
Textbook/Instructional Materials Waiver Requests:
Hawkins County (Virtual School)
Houston County (Virtual School)
Rutherford County (Adult High School)
Williamson County (Course with No State Adoption)

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, several LEAs submitted limited-adoption waiver requests:

- Hawkins County and Houston County for virtual schools,
- Rutherford County for its adult high school, and
- Williamson County for a specific course that does not have a presently adopted textbook/instructional materials.

In alignment with State Board rules chapter 0520-01-18, 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.

Hawkins, Houston, and Rutherford Counties also submitted waivers for additional subjects. Those waiver requests were voted upon at the October 2021 and February 2022 State Board meetings.

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
Spanish 1	Approve until next world languages textbook adoption cycle.
Spanish 2	Approve until next world languages textbook adoption cycle.

Houston County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
Ancient History	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
Economics	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
World Geography	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
World History	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
Sociology	Recommend denial of approval.
Psychology	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
U.S. Government and Civics	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
U.S. History	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
English I	Approve until next ELA textbook adoption cycle.
English II	Approve until next ELA textbook adoption cycle.
English III	Approve until next ELA textbook adoption cycle.
English IV	Approve until next ELA textbook adoption cycle.

Rutherford County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
Health Education (Lifetime Wellness)	Approve until next health, wellness, and P.E. textbook adoption cycle.
U.S. History	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
U.S. Government	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
Economics	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
World History	Approve until next social studies textbook adoption cycle.
Fitness for Life: Semesters 1 and 2 (Physical Education)	Approve until next health, wellness, and P.E. textbook adoption cycle.
Intermediate Fitness: Semesters 1 and 2 (Physical Education)	Approve until next health, wellness, and P.E. textbook adoption cycle.
Statistics: Semesters 1 and 2	Approve until next math textbook adoption cycle.

Williamson County

Subject/Course	Recommendation
Coding 1	Approve until next computer science textbook adoption cycle.