



1003 Flexibility Waivers

About 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 tremendous 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](#) (page17).

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.

Examples: How Do They Innovate?

North Adams Community Schools received an approved waiver to count instructional minutes instead of instructional days in order to include three professional development days within the current contract. The additional professional development will be used to implement targeted instructional strategies to improve student success.

Similarly, East Noble School Corporation received an approved waiver to count instructional minutes instead of instructional days, allowing more time for professional development for educators. The additional training will be used to establish programming to address the needs of students and increase the district's attendance rate.

How to Apply

A superintendent or principal may apply for a 1003 flexibility waiver using the [online application](#). Applications will be reviewed by IDOE staff on a rolling basis from February 28, 2022, to June 5, 2022. Applications that pass initial review will be submitted to the Indiana State Board of Education with a recommendation for approval. Applicants whose requests are deemed insufficient or incomplete will be provided detailed feedback and given an opportunity to update the request for consideration by the Indiana State Board of Education.

Application Information and Key Components

- **Requestor Information**

The application should include relevant school information, including the applicant's contact information, corporation name and number, as well as the school name and number, if applicable.



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

- **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,
- 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 rationale. IDOE reviewers will be looking for specific, student-centered goals and outcomes that will be achieved by waiving the identified statutes. 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 to goals.

Questions

Should questions arise during the application process, please reach out to the [Office of School Support and Transformation](#).