

# Indiana's Application for the Educational Flexibility Program (Ed-Flex)

**Office of Title Grants  
and Support**



*Working Together for Student Success*

# What is Ed-Flex?

- ❑ IDOE has requested five requirement waivers from the USDOE to carry out federal programs in a more flexible manner
- ❑ USDOE had the option to approve all, some or none of these requests
- ❑ On May 6, 2020, USDOE approved all five requirement waiver requests
- ❑ The CARES Act offered 3 of these waivers for these funds. IDOE requested approval for all 5 through the 2023-24 school year. LEAs had the opportunity to provide feedback on these waivers



# Public input on Ed-Flex

- ❑ Indiana Federal Programs Advisory Board met in August 2019
- ❑ Each of the waiver requests was reviewed and approved by the board
- ❑ Requests without enough board support were removed from IDOE's application
- ❑ The group's feedback went into IDOE's formal request sent to USDOE on December 3, 2019



# Waiver Request #1

- ❑ LEAs may carry over up to 25% of their Title I, Part A funds to the following fiscal year. This will increase maximum the Title I, Part A carryover from 15%
  - Allows LEAs to utilize funding more meaningfully by providing additional time to account for extenuating circumstances
  - Most LEAs' Title I funding is tied up in staffing - with teacher shortages, staffing is sometimes difficult to fill quickly when staff resigns
  - Instead of the LEA purchasing large amounts of supplies and equipment with the unused funds near the end of the project period, replacement staff can be hired instead



# Waiver Request #2

- ❑ LEAs may utilize the more flexible state defined paraprofessional requirements for highly-qualified rather than the current federal requirements
  - ESSA allows Indiana to set its own licensure and quality requirements for certified staff but maintains federal requirements for paraprofessionals
  - Federal rules do not allow for additional options that can demonstrate paraprofessionals' quality
  - The waiver will ease the paraprofessional shortage while not reducing quality
  - Some schools eligible for Title I schoolwide status avoid transitioning to schoolwide due to this rule alone



# Public input on Ed-Flex

- ❑ On May 7, 2020, IDOE requested public input on what the more flexible state defined paraprofessional requirements should be
- ❑ The input was requested both through the Federal Program Advisory Board as well as through the CARES Act 4 Part Webinar Series



# Waiver Request #3

- ❑ Indiana Department of Corrections may utilize up to 65% of its Title I, Part D funds (Delinquent) on transition services (between IDOC and local school districts) rather than the current limitation of 30%
  - The IDOC (state agency for delinquent) has local funds that cover the basic educational program for these students
  - Title I, D funds are most effectively used in supporting the transition of students in the juvenile facilities back to their LEAs when they have fulfilled court requirements
  - The current 30% maximum limits the ability for the State agency (IDOC) to collaborate at a high-level with LEAs for re-entry of students



# Waiver Request #4

- LEAs who receive more than \$30,000 in Title IV, A funds do not have to spend 20% on well-rounded education and social emotional learning
  - LEAs should use a data-driven needs assessment to dictate how Title IV, A funds are used rather than a specific percentage
  - LEAs may already be implementing a well-rounded education program with state/local funds and would like to dedicate all Title IV funding to social-emotional needs or technology integration needs
  - Based upon feedback received, IDOE will maintain the 15% equipment and device limitation



# Waiver Request #5

- ❑ LEAs may ask IDOE for a Tydings waiver to extend the length of time for the project period for a respective grant
  - This will provide more time in extenuating circumstances (e.g. lack of use by a previous LEA administration, and new team needs more time to use the funding at the highest level)
  - IDOE will place safeguards upon the Tydings waiver requests, such as only approving waivers that are requested prior to the liquidation deadline of the respective grants



# Thank You.

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