional schedule with Co-teaching instead of having to make a schedule change the following month. Our goal is to support Tier 1 instruction for our English Learners while minimizing the time pulled out of the general classroom for our higher level English Learners. Both of the grade levels identified have students who will benefit greatly from this ESL Delivery Model due to decreased time pulled-out of the general classroom and increased content-based instruction time to ensure our ELs are prepared to receive high-quality Tier I ELA instruction. Additionally, the co-planning will allow the ESL teacher to prepare specific instructional scaffolding to support the rigorous Wit and Wisdom ELA curriculum for their learners.

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this waiver request:

We are expecting this to be necessary until the new ESL policy is in effect in September of 2024.

Director of Schools (Signature)



Print Name

Dr. Tim Parrott

Date

8/1/2024

**Attachment for ESL Program Model Waiver- Anderson County Schools
July 29, 2024**

1. **LEA ESL director or coordinator name :** Emily Bruner
2. **ESL service delivery model being requested :** Co-teaching
3. **Number of schools that will implement the ESL service delivery Model:** 1
4. **Grade levels that will implement the ESL service delivery model (i.e., k-5, 6-8, 9-12, etc.):** Grades 2-3 (Claxton Elementary)
5. **Proposed implementation date:** Monday, August 19, 2024
6. **Proposed monitoring plan of new model :**
 - a. Collaborative Planning will be implemented weekly and will be part of the school's ESL schedule and master schedule.
 - b. A Weekly Collaborative Planning Dashboard Planning Document for support will be used during co-planning to both organize the co-planning time and to document this activity.
 - c. Expectations for both general education and ESL teachers will be reviewed; both teachers will have a defined role and responsibilities.
 - d. Academic coaches and ESL Coordinator will support co-planning.
7. **Short description of the ESL service delivery model being requested that includes evidence base of success from research that supports linguistic, and academic needs of English learners :**

The ESL teacher will work with a small group of English Learners at the beginning of the ELA block to frontload vocabulary, develop schema, preview mini-lessons/writing prompts, and preview writing frames that will be used in that day's lesson to support paragraph/essay writing. Click [here](#) to view the Co-Planning Dashboard that the teachers will use for co-planning instruction.

Wit and Wisdom Co-Planning Dashboard for the Week of _____

ELA Standard(s)	ELD Standard(s)

Key Vocabulary	Schema to Develop	Text(s)/Chapters	Big Idea/Gist
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Day	Daily Frontloading for Small Groups
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	