



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Jeremy Owens, Attorney
Date: April 12, 2023
RE: **Latch Key Program Waiver – Southwest School Corporation**

Recommendation: Approve the Latch Key Program Waiver Request

Southwest School Corporation (“Southwest”) is seeking a waiver from the latch key program requirement for the 2022-2023 school year. Approval by the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”) is required for Latch Key Program Waivers under IC 20-26-5-2.

School-age child care programs, commonly known as Latch Key Programs, are programs that provide care and education for children of working parents. This program is designed to be a link between the home and the school. Certified, qualified and experienced child care providers supervise, teach and interact with children to ensure that they are cared for, supervised, exposed to many learning activities, allowed to complete homework and share enjoyment in a relaxed and carefully designed developmentally appropriate environment.

Pursuant to IC 20-26-5-2(c), a school corporation may seek a waiver from the child care program requirement if the school corporation believes compliance with the requirement would result in “undue hardship.” To receive a waiver, the school corporation must include a detailed description of the school corporation’s attempt to implement a child care program, including the following:

- (1) A description of the steps taken to:
 - (A) conduct a child care program described in subsection (a)(1); or
 - (B) actively solicit nonprofit organizations or for-profit organizations to implement a child care program as provided in subsection (a)(2)
- (2) Evidence that a request in writing was made to each parent to contact the school corporation to indicate the parent’s willingness to use a child care program and documentation of the results received from parents.

Southwest has provided the required documentation. As such, Southwest’s request for a Latch Key Program Waiver should be approved.



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

WAIVER FORM

Indiana State Board of Education
School-Age Child-Care Program Waiver
Submission Date: _____

Deadline: September 1st (Annually)

10-31-2022

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL CORP. requests a waiver of the requirement that it make a school-age child-care program available to all children in Kindergarten through Grade Six as required by IC 20-26-5-2, because the school corporation would experience an undue hardship due to the low number of eligible children intending to use the child care program. In support of this request, the school corporation submits the following detailed description of its attempt to implement a child care/latchkey program:

1. A description of the steps taken by the school corporation to conduct a latch-key program or to actively solicit other nonprofit organizations or for-profit organizations to implement the program as described in IC 20-26-5-2(a). [IC 20-26-5-2(c)(1)]
2. Evidence that a request in writing was made to all parents to contact the school corporation to indicate their willingness to utilize the latch-key program. Attach a copy of the survey along with documentation of the results received from parents in this regard. [IC 20-26-5-2(c)(2)]
3. The nature of the hardship that the school corporation would experience due to a low number of eligible children intending to utilize the services of the latch-key program, as described in item 2 of this request, regardless of whether the latch-key program is conducted by the school or under a contractual agreement. [IC 20-26-5-2(c)]

The school corporation believes that the hardship described in item 3 of this request constitutes an undue hardship, and requests that the Indiana State Board of Education grant a waiver of the requirements of IC 20-26-5-2 for the 2022-23 school year.

Chris Stitzle
(Superintendent's Signature)

Chris Stitzle
(Superintendent's Name Printed)

1502 N. SECTION ST.
(Address)

SULLIVAN 47882
(City) (Zip)

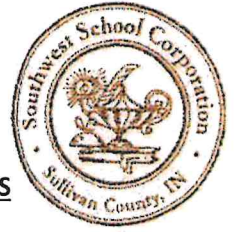
812-268-6311
(Area Code) (Telephone number)

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL CORPORATION

P.O. Box 510 1502 N. Section Street, Sullivan, Indiana 47882

Phone: 812-268-6311

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CHRIS STITZLE, Superintendent
JON STUCKEY, Assistant Superintendent, Trans. Dir.
MICHELE HAZELRIGG, Treasurer-Bookkeeper
JACQUE WILLIAMS, Payroll Clerk, Personnel
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To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Chris Stitzle, Superintendent of Southwest School Corporation

Date: October 31, 2022

Request for waiver of I.C. 20-26-5-2

The Southwest School Corporation requests a waiver of the requirement that it make a school age child care program available to all children in K-6 as required by I.C. 20-26-5-2. The corporation submits the following detailed information as required by law to support this request:

- Southwest School Corporation parents K-12 were surveyed on September 12, 2022, through September 19, 2022 concerning interest in an after school child care program.
- Copy of Survey Attached
- 953 surveys were distributed in grades K-6,
- 6 surveys were returned
- 3 surveys showed interest (some only part time/ IQ days per week)
- Less than 1.0% of students showed interest in program participation.
- Of the 6 surveys returned with interest it accounted for 5 students.
- Of the 6 completed surveys (5 students) voicing some interest with some interest being only occasionally. 2 were in one community (Site S) and 3 in another (Site C). The two sites are separated by 10 miles which would necessitate two different programs.
- Approximate cost for Site S would be a minimum of \$367.22 per week with a maximum income of \$125.00 if all interested participated for the times they indicated. This does not take into account the additional cost for insurance benefits that we would have to provide due to employees working enough hours to qualify.

- Approximate cost for Site C would be a minimum of \$367.22 per week with a maximum income of \$225.00 if all interested participated for the times they indicated. This does not take into account the additional cost for insurance benefits that we would have to provide due to employees working enough hours to qualify.

Therefore, Southwest School corporation requests a waiver for not being able to provide an after school child care program due to:

- A lack of participation in the program
- The presence of both private and non-for-profit after school care locations within the community. There are 7 daycares in the city for Site S that currently provide these services, and 3 daycares in the city for site C. The SWSC does currently provide free transportation by bus to each of these daycares.
- A financial hardship would be placed upon the school corporation

The Southwest School Corporation requests the Indiana State Board of Education grant a waiver of this requirement of I.C. 20-26-5-2 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Stitzle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chris Stitzle
Superintendent