



Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Steven Isoye, Chair of the Board

100 N. First Street • Springfield, IL 62777
555 W. Monroe Street, Suite 900 • Chicago, IL 60661

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Fiscal Year 2027 Ed-Flex Waiver Request

The Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) program is designed to help Local Education Agencies (LEAs) improve student achievement for all students by providing flexibility in the implementation of certain federal education programs in exchange for enhanced accountability for student outcomes. This fillable template is designed to facilitate local waiver planning and must be published for local community review before final submission to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Final waiver application responses must be entered into ISBE's Ed-Flex Waiver Request application in IWAS, which opens Sept. 29, 2026, and closes Nov. 13, 2026. For planning purposes, please note that responses in IWAS are limited to 2,000 characters.

Section I. General Information

LEA Name	Du Quoin CUSD 300
Contact Person First and Last Name	Justin Engelmann
Title	Assistant Superintendent
Email	jengelmann@duquoinschools.org
Phone	(618) 542-3856

Section II. Waiver Selection and Description

1. Select the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) statutory provision(s) requested to be waived for FY 2027:

- ☒ Title I, Part A: Waive the 15% carryover limitation (ESEA Section 1127(a)).¹
- ☐ Title IV, Part A: Waive the content area percentage² requirements for LEAs that receive more than \$30,000 (ESEA Section 4106(e)(2)).
- ☒ Title IV, Part A: Waive the 15% spending cap on technology infrastructure (ESEA Section 4109(b)).

¹ This waiver is separate from the ability to waive the 15% carryover limitation once every three years under ESEA Section 1127(b).

² LEAs that receive at least \$30,000 in Title IV, Part A funds must use at least 20% of funds for activities to support well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20% of funds for activities to support safe and healthy students, and a portion of funds for activities to support effective use of technology.

2. For each requested waiver, describe the purpose of the waiver and the expected results of waiving each requirement. Include how the waiver(s) will support the LEA to advance student achievement by better aligning federal resources with school and LEA improvement plans.

Improving both reading and math proficiency requires continuous, uninterrupted intervention. The expected result of rolling over funds is to seamlessly maintain our evidence-based Tier 2 and Tier 3 programs, continuously update instructional tools, and provide professional development for education staff when needed or available throughout the school year.

Enter text for ESEA 4106(e)(2), if selected.

Removing the cap ensures that Du Quoin CUSD 300 can continue to provide updated technology to all our students including our high concentration of low-income students and students with disabilities. This cap currently restricts our ability to upgrade devices and provide needed software to these students.

Section III. Evaluation

Ed-Flex provides additional flexibility in exchange for enhanced accountability for student performance. LEAs must identify one to three local improvement goals to evaluate waiver implementation. These may be based on elements within the state accountability system, Illinois Public Report Card, or other local data (such as local benchmark assessment data) and must be grounded in student outcomes. Local improvement goals should follow the SMART goal format (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound).

ISBE will also monitor Ed-Flex waiver implementation using data from the state accountability system. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires ISBE to terminate or suspend a waiver for specific reasons, including a decline in student achievement, compelling evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse, and inadequate LEA performance to justify continuing the waiver, among others. ISBE will review local student achievement data alongside information from the state accountability system when evaluating waiver performance.

LEAs with approved Ed-Flex waivers must submit an annual self-evaluation to the state. Additional information can be found in ISBE training materials.

3. Identify one to three specific and measurable goals for student achievement for the schools and students impacted by the identified waivers. This may include LEA-wide

goals and/or goals for specific groups of schools (e.g., elementary schools, or schools with a Comprehensive designation).

By May 2028, 85% of students will achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher, contributing to improved academic performance.

By June 2028, the percentage of students with disabilities performing at or above the 50th percentile in reading will increase by at least 5 percentage points, as measured by progress monitoring data.

By June 2028, the percentage of low income students performing at or above the 50th percentile in math will increase by at least 5 percentage points, as measured by progress monitoring data.

