

RESOLUTION ON 2015 ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 286-2013/HEA 1427 (2013), the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”) had a statutory obligation to adopt state academic standards by July 1, 2014 (IC 20-19- 2-14.5(b); see also IC 20-31-3); and furthermore, the Board shall authorize the development and implementation of the Indiana Statewide Assessment for Educational Progress (“ISTEP”) (IC 20-32-5-4(a)(1)) and may establish assessments to supplement the ISTEP program (IC 20-32-5-21(d); see also IC 20-31-8- 1);

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent (“Superintendent”) is responsible for the overall development, implementation, and monitoring of the ISTEP program (IC 20-32-5-4(b));

WHEREAS, the Department shall design the specifications for the ISTEP program and any other state assessment programs as authorized or approved by the Board (IC 20-32-5-4(c); IC 20-32-5-21(d); see also IC 20-31-8-1); and furthermore, the Department shall administer ISTEP assessments under IC 20-32-5 during the 2013-2015 biennium (IC 20-19-2-14.5(c))

WHEREAS, after June 30, 2013, the State of Indiana (“State”), or the Board on behalf of the State, may not enter into or renew an agreement with any organization, entity, group, or consortium that requires the State to cede any measure of autonomy or control of education standards and assessments, including cut scores (IC 20-19-2-14.5(e));

WHEREAS, IC 20-19-2-14.5 does not apply to an agreement with the United States Department of Education (“USED”) concerning a waiver from federal requirements (IC 20-19-2-14.5(e));

WHEREAS, the Department shall continue to seek approval from the USED concerning a waiver from federal requirements;

WHEREAS, the USED requires all states to have a college and career ready assessment be fully implemented in the 2014-2015 school year; and the State was denied a request by USED to have an assessment transition year in 2014-2015;

WHEREAS, the State is required by USED to assess all students with on grade level performance assessment aligned to college and career ready standards annually in all grades 3-8 and 10 (20 USCS sec. 6311(b)(3)(C));

WHEREAS, HEA 1427 (2013) required that not later than November 15, 2013, the Board shall establish new categories or designations of school performance under the requirements of this chapter to replace 511 IAC 6.2-6; the new categories or designations required a new baseline to align to the college- and career-ready aligned ISTEP;

WHEREAS, the 2013 report, “Examination of Indiana’s A to F School Accountability Model” presented by John R. Grew and William J. Sheldrake recommended that, “For the 2012-13 school year and subsequent years until the new accountability system required by HEA 1427-2013 is implemented, state policymakers should consider not subjecting a school to state interventions described in IC 20-31-9-5 due to a sixth consecutive year of placement in the lowest category or designation of school performance” (see page 5);

WHEREAS, the teacher evaluation system relies in part on the student assessment results from a statewide assessment (20-28-11.5-4(c)(2)(A));

WHEREAS, within the ESEA Flexibility waiver process there is a 2014-2015 option for a delay in the use of state assessments for personnel decisions ;

WHEREAS, within the ESEA Flexibility waiver process there is a 2014-2015 option for state to not assign a new school rating for the 2015-2016 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Superintendent seeks the Board's support to alleviate the burden on schools, educators, and students during this transition in college and career ready assessments by acting on each of the following:

Request of the Indiana General Assembly a freeze in school categories and designation for the 2014-2015 school year during the transition to the Indiana HEA1427 (2013) new state college and career ready standards and the federally required aligned assessment system.

Upon approval from the Indiana General Assembly seek USED option for ESEA flexibility that is stated as the following: *"For states that are transitioning to new assessment in the 2014-15 school year, the state may decide not to assign a new school rating or grade for the 2015-16 school year (a "hold harmless" year). However, the state must continue providing supports and interventions in accordance with the previous determinations during this transition year."*

Request of the Indiana General Assembly a freeze for all schools from state interventions described in IC 20-31-9-5 due to a sixth consecutive year of placement in the lowest category or designation of school performance resulting from the hold in school categories and designations for the 2014-2015 school year.

Request of the Indiana General Assembly to suspend the testing of social studies in grades 5 and 7 for the 2014-2015 school year. 20-32-5-2, 511IAC 5-2-4

Request of the Indiana General Assembly support to suspend the additional assessment at 3rd grade known as IREAD for the 2014-2015 school year, suspend the retention requirement under IC 20-32-8.5-2 and to suspend the retention requirements of 511 IAC 6.2-3.1-5 (title)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all schools and corporations will carry the December, 2014 placement designation for one more year. The designation will expire at the time of the Board designation in 2016 for the 2015-2016 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, no school will be subject to state interventions described in IC 20-31-9-5 IC 20-24-2.2-2; 20-51-4-9 due to the lowest category or designation resulting from the hold in school categories and designations for the 2014-2015 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all schools will continue to receive improvement support from the Department based upon the December 2014 Board designation under IC 20-31-8-4 until the Board places schools in a category or designation of school performance for the 2015-2016 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon placement into categories and designation for the 2015-2016 school year, all schools' status will have built upon the current status from Board designation in December 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon General Assembly support, the impact of assessment on the teacher evaluation system (title of the law) will be suspended for the 2014-2015 school year. (20-28-11.5-4(c)(2)(A)); as supported by USED flexibility waiver, Indiana will seek USED option for ESEA flexibility that is stated as the following: *"A state may request a one-year delay in incorporating student growth based on state assessments into educator ratings for teachers and principals of tested grades and subjects because of the transition to new assessments in 2014-15."*

