



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

1003 Flexibility

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To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Office of School Support and Transformation

Date: March 4, 2026

Subject: 1003 Flexibility Waivers

I. Basis for Agency Review

During the 2020 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly enacted P.L. 92-2020, which, in relevant part, permits a school or group of schools to apply to the State Board of Education (Board) for flexibility and to waive compliance with various provisions outlined in Title 20 of the Indiana Code and Title 511 of the Indiana Administrative Code. The flexibility is provided in the form of a 1003 Flexibility Waiver.

II. Requests for 1003 Flexibility Waivers under IC 20-31-4.1-4

To obtain a 1003 Flexibility Waiver, schools must submit an application that includes the following:¹

- (1) A list of one or more provisions in Title 20 of the Indiana Code and/or Title 511 of the Indiana Administrative Code that the school or group of schools is requesting the Board waive.
- (2) The specific goal(s) and/or outcome(s) the school or group of schools intends to achieve by waiving the provisions identified in the application.
- (3) An explanation of how the specific goal(s) and/or outcome(s) the school or group of schools intends to achieve are likely to be achieved by waiving compliance with the provisions identified in the application.
- (4) The performance benchmarks and data that will be used to determine whether the specific goal(s) and/or outcome(s) identified by the school or group of schools have been achieved.

¹ Ind. Code § 20-31-4.1-4(b).



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- (5) A resolution adopted by the governing body of the school or group of schools authorizing the submission of the 1003 Flexibility Waiver application.

After reviewing a school's 1003 Flexibility Waiver request, the Board may grant the school a waiver if the Board determines (1) that the waiver request is related to a specific goal or outcome of the school or group of schools², and (2) that granting the waiver will likely:³

- (1) Improve student performance and outcomes.
- (2) Offer the school or group of schools making the request flexibility in the administration of educational programs or improve the efficiency of school operations.
- (3) Promote innovative educational approaches to student learning, or
- (4) Advance the mission or purpose of the school or group of schools.

In other words, if the Board determines that a waiver request is unrelated to a specific goal or outcome of the school or group of schools, the request cannot be granted, and the waiver must be denied. Additionally, if the Board determines that granting a waiver is unlikely to improve student performance and outcomes, offer the school or group of schools making the request flexibility in the administration of educational programs or improve the efficiency of school operations, promote innovative educational approaches to student learning; or advance the mission or purpose of the school or group of schools, the request cannot be granted, and the waiver must be denied. Finally, IC 20-31-4.1-7 contains a list of provisions that may not be waived. Thus, a request to waive any of the provisions enumerated in IC 20-31-4.1-7 cannot be granted and must ultimately be denied.

III. Request(s) and Recommendation(s)

The IDOE has reviewed the submitted applications and applied criteria to determine if the LEA qualifies for a three-year waiver. The criteria are based on the benchmark data in the following categories from the Indiana GPS Dashboard: 3rd-grade Literacy,

² Ind. Code § 20-31-4.1-5(a).

³ Ind. Code § 20-31-4.1-5(b).



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6th-grade Math Growth, Graduation Pathways Completion, College & Career Credentials, and Employment & Enrollment. To qualify for a three-year waiver, an LEA must meet or show growth toward the benchmark goals in four out of the five categories listed above.

The Board has received 12 requests for a 1003 Flexibility Waiver from the following school corporations:

- | | | |
|------|---|-------|
| (1) | <u>Loogootee Community School Corporation (5525)</u> | P. 5 |
| (2) | <u>Washington Community Schools (1405)</u> | P. 6 |
| (3) | <u>West Central School Corporation (6630)</u> | P. 6 |
| (4) | <u>Blackford County Schools (0515)</u> | P. 7 |
| (5) | <u>Rossville Consolidated School District (1180)</u> | P. 7 |
| (6) | <u>Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation (3815)</u> | P. 8 |
| (7) | <u>Randolph Southern School Corporation (6805)</u> | P. 9 |
| (8) | <u>Jay School Corporation (3945)</u> | P. 9 |
| (9) | <u>MSD of Pike Township (5350)</u> | P. 9 |
| (10) | <u>Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (8050)</u> | P. 10 |
| (11) | <u>Clarksville Community School Corporation (1000)</u> | P. 11 |
| (12) | <u>Madison Consolidated Schools (3995)</u> | P. 11 |

After reviewing the requests, it has been determined that the corporations' applications include the statutorily required information and are eligible for consideration by the Board. For the statutory and regulatory provisions included in the requests, the Department recommends the following:

Instructional Day Requirements

The school corporations listed below are requesting flexibility to waive the statutory minimum requirements outlined in IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) and count instructional days that do not meet this requirement towards the 180-day minimum outlined in IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year).



