



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

LIZZETTE REYNOLDS
COMMISSIONER

June 26, 2023

James Lane, Ed.D.
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Lane:

The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) is writing to request a waiver, pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), to extend the period of availability of funds in section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) for FY 2020 funds for the Title IV, Part B of the ESEA (21st Century Community Learning Centers) which the state educational agency (SEA) participates under its approved consolidated State plan until September 30, 2023.

Like many state agencies, TDOE experienced staffing challenges during and post-pandemic, creating unforeseen conditions that necessitated this request. Specifically, the grant's fiscal coordinator at the SEA was transitioned due to illness. Onboarding new personnel in a remote environment led to challenges during the closeout of the grant. We are seeking to draw down \$15,576.01 for allowable expenditures obligated prior to September 30, 2022. Our grantees need these funds to administer quality programming that benefits students, families, and communities.

In seeking this waiver, I assure that the SEA will use and ensure that its subgrantees use funds under the respective programs in accordance with the provisions of all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications not subject to these waivers. The SEA did provide the public and all LEAs in the State with notice of, and the opportunity to comment on, this request by posting information regarding the waiver request and the process for commenting on the State website. Attached to this letter are the comments from the public comment open period.

I appreciate your consideration of the waiver, and this flexibility will ensure that the TDOE is equipped to serve students, schools, and districts.

Sincerely,

Sam Percy
Deputy Commissioner

CC: Deborah A. Thompson, Assistant Commissioner of Federal Programs and Oversight