

**281—22.27(261E) Waivers for certain regional academies.** A school district that establishes a regional academy may, but is not required to, submit to the department a request for waiver from any statutory or regulatory provision identified by the school district as a barrier to the school district's goal of increasing student achievement or increasing competency-based learning opportunities for students. The school district shall submit a plan to the department demonstrating how the regional academy will increase student achievement or increase competency-based learning opportunities for students, how the regional academy will assess either the increase in student achievement or the increase in competency-based learning opportunities for students, and why the requested waiver or waivers are necessary. The waiver request and plan shall be submitted to the department for approval by January 1 of the school year immediately preceding the school year for which waiver is sought. The department may not waive or modify any statutory or regulatory provision relating to requirements applicable to school districts that pertain to audit requirements, investment of public funds, collective bargaining, open meetings, public records, civil rights, human rights, special education, contracts with and discharge of teachers and administrators, powers and duties of school boards, teacher quality, and school transportation.

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