



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

February 22, 2012

Michael Yudin, Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
Headquarters – LBJ Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Yudin:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Education to request to waive section 421 (b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b) **to extend the period of availability of FY 2010 school improvement grant funds to September 30, 2015.** The waiver will allow any local education agency (LEA) in Tennessee that receives a School Improvement Grant (SIG) to use funds in accordance with the final requirements for School Improvement Grants and the LEA's application for grant funds.

On September 20, 2011, the Tennessee Department of Education was granted a waiver to carryover 100% of its FY 2010 SIG funds to award those funds to LEAs through a competition conducted during 2011- 2012 school year. The Tennessee Department of Education has surplus FY 2009 funds for which the period of availability expires on September 30, 2014. Tennessee will combine the FY 2009 carryover funds with FY 2010 to award to LEAs through the competition conducted during the 2011-2012 school year and will make awards to LEAs no later than March 2012. The FY 2009 funds will support the first and second year of the grant; the FY 2010 funds will support the third year of the grant.

The Tennessee Department of Education assures that it provided all LEAs in the State that are eligible to receive the School Improvement Grant with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request and has attached a copy of that notice. To expedite its waiver request, the Tennessee Department of Education will submit subsequent copies of any comments it receives from LEAs. The Tennessee Department of Education also assures that it provided notice and information regarding this waiver to the public in the manner in which the State customarily provides such notice and information to the public (e.g., by publishing a notice in the newspaper, by posting on its website) and has attached a copy of, or link to, that notice.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Debra E. Owens, Debbie.Owens@tn.gov, or me if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KH", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Huffman

KH/DO: bc

- 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 Communications, Tennessee Department of Education
Dr. Debra E. Owens, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Accountability, Tennessee Department of Education
Rita Fentress, Coordinator, School Improvement, TN Dept. of Education