



Indiana Department of Education  
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Gary Wallyn, Director  
Division of Accreditation, Assistance, and Awards

**DATE:** March 27, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations Regarding the 2007-08 Accreditation of Schools

At the State Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, the Division of Accreditation, Assistance, and Awards will recommend accreditation status for the second group of Indiana schools to receive accreditation based on the school improvement and performance categories under [IC 20-31-8](#) (P.L. 221-1999). Recommended adjustments to the accreditation status of schools from the initial group of Indiana schools announced in 2007 will also be presented.

Pursuant to [Indiana Code 20-31-4](#) and State Board of Education rule [511 IAC 6.1-1-3](#), the State Board shall accord each school either full accreditation status, provisional accreditation status or probationary accreditation status.

State Board rules [511 IAC 6.1-1-4](#) provides that a school must meet the following accreditation requirements to be accorded full accreditation status:

- (1) Compliance with the following legal standards:
  - (A) Health and safety requirements listed under 511 IAC 6.1-2.
  - (B) Minimum time requirements listed under 511 IAC 6.1-3.
  - (C) Staff-student ratio requirements listed under 511 IAC 6.1-4.
  - (D) Curriculum offering requirements listed under 511 IAC 6.1-5 and 511 IAC 6.1-5.1.
  - (E) Instructional staff requirements listed under 511 IAC 6.1-6.
  - (F) ISTEP participation requirements in accordance with IC 20-32-5, IC 20-32-8, and 511 IAC 5-2.
  - (G) Mandatory annual assessment requirements in accordance with 511 IAC 6.2-6.
  - (H) Accurate and timely submission of all reports required of schools.
  - (I) Production of an annual performance report that meets the requirements of IC 20-20-8 and in the case of a:
    - (i) public school, is published in accordance with IC 20-20-8-3; or
    - (ii) nonpublic school, is disseminated to school constituents.
  - (J) Strategic and continuous school improvement and achievement planning requirements under IC 20-31-5 and 511 IAC 6.2-3.
- (2) Assignment to one (1) of the following categories of school improvement and performance under 511 IAC 6.2-6-4:
  - (A) Exemplary.
  - (B) Commendable.
  - (C) Academic progress.

A school will receive Provisional accreditation status if the school meets the legal standards for accreditation but the school is placed in the Academic Watch category of school improvement and performance. A school also will receive Provisional accreditation status if the school meets legal standards but is in the first or second year after initial placement in the Academic Probation category of school improvement and performance.

A school will receive Probationary accreditation status, with at least an annual review, if the school, remains in the Academic Probation category of school improvement and performance in a third subsequent year after initial placement. This is the point at which state intervention occurs under our accountability law, and this provision has the effect of tying accreditation to accountability, including student transfer options.

Since the State Board cannot accord Full accreditation status to a school that does not comply with legal standards, the State Board notes those instances where Provisional accreditation status or Probation accreditation status is accorded for a reason other than school performance.