



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
6th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

May 19, 2014

Deborah S. Delisle, Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
Headquarters – LBJ Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Delisle:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 school improvement grant funds to September 30, 2015.** This waiver will allow any local education agency (LEA) in Tennessee that receives a School Improvement Grant (SIG) to expend funds in accordance with the final requirements of the School Improvement Grant and the LEA's application for grant funds.

Tennessee was granted a waiver to extend the period of availability of the FY 2011 school improvement grant funds to September 30, 2014 to support the third cohort of SIG schools during School Year (SY) 2013-2014, the first year of implementation. After examination of reimbursements and updated spending plans of local education agencies (LEAs), approximately \$2,500,000 is anticipated to be unobligated at the end of the current period of availability. If approved, this waiver would allow Tennessee to carryover the FY 2011 school improvement grant funds to support the third cohort of SIG schools in the second year of implementation, SY 2014-2015.

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. A copy of the notice is attached with resulting comments to follow at the end of the comment period. 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, Rita.Fentress@tn.gov, or me if you have any questions regarding the request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Huffman".

Kevin Huffman

Attachment

KSH/BH/rf

- c. Scott Sargrad, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education
David Yi, Office of School Turnaround, U.S. Department of Education
Ken Green, Chief District Support Officer, Tennessee Department of Education
Bing Howell, Director, Office of School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education
Rita Fentress, Office of School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education