



School System Flexibility for the DeKalb County School District

School System Flexibility: Legal Guidance

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-81.3 states that “[n]o later than June 30, 2015, each local school system shall notify the [Department of Education] of its intention to request increased flexibility pursuant to this article or shall comply with subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-80.”

According to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-80 “a local school system may elect not to request increased flexibility in exchange for increased accountability and defined consequences and opt to remain under current laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures....”

School System Flexibility: Options

At its July 1, 2013, Work Session, the DCSD Board of Education was given a presentation by the GA DOE that detailed the flexibility options associated with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-81.3 and § 20-2-80. The current options available for considerations are:

- Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) School System
- Charter System
- Status Quo School System

- Other options include:
 - System of Charter Clusters
 - System of Charter Schools
 - Strategic School System

School System Flexibility: DCSD Timeline

Year	Month	Deadline	Action
2013	November	November 4	DCSD Board presented with the proposed school system flexibility timeline.
	December	December 4	Flexibility Advisory Committee (FAC) members selected to study which type of flexibility option is best for the District.
		December 13	First FAC meeting. Committee is given charge to review elements associated with the best flexibility option for the district, including, but not limited to, waivers from Title 20, fiscal impact, governance implications, accountability and performance evaluations, and consequences.

- **The Flexibility Advisory Committee (FAC) may be comprised of employees, Board members, and community and parent representatives.**
- **The first FAC meeting will take place no later than December 13.**
- **Phase 1 of the Strategic Planning Process is scheduled to be completed by the end of December, 2013.**

School System Flexibility: DCSD Timeline

Year	Month	Deadline	Action
2014	January	N/A	FAC meetings continue.
	February	February 5	FAC begins to finalize best recommendation for the district. The recommendation will be drafted into an Executive Summary. The recommendation will also align with the Strategic Planning Process and incorporate the district's Strategic Goals in the decision-making process.
		February 28	FAC Executive Summary completed.
	March	March 1	Deadline for FAC to provide findings and recommendations to the Superintendent regarding flexibility options.
	April	April 14	Deadline for Superintendent to present findings and recommendations to the Board regarding flexibility options.
		April 16	Drafting of the District's petition (charter) or IE2 documentation if either option selected.
	May	May 1	Deadline for District to submit Letter of Intent to the Department of Education (charter or IE2). Board resolution for IE2.

- **The Strategic Planning Process will be in Phase 2 at the beginning of 2014. This will allow the FAC to align with the development of School Improvement Plans and Regional Improvement Plans.**
- **Divisions will be assigned to complete appropriate sections associated with the petition should the charter option be selected. Reviews will be conducted by the FAC to ensure that the draft is meeting all GA DOE requirements and is aligned with the flexibility vision of the district.**

School System Flexibility: DCSD Timeline

Year	Month	Deadline	Action
2014	May	N/A	Drafting of petition continues (charter).
	June	N/A	Drafting of petition continues (charter).
	July	TBD	Initial meeting with GA DOE for IE2.
		TBD	Required public hearing for status quo. Sign required GA DOE form.
		N/A	Drafting of petition continues (charter).
	August	August 7	Submission of proposed petition to the Board and adoption by the Board through resolution (charter).
		TBD	First required public hearing for petition (charter).
		TBD	Required public hearing for IE2.
	September	TBD	Second required public hearing for petition (charter).
		TBD	Begin negotiations with the GA DOE regarding IE2 contract.
	October	October 31	Deadline for submitting petition (charter) to GA DOE.

- It is important to note that after May 1, 2014, depending upon the selected flexibility option, timelines and due dates differ. The colors have been used for this calendar window to assist in differentiating the flexibility options.

School System Flexibility: GA DOE and State Board Timeline

Year	Month	Deadline	Action
2014	November	N/A	N/A
	December	N/A	N/A
2015	January	N/A	N/A
	February	N/A	N/A
	March	N/A	N/A
	April	TBD	Deadline for State Board approval of flexibility contract
	May	N/A	N/A
	June	June 30	Deadline for DCSD to notify State if selecting status quo

- After the November 1, 2014, submission date, the remainder of the actions are assigned to the GA DOE and State Board of Education (except for the status quo option).