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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2026

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Notice of Intent to Submit Federal Ed-Flex Waiver Requests

Montgomery, AL- The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) hereby provides public notice of its intent to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education for authority under the Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) Program, as authorized by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).

The purpose of these waivers is to remove administrative and regulatory barriers, allowing local educational agencies (LEAs) to better align federal resources with student needs and the state's strategic plan, *Alabama Achieves*. ALSDE is seeking flexibility in the following eight (8) areas to improve educational outcomes across the state:

| Provision / Current Rule | Requested Waiver | Objective |
|---|--|---|
| Title I Carryover Limits: 15% limit once every 3 years. | Allow up to 50% carryover every Federal fiscal year. | Provide fiscal stability for high-impact, multi-year school improvement investments. |
| Title I School Eligibility: Only one (1) year of service for schools that become ineligible. | Extend eligibility for schools that drop below the poverty threshold for more than one year. | Ensure continuity of services for students transitioning out of high-poverty status. |
| Schoolwide Programs: Requires 40% poverty threshold to consolidate funds. | Allow any Title I-eligible school to implement a schoolwide program regardless of poverty percent. | Flexibility for "Targeted Assistance" schools to upgrade the entire instructional program. |
| Paraprofessional Requirements: Dictated by outdated <i>No Child Left Behind</i> (NCLB)-era federal rules. | Allow Alabama to formally set its own qualification requirements via state rulemaking. | Address staffing shortages and grant state autonomy in defining "high-quality" staff. |
| Title I, Part D Transition: Transition funds capped at 30% for delinquent youth. | Increase the upper limit for transition services to 65%. | Support students returning from juvenile facilities to their local districts more effectively. |
| Title IV, Part A Spending: 20/20/Portion rule for awards over \$30,000. | Remove the percentage requirements for the three content areas. | Allow districts to direct funds toward a singular high-need area (while maintaining the 15% technology cap). |
| State Admin Consolidation: Limited to specific programs. | Expand consolidation to include state-level activities for Title II-A, III-A, IV-A, and IV-B. | Create a more efficient, unified state-level support system aligned with strategic goals. |
| High School Academic Achievement: Measured by a single statewide assessment (ACT). | Integrate National Career Readiness (NCRC/WorkKeys) into the Academic Achievement indicator. | Provide a clear picture of post-secondary readiness by valuing both college and career pathways for students. |

The ALSDE invites stakeholders- including students, educators, parents, community members, and local officials to review the full waiver application. The complete waiver proposal is available on the ALSDE website at www.alabamaachieves.org.

A PDF copy of this information [can also be reviewed here](#).

Please submit written comments via email to edflexwaiver@alsde.edu.

All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, for consideration.

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