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Each school corporation has a unique purpose for their request, but all generally center around the ability to facilitate job-embedded professional development within the existing teacher contract. In exchange for this flexibility, each school corporation listed below commits to facilitating at least the equivalent number of minutes/hours of instruction to what is required in Indiana law. Each school corporation will accomplish this by lengthening the school day to make up for lost instructional time during a delayed start or early dismissal day.

NOTE: All school corporations in this section will continue to conduct 180 instructional days and may only count three virtual instructional days towards the 180-day requirement.

1) Loogootee Community School Corporation (5525)

a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Loogootee Community School Corporation (5525) may conduct nine (9) two (2) hour late starts in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

2) Washington Community Schools (1405)

a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)



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Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Washington Community Schools (1405) may conduct eight (8), two (2) hour late starts in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

3) West Central School Corporation (6630)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	West Central School Corporation (6630) may conduct eight (8), two (2) hour early dismissals in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

4) Blackford County Schools (0515)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)



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Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Blackford County Schools (0515) may conduct three (3), two (2) hour late starts in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

5) Rossville Consolidated School District (1180)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 up to 2029-2030 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Rossville Consolidated School District (1180) may conduct seven (7), two (2) hour late starts AND one (1) two (2) hour early dismissal in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

6) Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation (3815)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)



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Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation (3815) may conduct five (5), two (2) hour early dismissals in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

7) Randolph Southern School Corporation (6805)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 up to 2029-2030 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Randolph Southern School Corporation (6805) may conduct nine (9), two (2) hour late starts in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

8) Jay School Corporation (3945)

- a. IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) – **Grant** (2026-2027 up to 2029-2030 school year)



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only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-2 (Instructional Time) Waive the minimum length of a student instructional day, which requires a student instructional day in grades 1 through 6 to consist of at least five (5) hours of instructional time and a student instructional day in grades 7 through 12 to consist of at least six (6) hours of instructional time.	Jay School Corporation (3945) may conduct four (4), two (2) hour late starts in the school year to conduct staff professional development. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days times the minimum length of an instructional day. - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

School Year Requirement

The school corporations listed below are requesting flexibility to waive the statutory minimum requirements for a school year outlined in IC 20-30-2-3, which requires 180 instructional days. All of the applications below seek flexibility to offer staff professional development within the existing teacher contract, and all commit to providing the minimum equivalent of in-person instructional minutes to serve as 180 instructional days.

9) MSD of Pike Township (5350)

- a. IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
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IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) Each school year must have 180 instructional days. Authorize MSD of Pike Township (5350) to conduct a school year that consists of 178 instructional days.	MSD of Pike Township (5350) shall conduct two (2) full days of professional development in lieu of the reduced number of student instructional days. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days, times the minimum length of an instructional day: - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction
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10) Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (8050)

a. IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) – **Grant** (2026-2027 up to 2029-2030 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) Each school year must have 180 instructional days. Authorize Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (8050) to conduct a school year that consists of 176 instructional days.	Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (8050) shall conduct four (4) full days of professional development in lieu of the reduced number of student instructional days. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days, times the minimum length of an instructional day: - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction



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11) Clarksville Community School Corporation (1000)

- a. IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) – **Grant** (2026-2027 up to 2029-2030 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) Each school year must have 180 instructional days. Authorize Clarksville Community School Corporation (1000) to conduct a school year that consists of 177 instructional days.	Clarksville Community School Corporation (1000) shall conduct three (3) full days of professional development in lieu of the reduced number of student instructional days. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days, times the minimum length of an instructional day: - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction

12) Madison Consolidated Schools (3995)

- a. IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) – **Grant** (2026-2027 school year only)

Dispensations	Commitments/Justification
IC 20-30-2-3 (School Year) Each school year must have 180 instructional days. Authorize Madison Consolidated Schools (3995) to conduct a school year that consists of 177 instructional days.	Madison Consolidated Schools (3995) shall conduct three (3) full days of professional development in lieu of the reduced number of student instructional days. The combined total number of in-person instructional minutes across all grade levels will meet the equivalent of the statutory requirement of 180 days, times the minimum length of an instructional day: - Grades 1-6: Students will receive a statutory minimum of



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	54,000 minutes of in-person instruction - Grades 7-12: Students will receive a statutory minimum of 64,800 minutes of in-person instruction
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