



FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS IN GEORGIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In 2008, House Bill 1209 was signed into law, allowing local school boards to enter into a performance contract with the Georgia Department of Education for flexibility on Title 20 state laws, rules, and policies, in exchange for increased accountability. As of October 2014, seventeen percent of Georgia's district have made their selection and have performance contracts currently in place.

Local school districts may seek waivers from Title 20 statutes through the flexibility options being provided. These flexibility options hold various performance requirements that will be linked directly to the district's strategic plan and board policy.

Georgia districts have until June 2015 to decide upon one of the three flexibility options being provided. These flexibility options are:

1. Charter System
2. Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²)
3. Status Quo (remaining as a traditional school system)

Additional information related to each of the Flexibility Options can be found in the IE², Charter, and Status Quo School Systems Presentation (See attached document).

PROCESS IN DETERMINING THE FLEXIBILITY OPTION

Districts are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the State Department of Education declaring the flexibility option that will be pursued. The LOI will let the state know that a district is actively engaged in the process to implement the option selected. Once the LOI is accepted, a district can still change its direction; however, once a performance contract is accepted, it is in place for five years.

In each of the flexibility options there are many waivers that a district can use towards Title 20 state laws, rules, and policies. However, the state has selected "Four Big Waivers" for districts to choose from, in exchange for greater accountability.

These four big waivers are:

1. State Class Size
2. Expenditure Control
3. Certification Requirements
4. Salary Schedule Requirements