Hamilton Community Schools

903 S Wayne Street, Hamilton, IN 46742 · (260) 488-2101 · fax (260) 488-3634 · www.hcs.k12.in.us

Dr. William Reichhart
Superintendent

Mrs. Kristyn Watkins
Principal

July 7, 2026

Request for Ed-Flex Waiver – Public Notice and Opportunity for Comment
Subject: Public Notice and Comment Solicitation for Ed-Flex Waiver Request Regarding Paraprofessional Flexibility

In accordance with federal Ed-Flex waiver requirements, Hamilton Community Schools is requesting approval from the Indiana Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education to apply for an Ed-Flex waiver that allows for increased paraprofessional flexibility under Title I provisions. The purpose of this waiver is to allow the district to employ paraprofessionals who meet locally-defined qualifications while continuing to support high-quality instructional services in schools that serve our most vulnerable student populations.

This waiver would provide Hamilton Community Schools with increased staffing flexibility during ongoing recruitment and certification shortages and allow our district to hire paraprofessionals based on job-embedded training and relevant experience. We anticipate that granting this waiver will result in improved student performance through:

- More consistent instructional support due to reduced paraprofessional vacancies
- Increased capacity to provide individualized or small group interventions
- Strengthened instructional continuity in classrooms by retaining experienced paraprofessionals already working within the district

Opportunity for Public Comment

Hamilton Community Schools invites parents, educators, community members, and all other stakeholders to provide feedback regarding this Ed-Flex waiver request. Comments may be submitted through one of the following channels:

1. **In-person comments** during the public hearing portion of the July 20, 2026 Hamilton Community Schools Board Meeting
2. **Email comments** sent to Superintendent Dr. William Reichhart at: william.reichhart@hcs.k12.in.us
3. **Written comments** delivered or mailed to:
   Hamilton Community Schools Administrative Office
   Attn: Ed-Flex Waiver Comments
   903 S. Wayne Street, Hamilton, IN 46742

All public comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the final waiver submission process. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 21, 2026. We appreciate the community's continued support in strengthening educational opportunities for all students.