



Hammond Academy of Science & Technology

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Administration

Dr. Deborah Snedden, Ed.D.
Superintendent/School Leader

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Principal

Notice of Intent to Apply for a 2026–2027 Ed-Flex Waiver

Hammond Academy of Science and Technology (HAST) intends to apply to the Indiana Department of Education for **Ed-Flex Waiver #2 – Increased Flexibility in Paraprofessional Requirements** for the 2026–2027 school year.

This waiver allows eligible instructional paraprofessionals to qualify through Indiana's approved Ed-Flex pathways while continuing to receive comprehensive training, supervision, and annual evaluations.

HAST serves a diverse student population, with many students and families who are bilingual or whose primary language is Spanish. Bilingual instructional paraprofessionals provide valuable classroom support, reinforce academic instruction, assist licensed teachers with interventions, and help strengthen communication between the school and families. Approval of this waiver will help HAST recruit and retain highly qualified paraprofessionals whose instructional skills and language abilities support student success.

Anticipated Benefits

Approval of this waiver is expected to:

- Expand the pool of qualified instructional paraprofessionals.
- Support recruitment and retention of bilingual instructional staff.
- Increase instructional support in reading, mathematics, and other core academic areas.
- Strengthen communication and partnerships with multilingual families.
- Provide ongoing professional development and coaching for paraprofessionals.
- Improve student achievement through additional classroom and intervention support.

Public Comment

Parents, staff, students, and community members are invited to review and comment on the proposed waiver application. Comments may be submitted by **August 15, 2026** using one of the following methods:

Email: dsnedden@hammondacademy.org

Mail: Dr. Deborah Snedden, Superintendent
Hammond Academy of Science and Technology
33 Muenich Court Hammond, IN 46320

All comments received by the deadline will be reviewed prior to submission of the waiver application to the Indiana Department of Education and will be included with the application as required.