4. How will the waiver(s) assist the LEA in meeting the measurable goals identified above? Describe the information/data the LEA will monitor to determine if the LEA is successfully implementing the waiver to benefit impacted schools and students.

The waivers will assist Du Quoin CUSD 300 by providing the operational and fiscal flexibility needed to customize academic programs and create targeted interventions directly aligned with student needs. By removing restrictions, Du Quoin CUSD 300 can maximize resources to address absenteeism and academic deficits in two subgroups, Students with Disabilities and low income students. Du Quoin CUSD 300 will monitor the information/data by tracking quarterly student data and administrator walk-through data, reviewing data after MAP testing, review of the co-teaching implementation, and review of the school report card each year. Attendance data will be reviewed monthly with incentive awards both monthly and quarterly along with ongoing parent communication and family engagement dedicated to attendance strategies.

Section IV. Public Comment

5. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 5891b(a)(7), LEAs applying for an Ed-Flex waiver must meet specific requirements regarding public notice and comment. How did the LEA publicize the request for the waiver? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ LEA and/or school newsletters
- ☒ School board meeting

- ☐ Press release
- ☒ LEA and/or school websites
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other (please describe)

If "Other" is selected, enter text.

6. Explain how the public comment opportunity was provided to parents, educators, and other interested community stakeholders. Include details such as the length of the comment period, the instructions for providing comments, and how such comments are or will be made viewable by the public.³ Note that the IWAS Ed-Flex Waiver Request form will ask LEAs to identify if comments were received and how they were considered. LEAs must submit all comments they received, and any response provided, with this application.

The window for public comment will take place during the scheduled School Board meeting on October 22, 2026. Each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes to address the board directly regarding the Ed-Flex waiver. The proposed waiver document and agenda item will be published on the LEA website for at least 14 days. Anyone unable to attend in person can email the district office prior to the start of the School Board meeting. All emailed feedback, along with the district's responses, will be presented at the School Board meeting. Verbal comments and a summary of discussions will be formally recorded in the official School Board meeting minutes.

Section V. Assurances

By submitting this application, the applicant hereby acknowledges and represents that he/she has read and understands the information contained in this application and the corresponding statutory requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 5891b and makes the following certifications and assurances to ISBE:

- **Authority.** The individual submitting this application is duly authorized to act on behalf of the LEA and to bind the LEA to the representations and assurances herein.
- **Accuracy of Application.** The information contained in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the LEA's knowledge and belief.
- **Eligibility.** The LEA satisfies all eligibility requirements under the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 5891b, and applicable state requirements.
- **Consistency with Federal Program Purposes.** The requested waiver will be implemented in a manner consistent with, and will not undermine, the purposes of the applicable federal program or programs for which the waiver is requested.

³ The length of the public comment period is not prescribed in statute. ISBE recommends that each LEA publish its application for public comment for a period of at least 14 days.

- **Public Notice and Comment.** The LEA has met all public notice and comment requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 5891b(a)(7).
- **Record Retention.** The LEA will maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the requirements applicable to the requested waiver, including documentation of public notice and comments, and will make such records available upon request.
- **Monitoring and Reporting.** The LEA will monitor implementation of the waiver(s) and submit all required reports and performance information identifying the impact each waiver had on school and student performance. The LEA will comply with any monitoring, evaluation, or reporting requirements required by ISBE or the U.S. Department of Education concerning the implementation and effectiveness of the waiver.
- **Implementation as Approved.** The LEA will implement the waiver only as approved by ISBE and will comply with any conditions lawfully imposed as part of the waiver approval. Approval of the requested waiver shall not relieve the LEA of its responsibility to meet applicable accountability, fiscal, civil rights, health and safety, or other federal requirements that are not expressly waived.
- **Acknowledgment of Revocation.** The LEA acknowledges that an approved waiver may be suspended or terminated in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 5891b(a)(4)(D) if the statutory conditions for the waiver are no longer satisfied or if the LEA fails to comply with applicable requirements.

Superintendent Name	Diana Rea
Superintendent Signature	
Date	Oct. 9, 2026

