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# School System Flexibility in Georgia

October 10, 2013

# What are we talking about and why?

- ❖ ***Improving Student Academic Results-*** The Academic Bottom Line
- ❖ ***Flexibility-*** Freedom granted through Waivers of Georgia Education Laws, Rules, Guidelines
- ❖ ***Title 20-*** Shorthand phrase meaning Georgia Education Law and all related Rules and Guidelines
- ❖ ***Flexibility Options-*** Operational approaches school systems and schools can take to implement flexibility in exchange for a performance contract from the State Board of Education
- ❖ ***The Big Four-*** Waivers of state class size, expenditure control, certification, and salary schedule requirements

# What are we talking about and why?

- By **June 30, 2015\*** each local school system must choose to operate as one of the following:
  - **Investing in Educational Excellence School System (IE<sup>2</sup>)**
  - **Charter System**
  - **Status Quo School System**
- Other options include:
  - **System of Charter Clusters**
  - **System of Charter Schools**
  - **Strategic School System**

*\*Per OCGA §20-2-84.3*

# What is an IE<sup>2</sup> System?

**Definition-** A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE (State Board of Education) that grants flexibility from specific Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE (Georgia Department of Education) guidelines

**Facts & Features-** The contract is between the district, SBOE and GOSA (Governor's Office of Student Achievement) The system gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability.

**Relative Advantages/Disadvantages-** Flexibility to innovate; Financial savings possible from waivers; Loss of governance over schools that fail to meet targets

**Federal/State Compliance-** Must comply with all federal laws and regulations; Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the IE<sup>2</sup> contract

# What is a Charter System?

**Definition-** A local district that has an executed charter from the SBOE that grants the district flexibility from almost all of Title 20, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines

**Facts & Features-** The charter is a contract between district and SBOE; the district gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability; school-based leadership and decision-making

**Relative Advantages/Disadvantages-** School-level autonomy and accountability required; financial savings possible from waivers; additional per-pupil funding in QBE if appropriated

**Federal/State Compliance-** 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)

# What is a Strategic School System?

**Definition-** A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE that grants flexibility from specific Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines

**Facts & Features-** The contract is between the district and the SBOE. The system gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability.

**Relative Advantages/Disadvantages-** Short application process; some financial savings possible – but waivers with the biggest financial impact (the Big four) are not yet allowed

**Federal/State Compliance-** Must comply with all federal laws and regulations; must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the performance contract

# What is a Status Quo System?

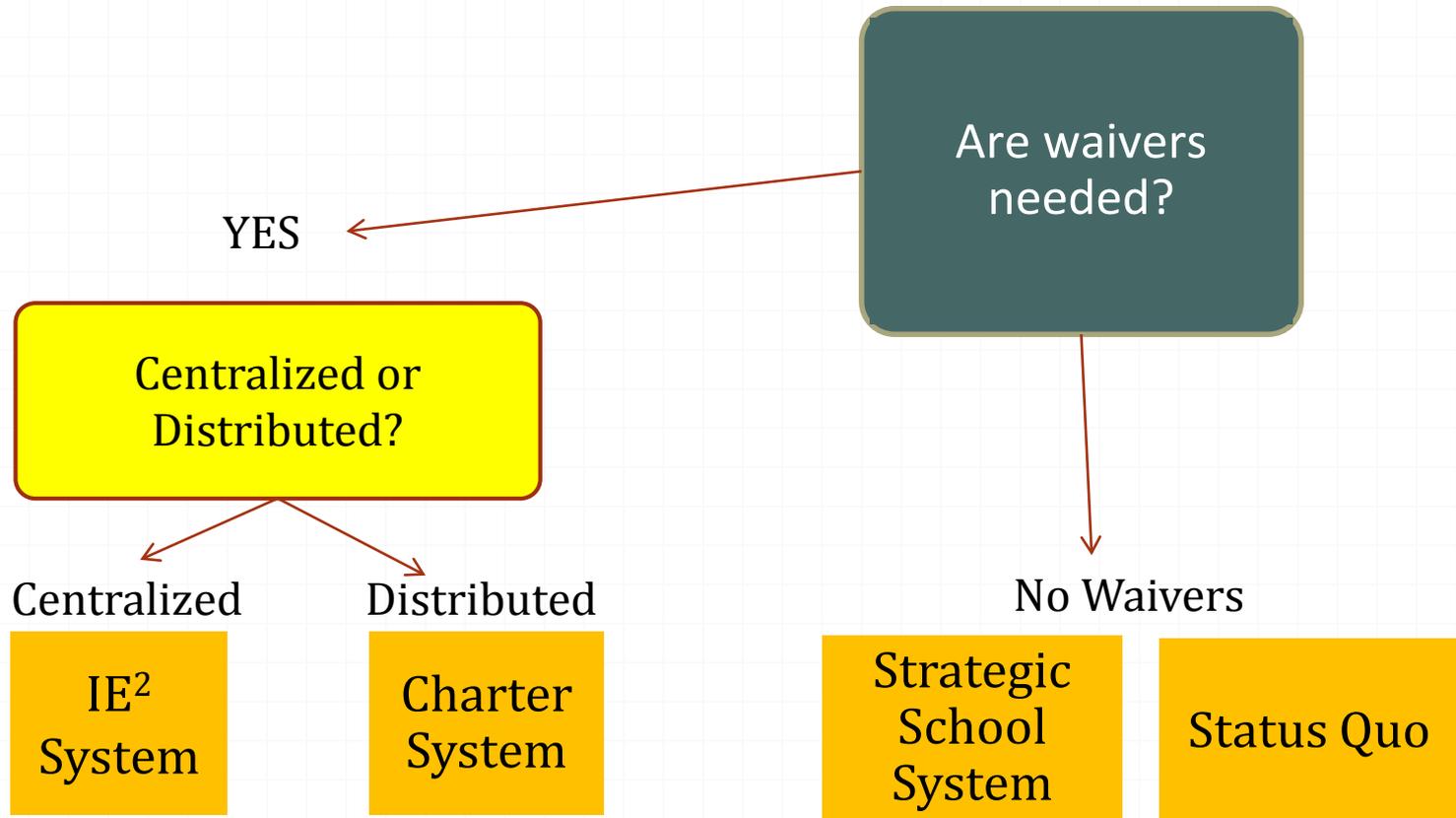
***Definition-*** A local district that has formally rejected all flexibility options

