



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

Michael Garren, Director of Schools
Loudon County Schools
100 River Road
Loudon, TN 37774

Dear Director Garren:

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 Loudon 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 a blue checkmark.

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: Loudon County Schools

School Name, if applicable

School Address, if applicable



Director of Schools/Head of School Email Address: garrenm@loudoncounty.org

Director of Schools/Head of School Printed Name: Michael Garren

Director of Schools/Head of School Signature & Date  9/23/26

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.

Loudon County Schools requests a waiver of T.C.A. § 49-6-1503(c)(2) to allow remaining Summer Programming Extension Grant funds to be used for additional students who are at risk of performing below grade level, after all students required to receive tutoring under T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 have been served. Approval of this waiver will enable the district to use its remaining Summer Programming Extension Grant funding to expand access to high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring and targeted literacy interventions for a broader group of students demonstrating significant academic needs in reading and mathematics.

The waiver is needed because student performance data indicate that there are additional students who would benefit from intensive academic support but do not meet the statutory criteria for required tutoring.

Limiting remaining funds solely to students previously retained in grades K-3 or students receiving tutoring as part of a promotion pathway in grades 4-5 restricts the district's ability to address learning gaps among other at-risk students, such as students with a disability impacting reading and English learners in with under two years of English instruction. Approval of this waiver would allow Loudon County Schools to provide timely interventions to other students in grades K-8 that support accelerated learning, strengthen foundational skills, and improve overall academic achievement.

Loudon County Schools will prioritize tutoring services using multiple data sources, including TCAP achievement results, universal screener data, and benchmark assessment. Tutoring services will focus primarily on students in grades K-8 and will target literacy and mathematics. In literacy, tutoring will address foundational reading skills, fluency, comprehension, and written expression. In mathematics, tutoring will focus on identified skill gaps and grade-level readiness. Through this expanded approach, the district will maximize the impact of grant funds and provide evidence-based support to students most in need of academic acceleration.