



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

Dr. Christy Smith, Director of Schools
Hardeman County Schools
10815 Old Hwy. 64
Bolivar, TN 38008

Dear Director Smith:

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 Hardeman 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

HardemanCounty Schools

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable



Department of
Education

Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

smithc36@hcsedu.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Christy Smith

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

 9.25.26

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.

See attached page for explanation.

The LEA is requesting this waiver to provide greater flexibility in the implementation of high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring so that available resources can be targeted to students with the greatest academic needs. The district would like to provide math tutoring alongside the ELA tutoring for students who are being tutored as part of a promotion pathway in grades 4 and 5. We also have several students in grades K-3 who are not required to complete tutoring but need the extra support in order to meet grade level expectations. This grant would allow us to expand our tutoring program to support those students in smaller groups.

The LEA will prioritize students for high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring using multiple sources of academic data, including TCAP results when available, Universal Reading Screener data (i-Ready diagnostic), benchmark and formative assessments, i-Ready progress-monitoring data, classroom assessments, intervention data, and teacher recommendations based on student work and demonstrated skill gaps. Students who are performing below grade-level expectations or demonstrating significant gaps in priority standards will receive the highest priority. Additional consideration will be given to students identified through the LEA's RTI² process and students who require intensified support to access grade-level instruction.

Tutoring will primarily target grades K-8, with priority given to students in K-5 ELA and mathematics based on identified needs. ELA tutoring will focus on foundational literacy skills, reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and grade-level standards. Mathematics tutoring will focus on foundational skills, number sense, computation, problem solving, and prerequisite skills necessary for success with grade-level standards.

For those students, who are not required to complete tutoring, we are requesting a waiver of the number of weeks due to the time line of serving those students from now until December does not allow 12 weeks within the first semester. We would want to start the tutoring sessions upon approval of the grant and continue implementing sessions at 2 times per week for 30 minutes from grant approval date until December 11.

Approval of the waiver will allow the LEA to ensure that high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring reaches the students with the greatest demonstrated need and provides targeted support connected directly to classroom instruction. This flexibility will strengthen the LEA's ability to accelerate unfinished learning, increase access to grade-level content, and improve student achievement.