



BRYANT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT
Karen C. Walters, Ed.D.

August 27, 2021

Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Secretary Key:

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-202(b)(2) and Section 11.00 of the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, Bryant Public Schools respectfully requests a waiver of standard 4-F, Library Media Specialists. We request this waiver only for Bryant Junior High School and only for the 2021-2022 school year.

In accordance with state requirements, Bryant Public Schools employs full-time library media specialists at each of the district's campuses, including at Bryant Junior High School. However, unexpected enrollment increases resulted in Bryant Junior High's student population being very close to 1,500 students. Should Bryant Junior High's student enrollment reach or surpass 1,500 students at any point during the school year, the district will be required to hire an additional library media specialist for that campus. As you are aware, the library media specialist continues to be listed among the state's chronically critical academic shortage areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please notify me of the date and time of the meeting during which the Arkansas State Board of Education will consider this request. My staff and I stand ready to provide you with any additional information you might require.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Walters, Ed.D.
Superintendent