



Indiana Department of Education
2019 Legislative Priority

Support a transparent, single accountability system for Hoosier families

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires Indiana to have an accountability system that includes all students, all schools, and meets the requirements of federal law. Indiana's current accountability system excludes certain children that ESSA requires be included in accountability. The differences between Indiana's state law and the requirements of ESSA results in two different accountability systems with two different ways of assessing schools. Without legislative action, Indiana will maintain two accountability systems creating confusion for both educators, parents, and communities.

Quick Facts

- ❑ A-F school grades provide transparent, objective, and easily understood data to parents, educators, and the public to spur improvement among all schools.
- ❑ ESSA requires states to count every child for accountability purposes.
- ❑ Certain state statutes specifically exclude children from the A-F school grading system, many of which are Indiana's most at-risk students, allowing them to drop off the accountability radar.
- ❑ Releasing two different school grades creates a communications challenge, according to ExcelinEd, a national foundation aimed at supporting educational excellence.
- ❑ Of the students who qualify for Free and Reduced lunch only 36% passed both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math portions of the statewide test compared to 66% of paid lunch students.
- ❑ Only 18% of English Learners passed both ELA and Math compared to 53% of Non-English Learners.
- ❑ Only 31% of black and Hispanic students passed both ELA and Math compared to 58% of white students.