



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

March 4, 2016

Ann Whalen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary Delegated the Duties of Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) Headquarters
LBJ Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Whalen:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to request to waive § 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act [20 U.S.C § 1225(b)] **to extend the period of availability of the 2013 fiscal year (FY) school improvement grant funds to September 30, 2017.** This waiver will allow any local educational agency (LEA) in Tennessee that receives a School Improvement Grant (SIG) in the 2015-16 school year for its year three implementation to use funds for sustainability for year four in the 2016-17 school year, and to expend funds in accordance with the final requirements of the School Improvement Grant and the LEA's application for grant funds.

The conditions for this request are related to the availability of state assessment results and the payment of retention bonuses for teachers and staff contingent upon these results. It is estimated that school level results will be available after the September 30, 2016 obligation date. These LEAs will use the remaining FY 2013 funds during the 2016-17 school year to sustain effective SIG interventions. All LEAs accessing the waiver will provide a plan of sustainability including activities and an approved budget.

The TDOE assures that it has 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 and resulting comments. The TDOE further 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 (i.e. posting on the TDOE website).

Please feel free to contact Rita.Fentress@tn.gov, or me if you have any questions regarding the request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education

Attachment

CM/rf

- c: Nkemjika Ofodile, Education Support Specialist, Office of State Support, U.S. Department of Education
- Eve Carney, Executive Director, Division of Consolidated Planning and Monitoring, Tennessee Department of Education
- Rita-Fentress, Director of School-Improvement, Division-of Consolidated Planning and Monitoring, Tennessee Department of Education.