



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

100 N. Senate Ave., RM N1049
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To: State Board of Education Members
From: State Board Staff
Date: July 30, 2014
Re: Revision to Accreditation Rule

House Enrolled Act (“HEA”) 1004 establishes a pilot program to provide grants to eligible children for qualified education services provided by an eligible provider (the “PreK Pilot Program”). HEA 1004 provides that an eligible provider includes nonpublic schools that are accredited by the State Board of Education (“State Board”) or a national or regional accreditation agency recognized by the State Board.

Any nonpublic school may voluntarily become accredited by the State Board. See Indiana Code (“IC”) 20-31-4-2; 511 Indiana Administrative Code (“IAC”) 6.1-1-1(a). Specifically, a nonpublic school may become accredited by complying with certain legal requirements (e.g., health and safety, curriculum, instructional staff, assessment, and reporting), meeting school improvement and performance requirements, and by meeting the criteria of a State Board approved national or regional accrediting agency. See 511 IAC 6.1-1-1(b). A nonpublic school may also become accredited by becoming a freeway school under IC 20-26-15. See 511 IAC 6.1-1-1(c).

The current accreditation rule (511 IAC 6.1-1-1, *et. seq.*) does not contemplate accreditation for prekindergarten, either by the State Board or by a national or regional accreditation agency approved by the State Board. We therefore recommend that the State Board direct its General Counsel to take steps to initiate rulemaking to revise the current rule to explicitly provide for prekindergarten accreditation for nonpublic schools who elect to participate in the PreK Pilot Program.