



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Working Together for Student Success*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education

**From:** Dr. Charity Flores, Director  
Office of Student Assessment

**Subject:** Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority Grant

**Date:** January 15, 2020

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Office of Student Assessment requests support from the Indiana State Board of Education to revisit the test design for the alternate assessment serving students with significant cognitive disabilities (i.e., 1%). The U.S. Department of Education allows states to apply for flexibility to pilot an innovative assessment design with a small population of schools or corporations in lieu of delivering the assessment to all schools and corporations for up to five years.

IDOE delivered I AM for the first time in Spring 2019. This administration was deemed successful, however, feedback from educators reinforces the challenges for students with significant cognitive disabilities in engaging in a direct assessment once at the end of the year since it may not be authentically aligned to instructional practices.

IDOE proposes to engage with the Technical Advisory Committee, along with research organizations, as part of a long-term effort to determine if other assessment models may better support accessibility of the test administration for this population. IDOE intends to submit the grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education on January 27, 2020.