



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2026

Contact: Communication
(334) 694-4688
comm@alsde.edu

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Notice of Intent to Submit Federal Ed-Flex Waiver Requests

Governor Kay Ivey
President

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

Jackie Zeigler
District I

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*.

Tracie West
District II

Extension of Comment Period: Although the original 30-day public comment period concluded on March 10, 2026, the ALSDE is extending the notice and comment period for an additional two weeks, beginning Monday, April 6, 2026, to ensure ample opportunity for public engagement and stakeholder feedback. ALSDE is seeking flexibility in the following eight (8) areas to improve educational outcomes across the state:

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

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Paraprofessional Requirements: Dictated by outdated 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) with the ACT into the Academic Achievement indicator.	Provide a clear picture of post-secondary readiness by valuing both college and career pathways for students.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

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 [Application for the Educational Flexibility \(Ed-Flex\) Program - DRAFT](#) . Please submit written comments via email to edflexwaiver@alsde.edu.

All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on **Monday, April 20, 2026**, for consideration.

###