

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Counselors

From: Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability

Date: July 17, 2020

Re: Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 2 – School Accountability

Background:

Senate Enrolled Act 2 (2020) implements a two-year “hold harmless” policy for state accountability grades. SEA 2 also provides for flexibility regarding the use of ILEARN assessment results and state accountability grades for annual performance evaluations of certificated employees. Specifically, a school corporation may not use ILEARN assessment results or state accountability grades for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 annual performance evaluations of certificated employees unless the use of such data would improve the annual performance rating of the certificated employee.

Guidance:

A school or school corporation’s A-F letter grade for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years may not be lower than the school or corporation’s A-F letter grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, the official A-F letter grade for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years may not be used for purposes of state-level consequences or interventions.

Additionally, a school corporation may not utilize ILEARN assessment results or state accountability grades for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 annual performance evaluations of certificated employees unless the use of such data would improve the annual performance rating of the certificated employee.

Implementation:

The effective date of SEA 2 is retroactive, to July 1, 2018, to ensure applicability to the 2018-2019 accountability determinations and staff performance evaluations. The accountability

cycle for 2018-2019 was completed at the time of publication of this memorandum. As such, this memorandum focuses on the implementation of SEA 2 for the 2019-2020 accountability cycle.

The cancellation of the Spring 2020 administration of the statewide assessments directly impacts the ability to calculate A-F letter grades for the 2019-2020 school year. The following table indicates the data that will be used to generate a preliminary A-F letter grade for the 2019-2020 school year. This preliminary A-F letter grade will then be compared to the official A-F letter grade for the 2018-2019 school year to determine the official, “hold harmless” grade for the 2019-2020 school year. The preliminary 2019-2020 A-F letter grades will be made available to schools and school corporations in early Fall 2020 for review prior to the official placement by the State Board of Education (State Board).

Dataset for 2019-2020 Preliminary A-F Grades			
	Performance Domain	Growth Domain	Multiple Measures Domain
Elementary/Middle Schools (Grades K-8)	2018-2019 ILEARN proficiency & participation rates	2018-2019 growth scores based on ILEARN results	N/A
High Schools (Grades 9-12)	2018-2019 ISTEP+ 10 proficiency & participation rates	2018-2019 growth scores based on ISTEP+ 10 results	2019 cohort for 4 year graduation rate & college/career readiness; 2018 cohort for 5 year improvement

The “hold harmless” policy provided in SEA 2 also extends to timelines pertaining to school-level consequences and interventions. The official A-F letter grades for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years are not to be utilized for purposes of determining whether to administer school-level consequences and interventions unless explicitly requested by the school. Examples of how this practice applies to each type of impacted schools is provided below.

Example 1: Traditional Public School

- IC 20-31-9 requires intervention by the State Board after four (4) consecutive “F” letter grades.
- School’s Timeline
 - 2015-2016: F
 - 2016-2017: F
 - 2017-2018: F
 - ~~2018-2019: F~~
 - ~~2019-2020: F~~
 - 2020-2021: F
- School’s fourth consecutive “F” letter grade occurs with the 2020-2021 letter grade.
- Note: if the school received a “D” letter grade or higher for 2018-2019 or 2019-2020, the school may petition the State Board to utilize the letter grade in order to break the consecutive “F’s” and reset the timeline.

Example 2: Charter Public School

- IC 20-24-2.2-2 requires the minimum standards for renewal and closure for a charter school is based on whether the charter school received four (4) consecutive “F” letter grades.
- School’s Timeline:
 - 2015-2016: F
 - 2016-2017: F
 - 2017-2018: F
 - ~~2018-2019: F~~
 - ~~2019-2020: F~~
 - 2020-2021: F
- School’s fourth consecutive “F” letter grade occurs with the 2020-2021 letter grade.
- Note: if the school received a “D” letter grade or higher for 2018-2019 or 2019-2020, the school may petition the State Board to utilize the letter grade in order to break the consecutive “F’s” and reset the timeline.

Example 3: Choice Scholarship Participant School

- IC 20-51-4-9 requires suspension of choice scholarship payments for new students after two (2) or three (3) consecutive “D” or “F” letter grades.
 - “D” or “F” for two (2) consecutive years: choice scholarship payments suspended for new students for one year.
 - “D” or “F” for three (3) consecutive years: choice scholarship payments suspended for new students until school receives a “C” or higher for two (2) consecutive years.

- “F” for three (3) consecutive years: choice scholarship payments suspended for new students until school receives a “C” or higher for three (3) consecutive years.
- School’s Timeline:
 - 2017-2018: F
 - 2018-2019: ~~F~~
 - 2019-2020: ~~F~~
 - 2020-2021: F
- School’s second consecutive “D” or “F” letter grade occurs with the 2020-2021 letter grade.
- Note: if the school received a “C” letter grade or higher for 2018-2019 or 2019-2020, the school may petition the State Board to utilize the letter grade in order to break the consecutive “D’s” or “F’s” and reset the timeline.

This bill was authored by Senator Jeff Raatz, and the full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).