



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Leaders

From: Georgia Watson, Assistant Director of Transformation

Date: January 20, 2024

Subject: 1003 Flexibility Waivers

A 1003 Flexibility Waiver allows schools or groups of schools to waive statutory or regulatory requirements. As outlined in [House Enrolled Act 1003-2020](#), 1003 Flexibility Waivers offer the potential for district and school leaders seeking to transform student learning at the local level. A superintendent or principal may request a waiver from certain provisions in Title 20 of the Indiana Code or Title 511 of the Indiana Administrative Code. Of 225 total requirements, 96 are waivable with a 1003 Flexibility Waiver. A list of non-waivable provisions can be found in the [Flexibility Guide for Indiana's K-12 Schools](#) (page 7).

The objective of the waiver is to promote innovative approaches to student learning that will enhance student performance outcomes. A successful waiver is one with clearly defined, student-centered goals and is reflective of the community's needs.

Example

In 2023 and 2024, school corporations received a waiver for the Civics Education grade level requirement. This waiver allowed the school corporation the flexibility to implement an innovative strategy that involved restructuring the curriculum for the benefit of the students.

How to Apply

A superintendent or principal may apply for a 1003 Flexibility Waiver using the [online application](#). Applications will be reviewed by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) staff on a rolling basis through Friday, April 25, 2025. Applications that pass initial review will be submitted to the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) with a recommendation for approval. Applicants whose requests are deemed insufficient or incomplete will be provided detailed feedback and allowed to update the request for consideration by the SBOE.

Application Information and Key Components

- **Requestor Information:** The application should include relevant school information, including the applicant's contact information, corporation name and number, and school name and number, if applicable.
- **Reasons for Flexibility Request:** Under this section, the requestor will select the reason(s) for requesting flexibility. More than one reason may be identified. Per Indiana law, the approved reasons for flexibility are:
 - To improve student performance and outcomes;



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- To offer the school or group of schools making the request flexibility in the administration of educational programs or improve the efficiency of school operations;
- To promote innovative educational approaches to student learning; or
- To advance the mission or purpose of the school or group of schools.
- **Flexibility Requested:** Under this section, the requestor will identify the waivable statute(s) and provide a rationale. IDOE staff reviewing applications will look for specific, student-centered goals and outcomes that will be achieved by waiving the identified statute(s). Similarly, the application should detail actionable steps that can be taken to achieve those goals as well as measurable data and benchmarks that will be used to monitor progress toward those goals.

Questions

Contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.