



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) System* Application

DISTRICT NAME

Johnson County Schools

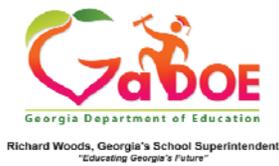
DISTRICT ADDRESS

P. O. Box 110
150 S. Lee St.
Wrightsville, Georgia 31096

Richard Woods
State School Superintendent

MAY 2015

*Please note that if HB 502 goes into effect on July 1, 2015, districts that chose the IE² flexibility option will henceforth be known as Strategic Waivers School Systems.



Introduction

Georgia House Bill 1209 provided an option for “Increased Flexibility for Local School Systems” when it was passed in 2008. School districts that choose this option are known as IE², or Investing in Educational Excellence, Systems. Please note that if HB 502 goes into effect on July 1, 2015, districts that chose the IE² flexibility option will henceforth be known as Strategic Waivers School Systems.

An IE² System is a local school district that operates under the terms of an IE² contract between the State Board of Education and the local Board of Education. The system receives flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance.

Your IE² System Application is a petition to the Georgia State Board of Education asking it to create or renew your IE² system. The evaluation of your Application will be led by District Flexibility and Charter Schools Division of the Georgia Department of Education, in partnership with others within the Department (including the Legal Services Division and the Policy Division) and with the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

The evaluation of your Application will focus on whether the system’s proposed IE² system will leverage the flexibility from elements of Georgia’s education law, rules, and guidelines to improve academic performance. It will also determine whether the proposed IE² system would comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures (including Article 4 of Title 20, as amended [O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80 through 20-2-84.6], State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.33, and Department of Education Guidance on Investing in Educational Excellence Partnership (IE2) Contracts); whether your proposed academic plans are viable; and whether the IE² system is in the public interest.

Please note that submitting an IE² System Application does not guarantee that an IE² contract will be granted. It does guarantee, however, that the Georgia Department of Education will work closely with you to improve your chances of State Board of Education approval of your IE² system contract.

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Your IE² System Application must be approved by your local Board of Education in accordance with the rules and regulations of your local board. After local submission, review and approval, and once an IE² system application is received at the address below, it will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Georgia Department of Education
District Flexibility and Charter Schools Division
2053 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

APPLICATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST

Your IE² System Application Package must comply with the following submission procedures.

- An Application Package includes an original and two copies of the following items:
 - IE² SYSTEM APPLICATION COVER SHEET** (Use the form on page 3; the form may not be altered in any way).
 - IE² SYSTEM APPLICATION** (Your answers to the questions posed on pages 4-6).
 - The IE² System Application is limited to 200 words per answer for questions 1-7 and two pages for question 8 – and all answers must be on double-spaced pages using an 11-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins with a header showing the school system's name and a footer showing consecutive page numbers.
 - The original must be signed in blue ink. Stamped signatures will not be accepted.
 - ASSURANCES FORM AND SIGNATURE SHEET** (Use the Assurances Form and Signature Sheet below on pages 7-9; the Form and the Sheet may not be altered in any way).
 - The original must be signed in blue ink; stamped signatures will not be accepted.
 - EXHIBITS** (See list of required Exhibits below on page 10).
 - Required Exhibits should be as limited in size as possible (no more than 5 pages per Exhibit). The only exception to this size limitation for Exhibits is your most recent strategic plan (to which you will provide online links).
 - All Exhibits must be tabbed.
- Your Application Package must be bound by a binder clip; do not enclose your Application Package in a notebook, binder, or folder.
- Your Application Package must also include a single CD or USB drive that includes a:
 - Microsoft Word version of your IE² System Application Cover Sheet
 - Microsoft Word version of your IE² System Application
 - PDF Version of your signed Assurances Form
 - Microsoft Word version of your Exhibits (except for your school plans and strategic plan)
 - PDF version of your school plans
 - PDF version of your most recent strategic plan

Faxed or emailed copies will not be accepted. Only complete petitions that comply with these guidelines will be evaluated. Applications will not be returned; please keep a copy for your records.

IE² SYSTEM APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Please enter the requested information in the gray boxes following each question. Thank you!

