

**REQUEST FOR HEA 1003 FLEXIBILITY WAIVER
PURSUANT TO IC 20-31-4.1-4**

I. REQUESTOR INFORMATION

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Superintendent

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Corporation ID # 2765– South Gibson School Corporation

School: CORP

II. REASON(S) FOR FLEXIBILITY REQUEST

1. To improve student performance outcomes
2. To offer flexibility in the administration of education programs to improve the efficiency of school operations
3. To advance the mission and purpose of the school or groups of schools

III. FLEXIBILITY REQUEST

Statute(s) / Regulation(s)

1. IC 20-30-2-3: School Year

Goal(s)/Outcome(s): COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges to all educators across Indiana. During these uncertain times, Indiana educators need more flexibility than ever in their operations to ensure students are receiving as much fundamental education as possible. Indiana Code 20-30-2-3 requires school corporations to conduct at least one hundred eighty (180) student instructional days each school year. It also requires the superintendent of each school corporation to certify to the department the number of student instructional days conducted during the school year.

The South Gibson School Corporation (South Gibson) is requesting the flexibility to track the school year in metrics of instructional minutes rather than instructional days, as outlined in Indiana Code 20-30-2-2. For students in grades 1 through 6, South Gibson shall provide at least fifty-four thousand (54,000) instructional minutes during the 2021-2022 school year. For students in grades 7 through 12, South Gibson shall provide at least sixty-four thousand eight hundred (64,800) instructional minutes during the 2021-2022 school year.

If this waiver would be granted, South Gibson's intention would be to provide at a minimum the 54,000 required minutes at the elementary level and the 64,800 minutes at the junior-senior high level. With the length of our current instructional day and the 180-day requirement, we provide over 6,000 additional minutes at each building. The waiver would provide the administration the flexibility to not have to make up inclement weather days which would extend the school year further into the summer or cause Saturday makeup days. The waiver would provide flexibility to increase professional development to staff during contracted time to allow further training and improve South Gibson's digital platform that is required to be offered to students. Finally, this waiver will allow the flexibility adapting to the challenges and unforeseen situations that COVID-19 has brought upon us. South Gibson feels this flexibility will improve student performances and outcomes and allow us to offer a high level of education.

How to Achieve: By waiving compliance with this provision, South Gibson is able to achieve these specific goals and outcomes because South Gibson will not be constrained to tracking the school year in metrics of instructional days. Instead, South Gibson will be able to be nimble to address the fluid situation it faces due to COVID-19 and ensure students are maximizing the time they may have for in-person learning this school year.

Data/Benchmarks: South Gibson intends to use a variety of performance benchmarks and data to determine whether these specific goals and outcomes have been achieved. For example, South Gibson will track the number of additional minutes each day to ensure it meets the minimum requirements based on 180 days. In addition, South Gibson will continue to monitor the progress and level of education received by students to ensure this waiver does not hinder the quality of education they are receiving. Additional data South Gibson can use includes descriptive logs evidencing how South Gibson managed the instructional hours, which can help determine whether South Gibson met its goal.

2. Statute(s)/Regulation(s): IC 20-20-8 (School Corporation Annual Performance Report)

Goal(s)/Outcome(s): Because of COVID-19, educators are faced with an additional layer in administrative planning and reporting. South Gibson is seeking a waiver in these provisions to ease the administrative burden placed on schools due to COVID-19 by minimizing duplicative reported information or information not needed by State officials.

How to Achieve: By waiving compliance with these provisions, South Gibson will be able to avoid reporting requirements that provide information that is duplicative in nature or not needed by State officials.

Data/Benchmarks: South Gibson intends to utilize a few performance benchmarks and data to determine whether the specific outcome has been achieved. For example, SOUTH GIBSON can conduct an internal audit of the current reporting requirements provided by the school annually and work with DOE and State Board in determining what/if any reporting requirements are not being utilized by DOE and State Board or/are duplicative in nature. In doing so, South Gibson will have a baseline of its current reporting requirements and can monitor its progress in minimizing duplicative information or information not used by DOE or State Board by continuously tracking and monitoring those requirements each year.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERFORMANCE BASED ACCREDITATION WAIVER

WHEREAS, the South Gibson School Corporation (the "School") strives to provide students the best learning environment, allowing them to maximize their potential.

WHEREAS, House Enrolled Act 1003 (2020) ("HEA 1003") permits a school or groups of schools to submit an application (the "Waiver Application") to the Indiana State Board of Education ("State Board") requesting flexibility and to waive compliance with any provision in Title 20 or 511 IAC in order to do one or more of the following:

- (1) Improve student performance and outcomes.
- (2) Offer the School flexibility in the administration of educational programs or improve the efficiency of school operations.
- (3) Promote innovative educational approaches to student learning.
- (4) Advance the mission or purpose of the School or group of schools.

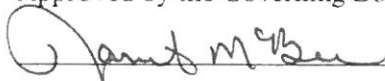
WHEREAS, the School desires to submit a Waiver Application to the State Board of Education in accordance with HEA 1003 by providing the specific goals or outcomes that the School intends to achieve by waiving provisions of Title 20 and 511 IAC and outlining how the specific goals or outcomes are likely to *be* achieved through the waiver process.

WHEREAS, HEA 1003 requires the governing body of the School (the "Governing Body") to adopt a resolution approving the submission of Waiver Applications.

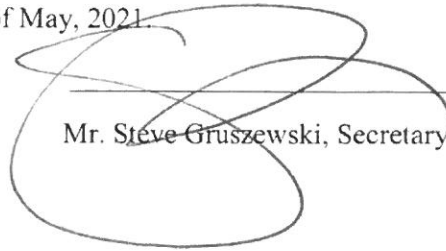
WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires to authorize the administration to timely take all appropriate and necessary action to submit the Waiver Applications to the State Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the administration of the School Board is hereby authorized to take all the appropriate and necessary action to submit Waiver Applications to the State Board.

Approved by the Governing Body on this 18th day of May, 2021.



Janet McBee, President



Mr. Steve Gruszewski, Secretary

