



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 10, 2026

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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 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).

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*. ALSDE is seeking flexibility in the following eight (8) areas to improve educational outcomes across the state:

Tracie West  
District II

Kelly Mooney  
District III  
President Pro Tem

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Paraprofessional Requirements: Dictated by outdated 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.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

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 [www.alabamaachieves.org](http://www.alabamaachieves.org).

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

Please submit written comments via email to [edflexwaiver@alsde.edu](mailto:edflexwaiver@alsde.edu).

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

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