***Facts & Features-*** No performance contract; no district flexibility from Title 20, SBOE rules, or GaDOE guidelines except in the case of a natural disaster

***Relative Advantages/Disadvantages-*** No change is required; no financial savings from waivers

***Federal/State Compliance-*** Must comply with all federal laws and regulations; must comply with ALL state laws, rules and regulations

# Decision Structure Considerations



# Flexibility and Title 20

IE <sup>2</sup> System	Strategic School System	Charter System	Status Quo
<p>&gt;School System seeks waivers – <b>must include at least one</b> of the following: class size; expenditure control; certification; salary schedule</p>	<p>&gt;School System must state how bundled Title 20 waiver requests for flexibility permitted by state statute and State Board rule will be utilized.</p> <p>&gt;School System <b>cannot</b> include the following: class size; expenditure control; certification; salary schedule</p>	<p>&gt;School System must provide examples of how <b>broad flexibility</b> permitted by the Charter Schools Act will be utilized to improve student achievement</p>	<p>&gt;Waivers granted only in the case of a <b>natural disaster</b></p> <p>&gt;Statewide waivers expire June 30, 2015</p>

# Waiver Limitations

IE <sup>2</sup> System	Strategic School System	Charter System	Status Quo
<p>Cannot waive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;Federal rules/regulations</li> <li>&gt;State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; assessment; QBE funding; etc.</li> <li>&gt;Court orders, civil rights statutes</li> <li>&gt;Conflicts of interest; unlawful conduct</li> </ul>	<p>Cannot waive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;Federal rules/regulations</li> <li>&gt;State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; assessment; QBE funding; etc.</li> <li>&gt;Court orders, civil rights statutes</li> <li>&gt;Conflicts of interest; unlawful conduct</li> <li>&gt;<b>Big 4</b></li> </ul>	<p>Cannot waive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;Federal rules/regulations</li> <li>&gt;State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; assessment; QBE funding; etc.</li> <li>&gt;Court orders, civil rights statutes</li> <li>&gt;Conflicts of interest; unlawful conduct</li> </ul>	<p>No waivers permitted except if natural disaster.</p>

# Fiscal Impact

<b>IE<sup>2</sup> System</b>	<b>Charter System</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt;Possible savings through flexibility</li><li>&gt;Regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt;Possible savings through flexibility</li><li>&gt;Regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls</li></ul>

# Governance

IE <sup>2</sup> System	Charter System
>School System <b>may</b> maximize school-level governance by granting local schools authority to determine how to reach goals	>School System <b>must provide each school with substantial autonomy and maximum school-level governance</b> and decision making over budgets, programs, personnel and/or innovation

# Performance Evaluation

<b>IE<sup>2</sup> System</b>	<b>Charter System</b>
>Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance >Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures	>Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance >Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures

# Consequences

<b>IE<sup>2</sup> System</b>	<b>Charter System</b>
<p>&gt;Loss of governance of non-performing schools: (1) conversion to charter school; (2) operation by another school system; or (3) operation by private or non-profit entity</p>	<p>&gt;Charter status revoked and school system reverts to Status Quo &gt;Possible fiscal impact when converting from Charter System to Status Quo due to loss of flexibility</p>

# Summary Comparison

Categories to Compare	IE <sup>2</sup> System	Charter System
Waivers	Can waive class size, expenditure control, certification and/or salary schedule	Can waive class size, expenditure control, certification and/or salary schedule
Fiscal Impact	Possible savings through flexibility	Possible savings through flexibility Possible <b>\$100 (pre-austerity cut) per student</b>
Governance	School System <b>may</b> maximize school-level governance	School System <b>must provide each school with substantial autonomy and maximum school-level governance</b>
Performance	Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance	Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance
Consequences	Loss of governance of non-performing schools	Charter status revoked and school system reverts to Status Quo; loss of flexibility

**Questions???**