Proposed IE2 System Information			
1. Full Name of Proposed IE2 System Johnson County Schools			
2. Please indicate whether this is a: New Petition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a Renewal Petition	3. How many schools in total are you proposing to include in your IE2 system? 3		
4. How many of each of the following schools are you proposing to include in your IE2 system? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Primary School(s) 0</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Middle School(s) 1</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Elementary School(s) 1</div> <div style="text-align: center;">High school(s) 1</div> </div>			
5. On July 1 of what year do you want your IE2 contract to be effective? 2016			
6. IE2 System Street Address 150 S. Lee St.	Wrightsville	GA	31096
7. Rebecca Thomas		8. Superintendent	
150 S. Lee St.	Wrightsville	GA	31096
9. Contact's telephone number (478)864-3302	10. (478) 864-4053	11. rebecca_thomas@johnson.k12.ga.us	

IE² SYSTEM APPLICATION

The IE² System Application includes 8 questions grouped into two sections. The first section is “The Case”, where you present your school system’s need for an IE² contract. The second section focuses on your proposed “Consequences”.

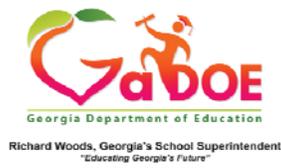
THE CASE

Please provide extremely concise answers to the following seven questions. Once you have done so, please use your answers to populate a one-page version of *Table 1 - Summary of Challenges Aligned with Initiatives and Necessary Waivers* found at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/IE2.aspx>

1. What challenges is your school district facing?
 - Provide a brief description of the specific issues that, if resolved, would allow you to consider your school district a complete success.
2. What is the rank order priority of these challenges (from most to least important)?
3. Which of these challenges will your school district be able to address by becoming an IE² system?
4. What specific actions will your district take to address each of these challenges (listed in #3 above) during its five-year IE² term?
5. Provide a clear explanation of how each of these specific actions (listed in #4 above) will address the specific challenge(s).
6. Please list the specific Georgia law or State Board rule that must be waived to allow your district to implement each specific action (listed in #4 above).
 - Please also list the waivers you have used during the past five years (including those granted to the entire state, e.g. class size) and what goals they helped you accomplish during those five years.
 - Per O.C.G.A. 20-2-82(e), the goal for each waiver and variance shall be improvement of student performance.
 - Requested waivers must include at least one of the “Big Four” waivers of state class size, expenditure control, certification, or salary schedule requirements.
7. Indicate the timeline for implementation of each specific action (listed in #4 above).

CONSEQUENCES

8. What consequences do you propose for nonperforming schools, including how you will ensure the implementation of appropriate consequences, both during and at the end of your IE² contract term?
 - The SBOE shall mandate the loss of governance of one or more of an IE2 System's nonperforming schools. Such loss of governance may include, but shall not be limited to:
 - a. Conversion a school to charter status with independent school level governance and a governance board with strong parental involvement;
 - b. Operation of a school by a successful school system, as defined by GOSA, and pursuant to funding criteria established by the SBOE; or
 - c. Operation of a school by a private entity, nonprofit or for profit, pursuant to a request for proposals issued by the Department.
 - In addition to the loss of governance options specified in the statute that could be imposed at the end of the IE2 contract term, the following options for loss of governance could be implemented during or at the conclusion of the IE2 contract term. Note that the numbering continues from the list above
 - d. Nonperforming schools could have governance reduced by being required to submit a remedial action plan for LBOE approval before the school can implement necessary changes
 - For this option, the District could specify the general requirements such a plan must meet or let the school submit a draft based on its own analysis
 - e. The school could be required to make leadership and faculty/staff changes, including replacing leaders/faculty/ staff and/or an aggressive professional development program
 - f. The school could be required to implement reconstitution if necessary to ensure performance improvements
 - g. The school could be required to develop individual student achievement plans and implement programs such as after school and/or Saturday tutoring programs that provide additional time on task in subject areas specified in the individual plans
 - h. Other options for loss of governance not listed above that address the specific reasons for a school's failure to meet its targets could be proposed in an IE2 application
 - For any loss of governance option presented above, the LBOE would certify to the SBOE that such loss of governance had been imposed



- Remedial action plans imposed on nonperforming schools by LBOEs as a loss of governance option must:
 - Address the specific reasons for a school's failure to meet its targets,
 - Be of sufficient duration to ensure time for necessary changes to be made at the school, and
 - Clarify the link between the amount by which a school target was missed and the severity of the remedial actions

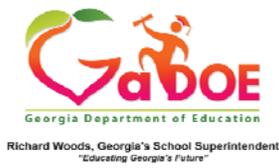
ASSURANCES FORM AND SIGNATURE SHEET

The law requires your school district to provide assurances that it will do certain things and comply with certain laws. This Assurance Form enumerates all of these requirements and, when you submit this signed Signature Sheet with this Assurance Form as part of your IE2 System Application Package, you are providing the legal assurance that your IE2 system understands and will do these things. This form must be signed by a duly authorized representative of the school system.

