

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 (IE²)**
 - **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 IE² 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 IE² 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?

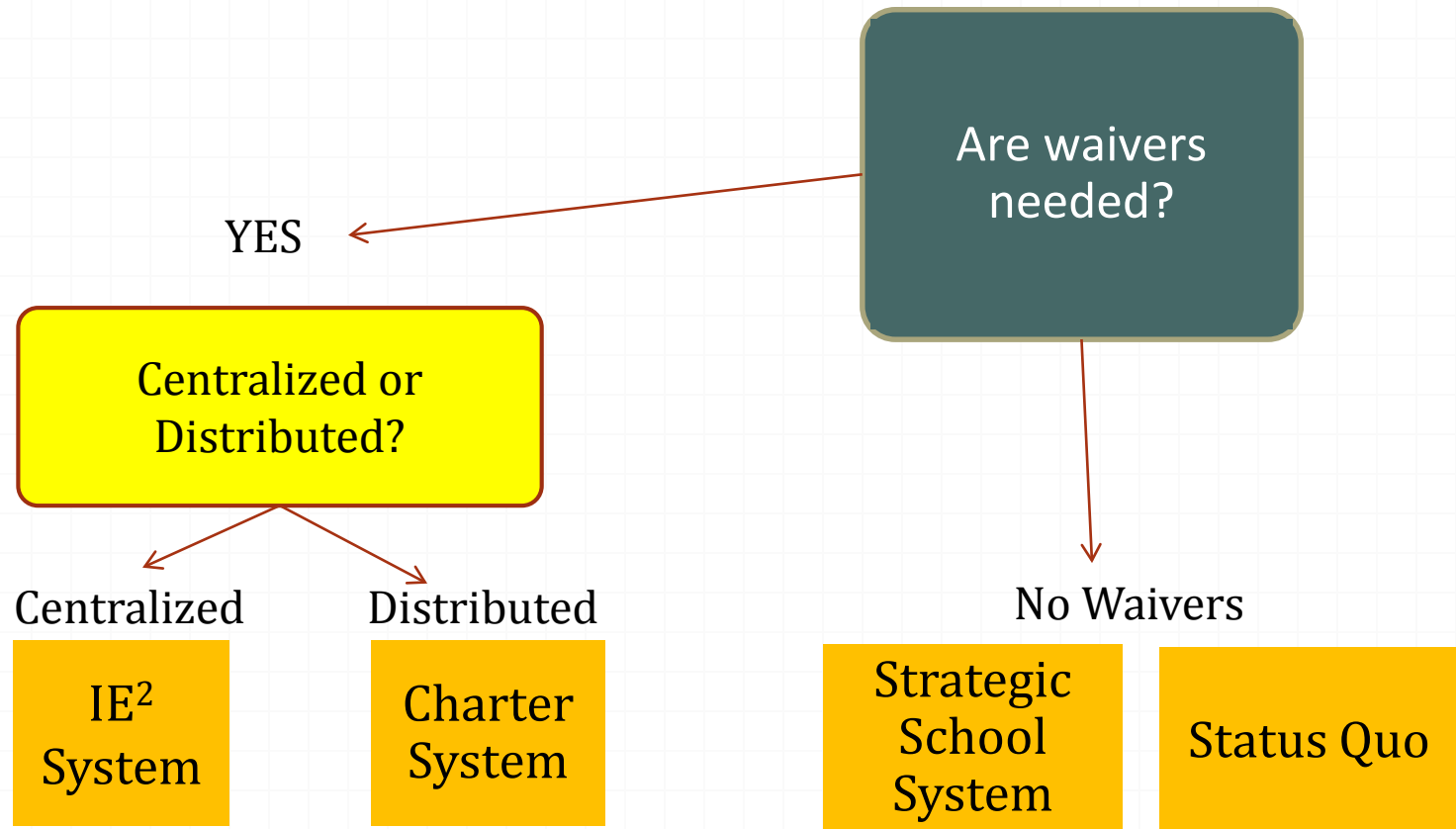
Definition- A local district that has formally rejected all flexibility options

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 ² System | Strategic School System | Charter System | Status Quo |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>>School System seeks waivers – must include at least one of the following: class size; expenditure control; certification; salary schedule</p> | <p>>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>>School System cannot include the following: class size; expenditure control; certification; salary schedule</p> | <p>>School System must provide examples of how broad flexibility permitted by the Charter Schools Act will be utilized to improve student achievement</p> | <p>>Waivers granted only in the case of a natural disaster</p> <p>>Statewide waivers expire June 30, 2015</p> |

Waiver Limitations

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

Fiscal Impact

| IE² System | Charter System |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">>Possible savings through flexibility>Regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls | <ul style="list-style-type: none">>Possible savings through flexibility>Regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls |

Governance

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

Performance Evaluation

| IE² System | Charter System |
|--|--|
| <p>>Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance >Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures</p> | <p>>Student performance goals must meet or exceed state averages and exceed previous system performance >Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures</p> |

Consequences

| IE² System | Charter System |
|---|---|
| <p>>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>>Charter status revoked and school system reverts to Status Quo >Possible fiscal impact when converting from Charter System to Status Quo due to loss of flexibility</p> |

Summary Comparison

| Categories to Compare | IE ² 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 \$100 (pre-austerity cut) per student |
| Governance | School System may maximize school-level governance | School System must provide each school with substantial autonomy and maximum school-level governance |
| 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???