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AVON COMMUNITY
SCHOOL
CORPORATION

October 28, 2024

Ed-Flex Waiver Public Comment Information for Avon Community School Corporation

Background Information

Ed-Flex is a program through the U.S. Department of Education that allows state education agencies (SEAs) the authority to waive statutory or regulatory education requirements that may impede local efforts to reform and improve educational achievement.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) currently has four waivers available to all Indiana local education agencies (LEAs).

- Waiver 1: Increased Title I carryover allowability from 15% to 25%
- Waiver 2: Increased flexibility in paraprofessional requirements
- Waiver 3: Applicable only to the Indiana Department of Corrections
- Waiver 4: Increased flexibility in Title IV spending requirements for LEAs that receive more than \$30,000

More information about the Ed-Flex Waiver may be found [here](#).

Request for Avon Community School Corporation

Avon Community School Corporation is applying for Waiver 2: Increased flexibility in paraprofessional requirements for Federal program, Title I-A during the 2024-2025 school year.

ACSC is requesting more flexibility with the state defined paraprofessional requirements for highly-qualified rather than the current federal requirements.

ACSC would like to continue using the following criteria to determine that a paraprofessional is highly qualified:

- Two years of college experience
- A two-year college degree
- One year, of 1,000 hours of employment experience in a school or other setting in a position that supported student academic instruction
- Passed annual school-level evaluations
- Completed 48-hours of college level classes
- Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- Completed LEA require professional development modules/training

Overall expected results of waiving the requirements

ACSC is committed to maintaining high educational standards and ensuring that all students receive the support they need to succeed. However, the current shortage of qualified paraprofessional candidates has created a challenging situation. By granting this waiver, we aim to:

- 1) Expand the Pool of Eligible Candidates: Allowing us to consider applicants who may not meet the current “highly qualified” criteria but possess relevant experience and skills.
- 2) Provide On-the-Job Training: Implementing robust training programs to ensure that all paraprofessionals, regardless of their initial qualifications, receive the necessary training to support our students effectively.
- 3) Maintain Educational Quality: Ensuring that our students continue to receive high-quality support by leveraging the skills and dedication of a broader range of paraprofessional candidates.

We believe that this waiver will enable us to address the staffing shortages more effectively while still upholding our commitment to educational excellence.

Specific and measurable educationally related goal(s) that will be achieved through application of this waiver

- A. By May 2025, proficiency in English/Language Arts I-LEARN in grades 3-8 will increase 6% (from 53% to 59%).
- B. By May 2025, proficiency in Math I-LEARN in grades 3-8 will increase 6% (from 57% to 63%).
- C. By June 2025, increase 3rd grade IREAD passing rate from 89% to 92%.

Progress toward the goal(s)

- A/B/C: ILEARN Checkpoint Data and IREAD progress monitoring assessments will be utilized to monitor progress toward the goals.
- A/C: K-6 Lang Arts Curriculum Councils leverage new core resource in ELA curriculum to plan for full implementation in 25-26 aligning with updated state essential standards and practices aligned with science of reading.
- A/B/C: K-12 curriculum maps and common formative assessments will be updated to align with new standards and ILEARN check-point assessments with full implementation by the end of the 24-25 school year.
- C: Create focus groups around communication of SEA 1, data & monitoring, and intervention planning - to systematize approach across buildings and provide support for decision making and academic planning to ensure goals are met
- A/B/C: Create high-yield Instructional Strategies consistently implemented across the district focused on student groups that data suggests are struggling.

Public Comment – Please complete this brief form by November 12, 2024.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9YcqngCb7063-xKe-q_S5l8mkFDu2rFDkPiM35i2tDJUN09aOTFIQlhYV1I2WTZBTUkwU0E2OTAxMS4u

Interested community members can request to review any public comments by contacting Assistant Superintendent Carrie Alday.

For additional information, please contact Carrie Alday, Assistant Superintendent, at 317-544-6000 or cbalday@avon-schools.org



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