As the authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the information submitted in this application for an IE² contract for Johnson County Board of Education located in Johnson County is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; I also certify that if awarded an IE² the school system:

1. Shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations;
2. Shall not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, national origin, gender, disability or age;
3. Shall be subject to all federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders, and statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions; and the prevention of unlawful conduct;
4. Shall be subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A § 20-2-1050 requiring a brief period of quiet reflection;
5. Shall ensure that the IE² system is subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. and O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.;
6. Shall ensure that all teachers will be certified or highly qualified in compliance with No Child Left Behind;
7. Shall comply with the accountability provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-14-30 through § 20-14-41 and federal accountability requirements, and participate in statewide assessments;
8. Shall adhere to all provisions of federal law relating to students with disabilities, including the IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as applicable;
9. Shall provide state and federally mandated services for English Language Learners, as applicable;

10. Shall provide for supplemental educational services as required by federal law and pursuant to SBOE Rule 160-4-5-.03, and for remediation in required cases pursuant to SBOE Rule 160-4-5-.01;
11. Shall notify the state of any intent to contract with a for-profit entity for education management services;
12. Shall be subject to the requirement that it shall not charge tuition or fees to its students except as may be authorized by local boards by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133;
13. Shall comply with federal due process procedures regarding student discipline and dismissal;
14. Shall be subject to all laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school;
15. Shall have a written grievance procedure to resolve student, parent, and teacher complaints;
16. Shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20 -2-211.1 relating to fingerprinting and criminal background checks;
17. Shall ensure that if transportation is provided for its students, the system shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws;
18. Shall ensure that if the IE² system participates in federal school meals programs, then each participating system IE² school shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws;
19. Shall prepare a safety plan in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185 and submit and obtain approval from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency;
20. Shall comply with the state facility requirements regarding site codes, facility codes, the submission of architectural plans for any new facility that the system may build or occupy during the IE² term and all other facility requirements as established by the Department;
21. Shall be subject to all reporting requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160, subsection (e) of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-320, and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-740;
22. Shall be subject to an annual financial audit conducted by the state auditor or, if specified in the IE² contract , by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this state;
23. Shall acknowledge that all criteria used to calculate QBE funding may not be waived;
24. Shall follow any and all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations that pertain to the applicant or the operation of the IE² system; and
25. Shall ensure that all new principals and other school leaders, central office staff, superintendents, and Board of Education members receive a detailed orientation session on their IE² system commitments as part of their "on-boarding" process.



This IE² System Application, Assurance Form, and attached Exhibits were approved by the Johnson County Board of Education on the 19th day of April, 2016.

Superintendent

Date

Chair, Local Board of Education

Date

If an IE² contract is granted, all Petitioners assure that the proposed IE² system programs, services, and activities will operate in accordance with the terms of the IE² contract and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

Superintendent

Date

Chair, Local Board of Education

Date

EXHIBITS

The following Exhibits are required to complete your IE² System Application Package. Please tab the Exhibits to match the item numbers below. Exhibits should be as limited in size as possible (no more than 5 pages per Exhibit). The only exceptions to this size limitation for Exhibits are your most recent annual audit and your most recent accreditation report.

1. Signed local Board of Education resolution approving the creation of the IE² system.
2. Notice that was sent to each principal within the proposed IE² system regarding required hearings on the IE² system application.
3. A list of all schools to be included in the IE² system, including new schools or college and career academies that will be formed throughout the life of the IE², with an indication of which existing schools are currently in Needs Improvement status.
4. School plans using the template found on our website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/IE2.aspx>
5. A brief description of the IE² system that includes the name, the mission, grades served, the focus of the curriculum, instructional methods to be used, including any distinctive or unique instructional techniques or educational programs to be employed, and other pertinent information.
 - Your description will be used by the Department to provide information to the public about applicants and new IE² systems.
6. A brief description of the system's fiscal history and whether the system is or has ever operated under a fiscal deficit.
7. Online link to the school system's most recent annual audit.
8. Online link to the school system's most recent accreditation report.
9. Online link to the school system's most recent strategic plan.