



# ***Investing in Educational Excellence (IE2)***

## Informational Document

The state has mandated that each school system must choose one of three accountability options no later than June 30, 2015.

### Status Quo School System

- This option indicates the system chooses to continue to abide by all current state education rules, guidelines and policies. Thus, the system would not be eligible for waivers for innovations around these rules, guidelines and policies.

### Investing in Educational Excellence School System

- **This option allows a system to request waivers from specific state education rules, guidelines and policies in return for increased accountability.**

### Charter System

- This option allows a system to receive a blanket waiver from state education rules, guidelines and policies in return for increased accountability. Additionally, a charter system contract requires a school system to institute school level governance councils at all schools.

- If a system chooses the Investing in Educational Excellence or Charter System option then the school system must accept more accountability in exchange for the increased flexibility through a performance contract with the SBOE.
- The Carroll County Board of Education has studied the three options and has made the determination that an IE2 performance contract will best align with the strategic improvement plan that is already in place for our school system.
- By becoming an IE2 school system, Carroll County will be able to continue current innovative initiatives as well as apply for waivers to spur additional innovation for the purpose of improving student achievement.
- If approved, the contract with the state will become effective July 1, 2015 and run through June 2022.
- The increased accountability that accompanies an IE2 contract will be measured through Georgia's new College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI).
- The IE2 application requires the system to identify specific waivers from state rules that the system might use.
- Each school will have greater flexibility as a means to increasing student achievement.
- The Carroll County Board of Education will host a public input hearing at their work session on February 9, 2015.

\*Additional information can be found on the Carroll County Schools website at: [www.carrollcountyschools.com](http://www.carrollcountyschools.com)

## Q & A on Carroll County Schools' IE2 Partnership Contract

### Why did Carroll County Schools pursue an IE2 Partnership Contract with the state?

We pursued this partnership contract and the flexibility it provides for one major purpose – to increase student achievement throughout the district. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to be relieved of some of the state rules and mandates that negatively impact the operations of our schools.

### What does Carroll County Schools hope to achieve through the IE2 Partnership Contract?

The primary goal is to attain the flexibility to think innovatively about services to students in order to maximize student achievement and meet strategic plan goals. IE2 provides the opportunity for schools to deliver the instructional programs they believe will best ensure their students are successful. Additionally, freedom from unfunded or under-funded state mandates that divert limited money and resources from where they can be used most effectively will be most beneficial.

### What budget/financial implications will the IE2 Partnership Contract have on Carroll County Schools?

This is a revenue neutral initiative. Although there will not be any additional funding, the partnership contract allows the district to use its current resources (both financial and human) more effectively.

### What is the process for requesting and implementing flexibility at the local school? Will there be any district oversight?

In this first year of implementation, school leaders will discuss flexibility with district office staff to ensure consistency, accountability and equitability.

### What are schools planning relative to the flexibility options?

Flexibility will be implemented with careful planning based on conversations with faculty, staff, and the community and with oversight by district staff. Opportunities will be provided this spring for school leaders to learn more about implementing flexibilities in their school and what that flexibility could look like at the school level.

### Will this add to what is already expected of schools and teachers?

This should not add to what schools and teachers are doing. The accountability that is part of the partnership contract is a part of CCRPI and the district's expectations for students and teachers. The partnership contract should provide schools the flexibility to make improvements without increasing workloads and/or reporting requirements.

### What are the implications for increased accountability? When would those consequences go into effect?

Schools must meet the IE2 performance targets by the end of the five-year period or three consecutive years during that five-year period. As the district's intent is focused on school improvement, any school not meeting its goals will benefit from additional support and interventions... the district will not wait until the end of the five-year period to offer that support.

### It seems that this initiative has come about quickly. Is that the case?

For several years, district leaders have discussed the need to gain added flexibility from state mandates to improve student achievement. For the last six months, we have researched the accountability contract options and determined the IE2 Partnership contract best supports the vision of our board and blends accountability, defined consequences, and greater flexibility for the good for our students and schools.