

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

**Houston County: Founders Education**

**Subject-Specific Feedback (from Department staff)**

<b>Subject/Course</b>	<b>Subject-Matter Expert Feedback</b>
English 1	Questions and tasks are largely non-text-dependent; most reading standards are not adequately met; 1-2 informational texts per grade level; some texts below grade level and therefore standards cannot be met
English 2	Questions and tasks are largely non-text-dependent; most reading standards are not adequately met; 1-2 informational texts per grade level; some texts below grade level and therefore standards cannot be met
English 3	Questions and tasks are largely non-text-dependent; most reading standards are not adequately met; 1-2 informational texts per grade level; some texts below grade level and therefore standards cannot be met
English 4	Questions and tasks are largely non-text-dependent; most reading standards are not adequately met; 1-2 informational texts per grade level; some texts below grade level and therefore standards cannot be met
Algebra 1	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Algebra 2	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Geometry	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Pre-Calculus	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Biology	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Chemistry	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Earth and Space Science	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Environmental Science	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Physics	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Physical Science	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards

**Additional Criteria in Rule (from State Board staff)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Staff Review</b>
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.	Houston County’s goal is to open a virtual school for students and families that choose that option and use a virtual curriculum, Founders Education, as the primary online curriculum. Their partnership with a vendor would also provide Tennessee-licensed educators to help fill local staffing shortages.
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, other proposed courses do not meet the standards and would require supplemental materials, which the LEA has not yet submitted. State

	Board staff recommends approval of only aligned courses 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.	Houston 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)**

<b>Subject/Course</b>	<b>Subject-Matter Expert Feedback</b>
English 1	Lessons and tasks are largely non-text-based; very few opportunities to read grade-level text and therefore standards cannot be met
English 2	Lessons and tasks are largely non-text-based; very few opportunities to read grade-level text and therefore standards cannot be met
English 3	Lessons and tasks are largely non-text-based; very few opportunities to read grade-level text and therefore standards cannot be met
English 4	Lessons and tasks are largely non-text-based; very few opportunities to read grade-level text and therefore standards cannot be met
Integrated Math 1	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards NOTE: Lessons are presented in a traditional path rather than Integrated; however, all standards are associated with lessons, most lessons strongly support the standard content, a small amount of standards only have limited support with lessons
Integrated Math 2	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards NOTE: Lessons are presented in a traditional path rather than Integrated; however, all standards are associated with lessons, most lessons strongly support the standard content, a small amount of standards only have limited support with lessons
Integrated Math 3	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards NOTE: Lessons are presented in a traditional path rather than Integrated; however, all standards are associated with lessons, most lessons strongly support the standard content, a small amount of standards only have limited support with lessons
Biology	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards The Department has flagged two instances with potentially problematic images and recommends local-level review of content to ensure appropriateness
Chemistry	Approximately one-quarter of Tennessee academic standards for this course were not addressed
Physical Science	Content was aligned to Tennessee academic standards
Anatomy	Approximately one-quarter of Tennessee academic standards for this course were not addressed

**Additional Criteria in Rule (from State Board staff)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Staff Review</b>
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 some courses is aligned to Tennessee academic standards; however, other proposed courses do not meet the standards and would require supplemental materials, which the LEA has not yet submitted. State Board staff recommends approval of only aligned courses 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 has not previously been granted a textbook or instructional materials waiver by the State Board. 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.