

School District Flexibility Options: A Quick Summary

COMPARISON	Investing in Educational Excellence (IE ²) System	Charter System	Status Quo System
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE (State Board of Education) granting it allowable waivers from requested Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE (Georgia Department of Education) guidelines - The waivers requested must be listed/explained in the application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE granting it all allowable waivers from Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines - Although charter systems are granted a broad flexibility waiver, the application requires a list of waivers the district needs to implement its strategic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A local district that has elected not to request increased flexibility in exchange for increased accountability and defined consequences and opted to remain under all current laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures
Facts & Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance contract is between the district and the SBOE - GOSA (Governor's Office of Student Achievement) sets targets, monitors performance, and recommends consequences for schools not meeting targets at the end of a contract - District gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance contract is between the district and the SBOE - District gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability - Distributed leadership process, including local school governance councils for each school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No performance contract - No freedom from Title 20, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines - No waivers unless extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances arise after Status Quo declaration - Local BOE must hold a public hearing and sign a statement that the school system has elected Status Quo
Relative Advantages & Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexibility to innovate - Financial savings possible from waivers - Possible loss of governance over schools that fail to meet performance targets after five years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexibility to innovate - Financial savings possible from waivers - Additional per-pupil funding in QBE if appropriated - School level governance required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No change is required - No flexibility to innovate - No financial savings from waivers
Federal & State Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must comply with all federal laws and regulations - Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the IE² contract and that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety, accountability, QBE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must comply with all federal laws and regulations - Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety, accountability, QBE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must comply with all federal laws and regulations - Must comply with ALL state laws, rules and regulations
Consequences for Not Meeting Contract Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During contract term, non-performing schools may be required to develop school improvement plans to address specific academic deficiencies, or the district may be required to develop a joint plan with direct school management support and intensive teacher/leader development - At the end of contract, GOSA will recommend consequences to the SBOE for non-performing schools that can include probationary status, creation of remedial action plan for LBOE approval and SBOE review, conversion to charter school status, or operation by a successful school system or school operator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Probationary status - Early termination or nonrenewal of performance contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not applicable