



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

Matt Hixson, Director of Schools
Hawkins County Schools
200 N Depot Street
Rogersville, TN 37857

Dear Director Hixson:

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 Hawkins 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 
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

Hawkins County Schools

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable



Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

matt.hixson@hck12.net

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Matt Hixson

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

A handwritten signature, which appears to be 'Matt Hixson', followed by the date '9/24/26'.

1. **X** 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. **X** 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.

Hawkins County Schools requests a waiver of funding restrictions and semester duration assurances specifically for the **Summer Programming Extension Grant**. Our district has already received TN All Corps (TNAC) funding, which fully addresses the needs of our required tutoring population in combination with our Tier 2/3 AimsWeb interventions (1:3 ratio) and the Niswonger Foundation's Project On Track program. Because our required students are already fully provided for, restricting Summer Programming Extension Grant funds strictly to required students prevents us from serving non-required students who still need academic support. Approving this waiver allows us to direct Summer Programming Extension Grant resources toward these non-required, high-need students.

Additionally, we request a waiver regarding the 12-week tutoring duration assurance for the Summer Programming Extension Grant during the first semester. Application timeline constraints prevent completing 12 full weeks before the winter break. Tutoring will begin immediately upon final grant approval for the fall term, and a full 12-week schedule will be completed during the second semester.

District prioritization for high-dosage, low-ratio (1:3) tutoring focuses on grades K-8 in ELA and Math, utilizing AimsWeb universal screening data (prioritizing students below the 25th percentile, followed by those between the 25th and 40th percentiles), benchmark data, and progress monitoring.