

Operational Systems “Decision Time”

Presented by

Division of External Affairs and Policy

Georgia Department of Education

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Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"
www.gadoe.org

Selecting an Operational System

- Local school systems must choose to operate as an:
 - **Investing in Educational Excellence – IE²**, or
 - **Charter**, or
 - **Status Quo** school system.

Official Code of Georgia 20-2-84.3



Date to Remember

IE²

- School systems must submit written notification of intent to the GaDOE no later than **June 30, 2015***

Charter

- School systems must submit written notification of intent to the GaDOE no later than **June 30, 2015***

Status Quo

- School systems must submit written notification of intent to the GaDOE no later than **June 30, 2015***

**Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) § 20-2-84.3(b)*



Legal Reference

Local Strategic Plan, Proposed Contract, SBOE Approval Process,
Flexibility and Accountability, Loss of Governance, Funding,
Charter Schools

IE²

- O.C.G.A.
§20-2-80
through
§20-2-84.3

Charter

- O.C.G.A.
§20-2-2080
through
§20-2-2095.1

Status Quo

- O.C.G.A.
§20-2-80



Fiscal Impact

IE²

- Possible savings through flexibility
- Regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls

Charter

- Possible savings through flexibility
- Regular QBE funding with more local expenditure controls
- Possible \$100 per student in Charter Systems

Status Quo

- Regular QBE funding

**Contingent on funding by the Georgia General Assembly*



Flexibility

Link between
flexibility and
increased student
performance

IE²

- School System seeks waivers – must include at least one of the following:
 - class size;
 - expenditure control;
 - certification;
 - salary schedule

Charter

- School System must state if and how broad flexibility permitted by the Charter Schools Act will be utilized

Status Quo

- State Board cannot authorize waivers or variances for:
 - expenditure controls;
 - certification;
 - salary schedule;
 - class size*

* SBOE authorized to waive class size for reasons of “hardship” (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-244)



Governance

IE²

- School System may maximize school level governance by granting local schools authority to determine how to reach goals

Charter

- School System must provide each school with school-level governance and decision making over budgets, programs, personnel and/or innovation

Status Quo

- Local board of education maintains governance



Contractual Partners

IE ²	Charter	Status Quo
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local School System Board of Education and State Board of Education*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local School System Board of Education and State Board of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NA

**Governor's Office of Student Achievement participates in the process.*



Length of Contract

IE²

- Initial term of contract is for 5 years
- Contract may be renewed if contract performance goals are met for at least three consecutive years

Charter

- Initial term of contract is for 5 years, with few exceptions
- Subsequent contract term may range from 5 to 10 years if the charter contract goals are met

Status Quo

- Not applicable



Performance Evaluation

IE²

- Student performance goals are determined during contract negotiations
- Governor's Office of Student Achievement monitors progress and reports to the State Board of Education
- System and schools must meet all federal and state accountability measures

Charter

- Petition must include student performance measures at least above state averages
- GaDOE submits annual report to State Board of Education and Georgia General Assembly
- System and schools must meet all federal and state accountability measures

Status Quo

- System and schools must meet all federal and state accountability measures

Consequences

IE²

- Loss of governance of non-performing schools:
 - conversion to charter school;
 - operation by another school system;
 - operation by private or non-profit entity

Charter

- Termination or nonrenewal of charter
- School System becomes a Status Quo school system

Status Quo

- Must meet all federal and state accountability measures including implementing consequence if schools and school system does not make AYP



Waiver Limitations

IE²

- Cannot waive:
 - *Federal rules/regulations
 - *State and local rules/regulations such as:
 - insurance;
 - physical health;
 - school safety;
 - assessment; QBE funding; etc.
 - *Court orders, civil rights statutes
 - *Conflicts of interest; unlawful conduct

Charter

- Cannot waive:
 - *Federal rules/regulations
 - *State and local rules/regulations such as:
 - insurance;
 - physical health;
 - school safety;
 - assessment; QBE funding; etc.
 - *Court orders, civil rights statutes
 - *Conflicts of interest; unlawful conduct

Status Quo

- Can only apply for state waivers due to dire emergency

Unique Features

IE²

- Flexibility proportionate to negotiated accountability for student performance
- School System Strategic Plan is a prerequisite to negotiations
- School System must conduct a public hearing to share Strategic Plan

Charter

- Significant emphasis on parent/ community involvement, including maximum school level governance
- Flexibility proportionate to negotiated accountability for student performance
- School System must conduct at least two public hearings to receive public input

Status Quo

- School System must conduct a public hearing to provide notice of the system's intent to select Status Quo
- Local board of education must sign statement that the school system has selected Status Quo



Decision Considerations

What does the system's student performance data show now?

What are the goals of the district?

