



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Indiana State Board of Education
From: Ron Sandlin, Senior Director of School Performance & Transformation
Date: October 7, 2020
RE: Accountability Update

The Indiana State Board of Education is developing an accountability framework designed to strengthen Indiana's Student Centered-Accountability System. The framework is meant to synthesize findings from Indiana's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the 2019 School Accountability Panel, and additional conversations with key stakeholders throughout the State.

UPDATES & NEXT STEPS: Board staff has completed the initial round of stakeholder input, during which staff consulted with over 50 key stakeholders including parents and families, advocates for students with special needs, educators, school administrators, education policy experts, and more. This input has informed a draft accountability framework that will be released in early- to mid-November, followed by additional opportunities for public input.

Public release of the draft SBOE Accountability Framework (November 2020): The draft framework will combine and synthesize key takeaways from initial stakeholder feedback, recommendations from the school accountability panel, and lessons learned from the state and federal accountability models. We expect to release the draft framework at the Board's November Business meeting.

Accountability Framework Panel Discussions (November 2020): SBOE staff will host at least three panel discussions with key stakeholders during which the accountability framework is presented to the panelists who then discuss the details and provide feedback in real time. These panel discussions will be streamed live for the general public, who will have an opportunity to submit feedback through an online portal. These meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

Discussion with Parents & Families	Wednesday, November 18
Discussion with Educators	Thursday, November 19
Discussion with Principals & School Admin	Monday, November 23

All three events will be scheduled for one hour from 5:30PM – 6:30PM EST.

December 2020: Board staff will present a final draft of the accountability framework during the December Business Meeting. The framework will provide a comprehensive, research-based, and stakeholder informed starting point for the development of an initial accountability rule. The framework is a resource to the Board and will serve as a shared starting point for critical conversations about how to strengthen Indiana's Student-Centered Accountability Model.

HISTORY: The Indiana State Board of Education has been exploring ways to strengthen Indiana's Student-Centered Accountability System over the past several years. These efforts have resulted in broad stakeholder feedback, comprehensive research and analysis, and concrete recommendations for the Board to consider when revising the existing administrative rule.



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1. SBOE Accountability Rulemaking: In July of 2017, the Indiana State Board of Education authorized rulemaking procedures to consider amending the State's administrative rule governing school accountability. As a part of this process, the Board collected input from stakeholders across the state. After multiple public hearings and work sessions, the Board decided to postpone this process indefinitely with the intention to reopen it in the future.
2. Indiana's Consolidated State Plan (ESSA): Indiana's Consolidated State Plan¹ approved under ESSA includes an accountability model based on federal requirements that is distinct in multiple ways from Indiana's Student-Centered Accountability model. The most recent version of the plan, approved prior to the 2019/2020 school year, includes multiple school performance indicators that are not currently included in the State model.
3. School Accountability Panel: Established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2019, the School Accountability Panel was formed to study the topic of aligning school accountability with graduation pathway requirements and recommend new indicators of school performance. The Panel was co-chaired by Dr. Byron Ernest, the House of Representatives' appointee to the Indiana State Board Education, and Pat Mapes, the Senate's appointee to the Indiana State Board of Education. The panel's final recommendations can be found on the Indiana General Assembly website.²

2020 ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK: In preparation for the Board to reopen rule-making, and informed by Indiana's Consolidated State Plan under ESSA and recommendations from the School Accountability Panel, staff is working on an accountability framework that highlights lessons learned, stakeholder input, guidance from industry experts, and research and analysis of school accountability models in Indiana and across the country. To date, board staff has connected with over fifty individual stakeholders representing the perspectives of parents and families, advocates for students with special needs, educators, school administrators, education policy experts, and more.

These conversations have informed a draft accountability framework that will be released to the general public in early- to mid-November. Board staff plans to host at least three virtual panel discussions with key stakeholder groups that will be streamed live to the general public. During these discussions, board staff will present and explain the framework in a way that fosters conversation among the panelists to solicit feedback and inform the general public. Additionally, all Hoosiers will be invited to submit feedback on the framework through an online submission form or the Board's traditional method for public comment. Feedback will be collected during the month of November. Once the feedback window closes, Board staff will work to incorporate key themes from across stakeholder groups into the framework before presenting a final version to the Board at the December Business Meeting.

¹ <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/essa/indiana-essa-amendment-final.pdf>

² <http://iga.in.gov/static-documents/8/5/d/c/85dc5186/2019-school-accountability-panel-final-recommendations.pdf>