

BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE: ) Cause No.: 06-052020  
TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (C561) )

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF TRINITY'S  
REQUEST FOR WAIVER FOR DELAY OF A-F CONSEQUENCES**

Trinity Christian School ("Trinity") is requesting a waiver to delay A-F consequences for the 2020-2021 school year pursuant to Ind. Code § 20-51-4-9.

**I. BASIS FOR AGENCY REVIEW**

During the 2017 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly enacted P.L. 251-2017, which, in relevant part, amended Ind. Code § 20-51-4-9 to include subpart (b), which permits an eligible school subject to consequences to request that the Indiana State Board of Education ("Board") grant a waiver of consequences for one (1) year.

**A. Consequences Under Ind. Code § 20-51-4-9(a)**

In general, an eligible school may accept choice scholarship funds from eligible choice scholarship students enrolled at the school. However, an eligible school that receives any combination of D's or F's in consecutive years will have its ability to receive new choice scholarship students suspended. Under subsection (a), the school's ability to receive choice scholarship students shall remain suspended until the eligible school receives a C or better in consecutive years as prescribed by statute.

**B. Requests For Waiver Or Delay Of Consequences Under Ind. Code § 20-51-4-9(B)**

Indiana Code § 20-51-4-9(b) provides eligible schools with an option to avoid consequences imposed under subsection (a). Pursuant to Ind. Code § 20-51-4-9(b), an eligible school subject to the consequences imposed under subsection (a) may submit a request to the Board to waive consequences for a period of one (1) year. In order to obtain the waiver, subsection (b) provides, in relevant part, that the Board "*may grant* a request to an eligible school that requests a waiver or delay under this subsection *if the eligible school demonstrates that a majority of students in the eligible school demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding school year*" (emphasis added). In other words, the Board's ability to grant an eligible school's waiver request is contingent upon whether the eligible school satisfies the legal threshold that a majority of students demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding year. Even if an eligible school satisfies the legal threshold necessary to receive a waiver, the Board may still deny the request. Waivers can only be granted for one year; however, a school may return to the Board and ask for a waiver the following year until it is removed from consequences under the statute.

## II. TRINITY – AN OVERVIEW

Trinity is a non-public freeway-accredited school that serves about 165 K-12 students in Indianapolis, Indiana. Trinity is currently in consequence and cannot receive new choice scholarship students unless the SBOE grants a waiver.

## III. FACTS IN SUPPORT OF WAIVER OR DELAY OF CONSEQUENCES

When looking at Trinity's grade with a zero N-size, total points showed a modest increase from 56.7 in 17-18 to 58.2 in 18-19. The SBOE has usually looked for greater jumps in total points to grant a waiver based on that factor.

The SBOE has also looked to growth data when determining whether to grant a waiver of consequences. Trinity's growth data for 18-19 is as follows:

### Grades 3-8

| 2018/2019 ELA GROWTH |            |          |      |
|----------------------|------------|----------|------|
|                      | LOW        | STANDARD | HIGH |
| Number               | [REDACTED] |          |      |
| Percent              | 45%        | 29%      | 26%  |

| 2018/2019 MATH GROWTH |            |          |      |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|------|
|                       | LOW        | STANDARD | HIGH |
| Number                | [REDACTED] |          |      |
| Percent               | 31%        | 18%      | 51%  |

### Grade 10

| 2018/2019 ELA GROWTH |            |          |      |
|----------------------|------------|----------|------|
|                      | LOW        | STANDARD | HIGH |
| Number               | [REDACTED] |          |      |
| Percent              | 43%        | 21%      | 36%  |

| 2018/2019 MATH GROWTH |            |          |      |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|------|
|                       | LOW        | STANDARD | HIGH |
| Number                | [REDACTED] |          |      |
| Percent               | 46%        | 23%      | 31%  |

As seen in the tables above, Trinity has more than 50% combined standard and high growth for grades 3-8 math and ELA, as well as more than 50% combined standard and high growth for grade 10. Based on this growth data, it is within the discretion of the SBOE to grant the waiver.



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## Trinity Christian School Voucher Waiver Petition Memo

To whom it may concern:

Trinity Christian School (TCS) is a small, private school located in inner-city Indianapolis. We serve a low-income area with various demographics. It serves grades kindergarten through 12.

Over the last two years, TCS has:

- Seen its highest retention and return rates
- Implemented dual credit courses through Ivy Tech
- Updated its curriculum to provide both print and digital access
- Increased its technological learning opportunities
- Implemented specific intervention times as part of its daily schedule in grades 6-8 to help close gaps
- Improved graduation rates
- Improved CCR rates and opportunities
- Maintained attendance rates of 95% or higher

With the waiver and opportunity to accept new voucher students, TCS is hoping to:

- Expand its movement within the work-readiness pathway for students looking to move into the workplace immediately after high school
- Expand its dual-credit opportunities
- Expand its technology
- Develop an audio and visual production program for students

TCS is in the process of applying for grant money through GEER, E-rate, and CARES act.

*Jeramie Carroll* 06/25/2020  
Principal