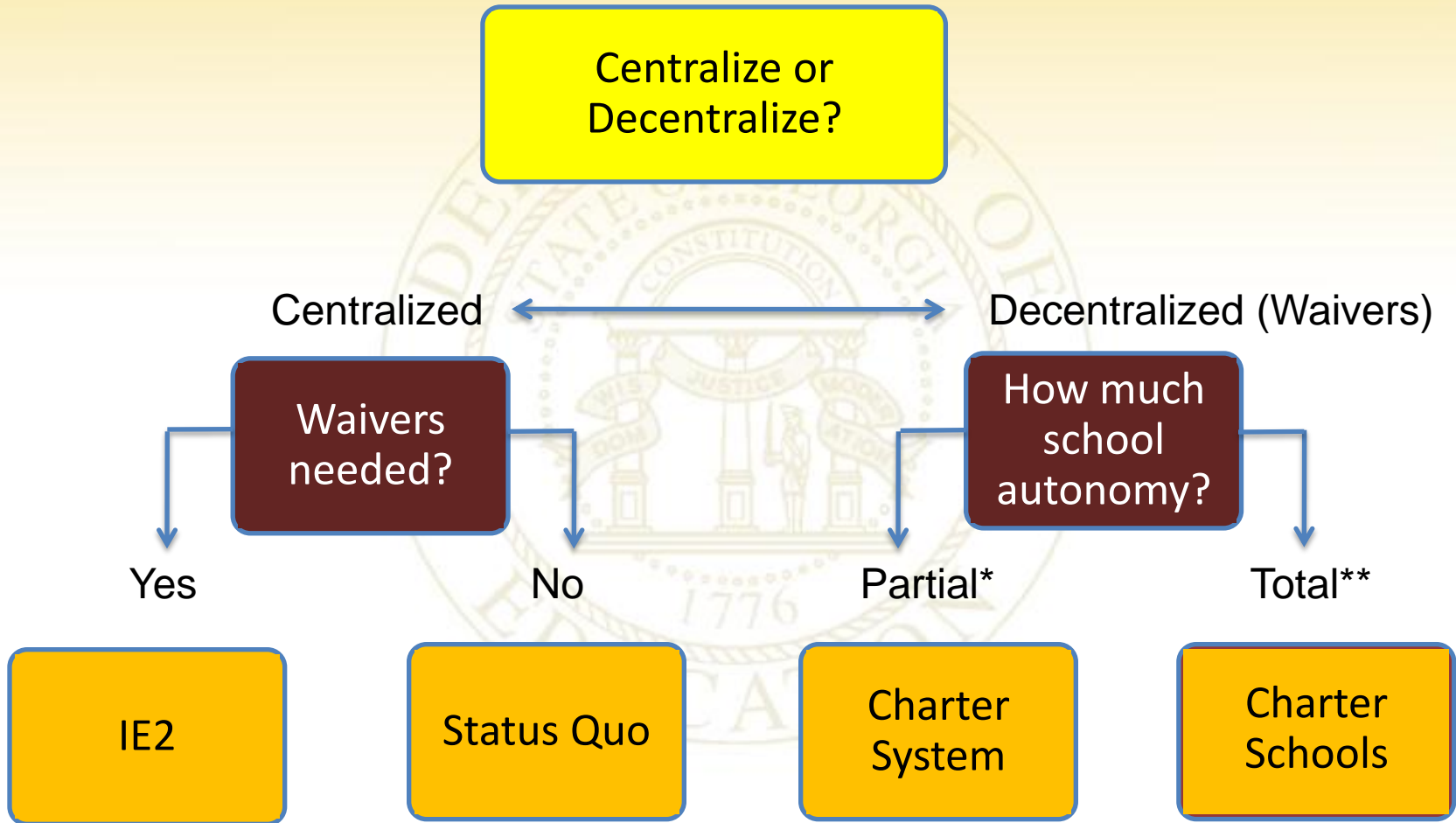
What are the gaps between goals and data?

What strategies can be used to close the gap?

What decision structure would best serve the strategies?



Decision Considerations



Most Frequently Asked Questions



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Does a school system have to implement one of the operational systems by June 30, 2015?

No. A letter of intent is due no later than June 30, 2015 to the Georgia Department of Education. However, those school systems that select IE2 or Charter System are expected to be actively engaged in the developmental process in order to implement the selected operational system in a timely manner.



How long does the petition* process take if a system selects IE² or Charter System?

If a school system submits an IE² or Charter System petition to the Georgia Department of Education sometime between July and December, the school system's implementation of the flexibility choice may be operational the following school year. Some school systems will want more time for implementation and may ask for an extension.

*(*Letter of Intent is a notification letter. A petition is the plan that was approved by the local board.)*



May a school system change its decision after submitting a letter of intent?

Yes, but all of the relevant requirements must be met. For example, if a school system decides to forego IE² in favor of Status Quo, public hearings must be held.

May a school system that selected Status Quo by the June 30, 2015 deadline later apply for IE² or Charter System status?

Yes.



How many school systems are IE² or Charter Systems?

There are two (2) IE² School Systems and one pending.
There are ten (10) Charter Systems and five (5) pending.

How will the Georgia Department of Education handle a surge of IE² and Charter System petitions?

The Department has developed a plan that includes the use of existing staff and external participants. All petitions will be reviewed in a timely manner, with a focus on quality.



How are the Highly Qualified requirements met if a system selects IE² or Charter System and asks for a certification waiver?*

- 1) Must hold a bachelor's degree from a Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) approved institution of higher education;
- 2) Have evidence of subject matter competence in the subjects they teach;
- 3) Have a teaching assignment that is appropriate for the core academic area/subject(s) in which the teacher serves as the teacher of record.

*For more information, please refer to the GaPSC website.



What action(s) must a school district take prior to June 30, 2015 if Status Quo is selected?

If the district chooses Status Quo then it must:

- Conduct a public hearing for the purpose of providing public notice that such local school system is opting for the status quo.
- The hearing shall be advertised in a local newspaper of general circulation which shall be the same newspaper in which other legal announcements of the local board of education are advertised.
- School district must sign a statement that it is opting to be Status Quo.



What obligations must be met by IE² and Charter System Schools when serving students with disabilities?

These service obligations remain unchanged. The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) remains in effect for all public school systems receiving Federal funds.



Will school systems receive increased QBE funds if they select IE² or Charter System?

No. Flexibility under the contract may not be used to generate additional state funding beyond state allotments. School systems will continue to receive FTE funds based on the current weighting system and the number of students enrolled in the school system by program area. Charter Systems are eligible for approximately \$100 per student, if the funds are appropriated by the Georgia General Assembly.



Additional Information

IE² and Status Quo

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