



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

**KEVIN HUFFMAN**  
COMMISSIONER

June 14, 2013

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Delisle:

I am writing on behalf of Tennessee to request approval of an amendment to Tennessee's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grants Application to extend the waiver previously granted under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of the fiscal year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds awarded under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, until September 30, 2014. This request to extend the waiver, submitted pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit Tennessee in accordance with criteria Tennessee develops, to identify and allow local educational agencies (LEAs) with Cohort 1 SIG schools additional time to expend remaining FY 2009 SIG funds in those schools.

This amendment, if approved, would apply to an LEA with one or more Tier I or II SIG schools that began fully implementing a SIG intervention model at the start of the 2010–2011 school year (Cohort 1). Such an LEA that is interested in implementing the extended waiver would need to request and receive Tennessee's permission to implement it.

Tennessee seeks this extended waiver because it has received a request from one district to continue the implementation of SIG intervention models in four of its Cohort 1, Tier I schools for a fourth year using the remaining balance of its FY 2009 SIG funds, \$2,771,673. Tennessee believes that the additional time is in the public interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure that their Cohort 1 schools are able to use remaining FY 2009 SIG funds to support continued full and effective implementation of selected SIG intervention models for one additional year.

Attached to this request is a list, for each LEA with remaining FY 2009 SIG funds that is likely to seek to implement this extension, with the name of each school within the LEA that would use this extension and, for each school, the amount of FY 2009 SIG funds remaining. If the amendment seeking an extended waiver of the period of availability is approved, Tennessee assures it will:

- For each LEA with remaining FY 2009 funds that has a school that would apply for this extension, and for each of those schools within the LEA that would use this extension, the amount of funds remaining.
- An assurance that the SEA will approve an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver only if the LEA has effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG final requirements and improve student achievement, in accordance with section 9401(d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.
- An assurance that the SEA will develop criteria that will enable it to determine whether an LEA can continue to fully and effectively implement one of the models in its Tier I or II Cohort 1 schools for an additional year.
- An assurance that, prior to approving an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver, the SEA will apply the criteria it develops to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to fully and effectively implement a SIG intervention model in one or more Tier I or Tier II Cohort 1 SIG schools for one additional school year, including by reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for continuing full and effective implementation of the model during the 2013-2014 school year.
- An assurance that the SEA will develop a technical assistance and support plan that outlines how it will continue to support LEAs' implementation of the intervention models for the selected Tier I and Tier II Cohort 1 schools that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- An assurance that the SEA will develop a monitoring plan for the 2013-2014 school year, specifically for the LEAs that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- An assurance that, within 30 days of the SEA's approving LEA requests to implement the extended waiver, the SEA will post on its public Web site and submit to the Department (via e-mail to [oese.ost@ed.gov](mailto:oese.ost@ed.gov)) the names of the LEAs (including their NCES District Identification Number) it has approved to implement the extended waiver, the schools (including their NCES School Identification Number) within those LEAs that will benefit from the extension of the period of availability of the funds, and, for each LEA and school, the amount of funds that will be extended.

Prior to submitting this amendment requesting an extended waiver, Tennessee provided all LEAs in Tennessee with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on the request Tennessee provided such notice by sending an email to each eligible LEA on June 4, 2013. Copies of all comments that Tennessee received from LEAs in response to this notice are attached hereto. Tennessee has also provided notice and information regarding this amendment to the public in the manner in which Tennessee customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting the waiver on its Web site.

Please feel free to contact Rita Fentress at [Rita.Fentress@tn.gov](mailto:Rita.Fentress@tn.gov) or me if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin Huffman

KH/EO: rf

c: Dr. Carlas McCauley, Office of School Turnaround, U.S. Department of Education  
 David Yi, Office of School Turnaround, U.S. Department of Education  
 Erin O'Hara, Assistant Commissioner for Data and Research, Tennessee Department of Education  
 Rita Fentress, Coordinator, School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education