

Flexibility Options for School Systems in Georgia

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Georgia's Flexibility and Waiver Options

Flexibility Options

- Charter System
- Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) System
- Status Quo (Traditional School System)

Big 4 Waivers

- Class Size Requirements
- Expenditure Controls
- Certification Requirements
- Salary Schedule

Charter System

• What is a Charter System?

- A charter system is a local school district that operates under the terms of a charter between the State Board of Education and the Local Board of Education. The system receives flexibility from certain state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability. Emphasis is on school-based leadership and decision-making. The Superintendent's authority is shared with the School Governing Council (SGC).
- The authority of a local Board of Education (LBOE) is not diminished. All schools are under the control and management of LBOE. The LBOE determines the type of governance and management the SGC will have. Only the role of the Superintendent changes.

• Broad Flexibility Waiver

- Allows a charter system to implement academic and organizational innovations by waiving certain educational state rules and regulations contained in Title 20 in exchange for increased accountability for student achievement.

• Accountability Requirements

- Innovations will need to be reported
- Two performance measures: Beating the Odds (BTO) and CCRPI
- Progressive increase of authority for School Governing Councils

Charter System

Levels of Authority/Autonomy

From Superintendent to School Governing Council

Categories

- Control over the people in the school.
- Control over what occurs in the school.
- Control over the school's finances and budget.
- Control over the school's operations.

Levels of Autonomy

- Green: SGC has substantial autonomy. No additional approval needed by Superintendent or Local BOE.
- Yellow: SGC has partial autonomy. Additional approval is needed by Superintendent or Local BOE.
- Red: SGC has no autonomy. Superintendent or Local BOE will make the decisions.
- Blue: Inapplicable or autonomy is not needed.

IE² System

- **What is an IE² system?**
 - Investing in Educational Excellence provides LEA with greater governance flexibility as a means to increase student achievement. The system receives flexibility from certain state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability.
- **Limited Flexibility Waiver**
 - The number of accountability measures will be proportional to the amount of flexibility being requested. At least one must be selected. As the request for flexibility increases, so does the number of accountability measures.
- **Accountability Requirements**
 - Two performance measures: CCRPI and Beating the Odds (BTO)
 - Additional performance measures can be added.
 - District requires a “Strategic Plan” (DSP) and schools an “Improvement Plan” (SIP) to drive student performance targets.

Status Quo (Traditional School System)

- **What is a Traditional School System?**

- A local district that has elected to remain under all current law, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. The system receives almost no flexibility from state rules and regulations.

- **Very Limited Flexibility Waiver**

- Cannot receive waivers for:

- Certification Requirements
- Salary Schedule Requirements
- Expenditure Controls

- Can receive waivers for:

- Class Size

- District must demonstrate financial hardship (Defined as unforeseen shortfalls in state appropriations and/or local revenue). Shortfall would have a material adverse effect on the operation of public schools.

- Extraordinary circumstances.

IE² System

Charter System

Status Quo

Definition

- A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE (State Board of Education) granting the district freedom from **specific** Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE (Georgia Department of Education) guidelines.

- A local district that has an executed charter system contract from the SBOE granting the district freedom from **almost all** of Title 20, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines.

- A local district that has opted to remain under all current laws, rules, and regulations, policies, and procedures.

Facts & Features

- **Three party** contract between the District, GOSA, and the SBOE.
- GOSA (Governor's Office of Student Achievement) role: Flexibility, target-setting, and performance monitoring.
- Primary accountability measure is **CCRPI**, secondary measure is **BTO**.

- **Two party** contract between the District and SBOE.
- Primary accountability measure is **BTO**, secondary measure is **CCRPI**.
- School Governing Council required.

- No Performance Contract required.
- Only allowed one waiver, Class Size, and under extraordinary circumstances.

Advantages/Consequences

- Negotiate flexibility and performance targets.
- Loss of governance over a school that fails to meet performance targets in 3 out of 5 years.

- Flexibility to innovate. Must meet yearly performance targets.
- Distribution of authority to School Governing Council.
- Loss of charter status if school fails to meet performance targets.

- No change required.
- No financial savings from waivers.

Federal/State Compliance

- Must comply with all federal laws and regulations.
- Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the IE² contract.

- Must comply with all federal laws and regulations
- Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety).

- Must comply with all federal laws and regulations.
- Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations.

Flexibility Options Time Line

Phase 1 (six month process)

Community Engagement Sessions
Recruit Coalition Members
(Jan – Feb 2015)

Explore Title 20 Flexibility Waivers
District Staff
(Jan - Feb 2015)

Guiding Coalition
Explore each Flexibility Options
(March 2015)

Present Findings
Superintendent's Cabinet
(April 2015)

Board Retreat/Workshops/
Public Hearing
(May 2015)

Present LOI
Public and School Board
(June 2015)

LOI & Resolution
submitted to GADOE
(June 2015)

Public Announcement on
district's intent

Phase 2 (zero – six month process)

Status Quo or Pursue Performance Contract with GaDOE or GaDOE/GOSA

Phase 3 (zero – four year process)

Implement Flexibility Option Selected



Scheduled Events & Sessions

- 12/18/2014 4:15 PM Superintendent's Senate Meeting
- 1/15/2015 6:30 PM PTA Council Meeting
- 1/31/2015 8:00 AM Parent University



Georgia Flexibility Options for School Systems

- » [What Is This About?](#)
- » [Summary Presentation](#)
- » [Summary Video Presentation](#)
- » [In-depth Presentation](#)
- » [Title 20 Education Codes](#)
- » [House Bill 1209](#)
- » [Savannah-Chatham Timeline](#)
- » [Comparison Chart of Options](#)



Charter System

- » [State Law](#)
- » [SBOE Rule](#)
- » [DOE Guidance](#)
- » [Petition Application](#)
- » [Charter System Definitions](#)
- » [DOE CS Website](#)
- » [Examples of Applications & Contracts](#)



IE²

- » [State Law](#)
- » [SBOE Rule](#)
- » [DOE Guidance](#)
- » [GOSA IE2 Website](#)
- » [DOE IE2 Website](#)
- » [Examples of Applications & Contracts](#)



Traditional System (*status quo*)

- » [General Information](#)



Community Information

- » [Collected Questions](#)
- » [Provide Feedback & Opinion](#)



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