



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. Michael Adkins, Director of Schools
Lawrence County Schools
1620 Springer Road
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Dear Director Adkins:

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 Lawrence 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 blue ink that reads "Lizzette Reynolds" followed by the initials "LR".

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

Lawrence County

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable



Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address

michael.adkins@lcass.us

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name

Michael Adkins

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date '9/28/2026' written in a similar style.

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.

Please see attached documentation.

Lawrence County's Waiver Request for
Summer learning Camp Funds Carryover for High-dosage, Low-Ratio Tutoring

Lawrence County School System has 11 schools that implement LCSS ALL Corps Tutoring. These schools vary in configurations from 1-5, 1-8, and 6-8. Due to these differences, there are different implementation models that fit each school's needs and schedules. Each school is given an allocation from TISA based on K-3 enrollment and TISA Bonus dollars earned. The schools will now have a new allocation in addition to the two set aside by the district.

The tutoring grant dollars will be allocated to the school based on a per-pupil dollar amount. The schools create an implementation plan and staffing needs based on the 2-3 times per week, 45-minute sessions, and ratios. The plan is submitted to the district for approval. Schools fall into one of three different implementation models.

- 1.) RTI2 tutoring push-in Model - During grade level RTI2 time, LCSS ALL Corps teachers/tutors will meet with students 2-3 times per week for 30-45 min sessions in ratios of not more than 1:3 in grades 1-5 and no more than 1:4 in grades 6-8.
- 2.) Before/After School - LCSS ALL Corps tutors are classroom teachers paid a stipend from LCSS ALL Corps to tutor after school hours with students 2-3 times per week for 30-45 min sessions in ratios of not more than 1:3 in grades 1-5 and no more than 1:4 in grades 6-8.
- 3.) RTI2 tutoring push-in Model and Before/After School - In this model, schools use both of the above-described models.

Staffing needs are based on the model chosen by the schools. Schools hire educational assistants, retired teachers, and certified teachers to fill the staffing needs for high-quality, low-ratio tutoring at each school. Schools utilize educational assistants, retired teachers, and certified teachers in the RTI2 push-in model. For before/after-school tutoring, classroom teachers are paid a stipend for the before/after-school hours tutoring. The before/after school tutoring has worked well for LCSS because the students are typically in the tutor's class for core instruction. Communication between tutors and classroom teachers varies across schools. Some strategies in place will be: A school-wide spreadsheet for tutors to communicate and log information about skills. Tutors participating in grade-level meetings. Tutor access to the lesson plan drive. Tutors are being given access to benchmark and progress monitoring data. Most after-school tutors are the students' classroom teachers. All unlicensed tutors will complete the TN ALL Corps online training from TDOE. Unlicensed tutors will also be trained using one-on-one meetings, webinars, and tutorial programs and activities.

Multiple data sources are analyzed when selecting students for LCSS All Corps Tutoring, depending on the data available for that grade level. Data includes TCAP results, Aimsweb benchmark screening assessments, IXL, and STAR data. Approaching students on TCAP or students scoring from 25%-40% on benchmark screening assessments (AIMSweb, STAR) are given priority. Students are also selected based on classroom performance and student work.

Instructional Coherence and alignment to Tier I instruction are ensured through communication between the tutor/interventionist and the classroom teacher. LCSS created coherence guides in ELA & Math to help organize this process. The teacher communicates the Tier I lesson being taught, then the tutor/interventionist can access the guide for resources to support the students. At this time, we

have scheduled RTI Coordinators to revisit the guides and update them to correct any issues or add new resources.

After students in K-2 are assigned tutors, students in grades 3-8 may be assigned tutors for intervention in ELA. These students will be determined eligible for tutoring services based on their Universal Screening scores. The students who score between the 26th and 40th percentile will be assigned tutors as long as funds allow for these interventions to occur. Students will be involved in the tutoring strategies of frontloading, concurrent learning, and reinforcing learning.

Due to the late date of this waiver request application being available, 12 weeks of required tutoring in the Fall semester is not possible from the Summer Learning Camp Carryover. However, the students who are required to receive tutoring have already been receiving those services funded through the other sources outlined above. Additionally, students who weren't required to receive tutoring could benefit from the high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring funded through this carryover of funds process if it is made available.