



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

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](#) (page 17).

The objective of the waiver is to promote innovative approaches to student learning that will enhance student performance outcomes by requesting exemption from identified state mandates that present additional barriers to innovation and improvement. A successful waiver is one with clearly defined, student-centered goals and is reflective of the community's needs.

Examples: How Do They Innovate?

In 2021 and 2022, several school corporations received waivers to forgo publication of their Annual Performance Reports (APR) in local newspapers. The cost-saving, administrative flexibility allowed school corporations to share their APR with the public on their school corporation websites.

A 1003 Flexibility Waiver could be used to allow students to move beyond the physical location of the school building for formal coursework or the pursuance of independent, self-directed projects. Similarly, school corporations can request to waive the age requirements for Career and Technical Education enrollment to allow for greater participation.

How to Apply

A superintendent or principal may apply for a 1003 flexibility waiver. Applications will be reviewed by Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) staff on a rolling basis from February 3, 2023, to June 2, 2023. Applications that pass the 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 asked to submit additional information.



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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.

· 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.

· Waiver Information

Under this section, the requestor will describe how the requested flexibility will create an avenue for new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children within the corporation. 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.

· Flexibility Requested

Under this section, the requestor will identify the waivable statute(s) and provide a rationale explaining why the innovative proposal requires the exemption. IDOE reviewers will be looking for specific, student-centered goals and outcomes that clearly articulate how the flexibility will support academic achievement for students.

Questions

Please note, waivers are only valid for one school year. Should questions arise during the application process, please email SchoolImprovement@doe.in.gov.