



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

September 29, 2026

Melinda Thompson, Director of Schools
Decatur County Schools
59 West Main Street
Decaturville, TN 38329

Dear Director Thompson:

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 Decatur 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,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Lizzette Reynolds" followed by the initials "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

Decatur County

School Name, if applicable

Decaturville Elementary

School Address, if applicable

820 S West St, Decaturville, TN 38329



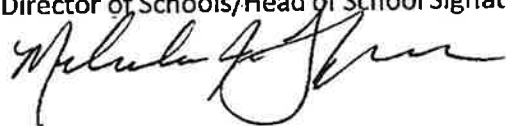
Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

melinda.thompson@decaturschools.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Melinda Thompson

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

 7/30/26

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.

Decatur County Schools is requesting a waiver of the required 12 weeks of programming for the

From: [Amanda Creasy](#)
To: [Education Waivers](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Decatur County Schools -- Optional Flexibility Waiver for 2026 Summer Programming Extension Application
Date: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:47:00 AM
Attachments: [Decatur County Waiver Request Form - Summer Programming Extension Grant SY26 Final.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Attached is Decatur County Schools' **Optional Flexibility Waiver for the 2026 Summer Programming Extension Application** for review and approval prior to submission with our application.

It appears that our narrative is being cut off in the waiver document (please see the screenshot below), so I am including the complete narrative here to ensure all information is available for review:

Decatur County Schools is requesting a waiver of the required 12 weeks of programming for the fall semester due to the timing of the 2026 Summer Programming Extension Grant application and implementation period. Although fall programming was anticipated to begin September 7, 2026, the allowable funding timeline and application submission schedule resulted in a shortened period in which the district could reasonably implement grant-funded services during the fall semester.

Approval of this waiver will allow Decatur County Schools to provide a high-quality, compliant tutoring program for eligible students within the remaining fall semester rather than attempting to compress 12 weeks of services into a limited implementation window. The district will maximize the available instructional time while maintaining the intended high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring model and focusing resources on students demonstrating the greatest academic need.

Students will be prioritized using multiple data sources, including state assessment results, universal screening and benchmark data, classroom performance, progress-monitoring data, and other district and school-level academic data. Priority will be given to students demonstrating the greatest need for additional academic support, with particular attention to students who are below grade-level expectations or have demonstrated persistent skill gaps.

Tutoring will focus on eligible grade levels and identified areas of need in English language arts and mathematics. Student placement and instructional focus will be based on individual student data so that tutoring is targeted to specific standards and skill deficits. Progress will be monitored throughout the program to determine student response to intervention and guide instructional adjustments.

Granting the waiver will enable the district to use the available fall

implementation period effectively while preserving the quality, intensity, and targeted nature of the tutoring services. Most importantly, it will allow Decatur County Schools to begin serving identified students as soon as practicable and provide meaningful academic intervention designed to improve student outcomes.

Please let me know if any additional information or revisions are needed for approval. We appreciate your review and assistance so that we may include the approved waiver with our application.

Thank you,

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Amanda B. Creasy, Ed.D.
Decatur County Schools

731 549-5477