

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

IDOE's Ed-Flex application was approved by USDOE on May 6, 2020. The following flexibility will be available to LEAs beginning with the FY 21 (School Year 2020-21) grant cycle.

- ❑ 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
 - Note: For 2019-20 only, due to the CARES Act, LEAs can carryover 100% of their unused funds. For 20-21, the ED-Flex increases the 15% limit to 25% when approved by IDOE

- ❑ 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
 - See <https://www.doe.in.gov/licensing/paraprofessionals> for information on previous requirements and new options

- ❑ 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)
 - 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 previous 30% maximum limits the ability for the State agency (IDOC) to collaborate at a high-level with LEAs for re-entry of students

- ❑ 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

- ❑ LEAs may ask IDOE for a Tydings waiver (to extend the normal length of time for the project period for a respective grant e.g. 27 months to 36 months)
 - 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