



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

October 14, 2026

Patrick Cripps, Director of Schools
DeKalb County Schools
110 South Public Square
Smithville, TN 37166

Dear Director Cripps:

I am in receipt of your waiver request for Summer Learning Camp Funds Carryover for High-Dosage, Low-Ratio Tutoring pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2). The request seeks approval to use remaining 2026 Summer Programming funds to provide high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring services in literacy and/or mathematics to additional students identified as at risk of performing below grade level, after ensuring all students required to be served under T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 have been served.

After review of the information submitted, and with the understanding that DeKalb County Schools will continue to prioritize all students required to receive tutoring services under T.C.A. § 49-6-3115, your request for a waiver of the limitation contained in T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2) is hereby granted for the 2026-27 school year.

If applicable and specifically requested in the waiver application, approval also extends to the waiver of the required number of weeks (12) for the fall semester as outlined in the assurances for the 2026 Summer Programming Extension Grant Application.

Please do not hesitate to contact the department if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds CB

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



Summer Learning Camp Funds Carryover for High-Dosage, Low-Ratio Tutoring Waiver Request Application

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2), funding for after-school learning mini-camps, learning loss bridge camps, and summer learning camps must first be used for the purposes outlined in T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(1). Any remaining funds may be used by LEAs or public charter schools to provide tutoring required by T.C.A. § 49-6-3115. T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 requires tutoring services for students that were retained in grades K-3 and students required to be tutored as part of a promotion pathway in grades 4-5.

This specialized waiver application is to be used by local education agencies (LEAs) to request a waiver of the provision in T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2) limiting the use of the remaining funds from 2026 Summer Programming to students that were retained in grades K-3 and students required to be tutored as part of a promotion pathway in grades 4-5.

This specialized waiver request is designed to allow the remaining funds from 2026 Summer Programming to be spent on tutoring services for students to provide high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring services in literacy and/or math to additional students at-risk of performing below grade level upon the condition that the LEA has ensured that any students required to be served by T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 have been served first.

In addition, the LEA may request to waive the required number of weeks (12) for the fall semester as outlined in the assurances for the 2026 Summer Programming Extension Grant Application.

To apply for a waiver, email the completed form to Education.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the requestor 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.

District Name

DeKalb County

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable



Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

patrickcripps@dekalbschools.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Patrick Cripps

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

Patrick Cripps

Digitally signed by Patrick Cripps
Date: 2026.10.08 09:06:59 -05'00'

1. ☒ The LEA is requesting a waiver of the provision in T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2) limiting the use of the remaining funds from 2026 Summer Programming to students that were retained in grades K-3 and students required to be tutored as part of a promotion pathway in grades 4-5.

2. ☒ The LEA is requesting a waiver of the required number of weeks (12) for the fall semester as outlined in the assurances for the 2026 Summer Programming Extension Grant Application.

3. Explanation of how the statutory requirement limits the LEA's ability to meet student needs:

Provide an explanation of why the waiver is needed and how approval of the waiver would support improving academic outcomes for eligible students. Please include a description of how the LEA will prioritize students for high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring including data sources, grade levels, and content areas.

The waiver is needed to ensure that eligible students receive the tutoring based on demonstrated academic need. With the waiver, DeKalb will be able to prioritize students who demonstrate the greatest need for additional instructional support in ELA and/or math to provide high-dosage low ratio tutoring based on student data needs. This flexibility will allow for us to more effectively address unfinished learning, strengthen foundational skills and provide additional opportunities for students to access grade level content.

DeKalb will prioritize students for tutoring using multiple sources of academic data. These resources may include state assessment results, benchmark/universal screener, progress monitoring data, classroom assessment data, grades, and attendance information as well as teacher recommendations. Data will be reviewed to identify students' learning gaps and students not making sufficient progress.

Priority will be given to the eligible students in grades and content areas in which data indicate the greatest need. Focus will be given to Foundational literacy and mathematics in the elementary grades as well as English Language Arts and mathematics in grades 4 and 5 where state assessments and universal screening data demonstrates substantial gaps. Tutoring groups will be intentionally maintained at a low student-to-tutor ratio to allow for individualized instruction, frequent checks for understanding, immediate feedback and targeted remediation and/or acceleration. Tutoring will be aligned with the skills and standards