



**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 28, 2026

Dr. Justin Robertson, Director of Schools  
Hamilton County Schools  
3074 Hickory Valley Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-1255

Dear Director Robertson:

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 Hamilton 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* <sup>CR</sup>  
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](mailto: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

Hamilton County Schools

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable

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Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

ROBERTSON\_JUSTIN@HCDE.ORG

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Dr. Justin Robertson, Superintendent

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

Signed by:  
*Justin Robertson*  
4D76312655B6463

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.

Hamilton County Schools (HCS) is requesting waivers of the limitation on eligible students under T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2) and the required 12 weeks of fall tutoring.

The Summer Programming Extension Grant Application became available in ePlan on September 21, 2026, and funds cannot be used until the application is submitted and approved by TDOE. As a result, HCS postponed tutoring services and requests flexibility to begin the week of September 21 and provide tutoring for the maximum number of weeks available during the fall semester, consistent with TDOE guidance on September 21 allowing funds to support tutoring services beginning September 15.

HCS will first prioritize students required to receive tutoring under state law, including eligible students in grades K-5 who have been retained or are on a promotion pathway. Once these students have been served, HCS requests flexibility to use remaining funds to provide high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring in literacy to additional students at risk of performing below grade level in grades K-5. Students will be prioritized using state assessment results, universal screening and benchmark data, retention and promotion pathway status, and other relevant academic data. Approval of these waivers will allow HCS to meet required tutoring obligations while maximizing available funds to support additional students with demonstrated academic need.

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