



Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
DATE: January 21, 2016
RE: Guidance on Senate Enrolled Act 200-2016

Today, January 21, 2016 the Governor signed into law, Senate Enrolled Act 200-2016. The intent of Senate Enrolled Act 200-16 is to ensure that Indiana schools were held harmless and not negatively impacted by the implementation of new assessments aligned to newly introduced college-and-career ready standards during the 2014-2015 school year. This document provides guidance to corporations and schools on the impact and application of this law. Please contact schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov if you have any additional questions after reviewing this guidance.

HOW GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED FOR 2014-2015?

Senate Enrolled Act 200 provides that a school’s A-F grade for the 2014-2015 school year may not be lower than that same school’s A-F grade for the 2013-2014 school year. In order to determine the final 2014-2015 grade for each school, a school’s 2013-2014 grade will be compared to its 2014-2015 grade. Based on this comparison, the final grade assigned to the school for the 2014-2015 school year will be the higher grade between the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 grade. For example, if a school received a “B” in 2013-2014 and a “C” in 2014-2015, that school will officially receive a “B” for the 2014-2015 school year.

For Example: Elementary School ABC

2013/2014 A-F FINDINGS	2014/2015 A-F FINDINGS	FINAL 2014/2015 A-F GRADE
B	C	B

HOW WILL 2014-2015 DATA BE USED MOVING FORWARD?

Schools will receive all performance and accountability data for the 2014-2015 school year regardless of whether they are assigned the 2013-2014 or 2014-2015 A-F results for their official 2014-2015 A-F grade.

The 2014-2015 data will be utilized for A-F accountability moving forward. For example, the growth component of A-F requires two consecutive years of assessment data to calculate. Therefore, the assessment results from the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years will be used to determine a



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student’s growth score when calculating A-F grades for the 2015-2016 school year. Moving forward, 2015-2016 grades will utilize the following data components:

	GRADES 3-8	GRADES 9-12
PERFORMANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/2016 Passage rates on the ISTEP+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015-2016 Passage rates on the graduation exam
GROWTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014/2015 ISTEP+ scores • 2015/2016 ISTEP+ scores 	N/A
MULTIPLE MEASURES	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Graduation Rate • 2015 College & Career Readiness Achievement

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PROGRAMS OR INTERVENTIONS THAT UTILIZE A-F GRADES?

There are many programs that utilize A-F grades. Below is a list of those program areas and how they may or may not be impacted by SB 200.

1. Choice Scholarship Program

SB 200 explicitly refers to the eligibility requirements for the Choice scholarship program. Specifically, consequences may not be imposed upon a school unless that school received a final grade of “F” for 2015 after comparing to the 2014 grade. This means that a school would have to receive an F in both 2014 and 2015 for any consequences to apply.

2. Educator Evaluations

The use of A-F and ISTEP+ results in educator evaluations has been addressed through a separate bill, House Bill 1003-2016. Please refer to the Department’s guidance on this bill for further information.

3. Charter & Innovation Network School Grant

Eligibility for the Charter and Innovation Network School grant utilizes a school’s most recent A-F grade. The final A-F grade for 2015 after applying the hold harmless approach will be utilized to determine eligibility for the 2015-2016 grant cycle.

4. Performance-Qualified High Schools and Districts

The designation criteria for performance-qualified high schools and districts look at whether the high school or district received an “A” for the most recent accountability year. If a corporation received an “A” in 2013-2014 but not in 2014-2015, the corporation would remain eligible to be a performance-qualified district since the 2013-2014 grade was better than the 2014-2015 grade. Likewise, if a



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corporation received a B in 2013-2014 and an “A” in 2014-2015, the corporation would now be eligible to be a performance-qualified district.

5. State Intervention & Turnaround

There will be no schools who receive an “F” for the first time for 2015 under the “hold harmless” application of SB 200. For example, if a school received a “B” in 2014 and an “F” in 2015, the “B” would be the official 2015 grade. This school would not be required to complete the statutory requirements of a school receiving its first “F”.

If a school had received previous consecutive Fs but received a higher grade in 2015 then that school does not move forward on the state intervention timeline. For example, if a school received three consecutive Fs (2012, 2013, 2014) and then received a “C” in 2015, the school would not move forward on the state intervention timeline because the “C” would be assigned for 2015.

Only schools that received an F in both 2014 and 2015 will continue to move forward on the state intervention timeline.

6. Federal Focus & Priority Schools

Indiana will update the list of Focus and Priority Schools for 2015-16 to include the “hold harmless” grade. If a school was identified as a Focus or Priority School in 2014 from 2013-14 data and received a D or F for 2014-15, it will remain in Focus or Priority status through the 2016-17 school year, as we transition to the newly enacted ESSA. If a Focus School earned an A or a second consecutive B or C as a result of 2015-16 data, the school will exit from Focus Status. If a Priority School earned an A or a second B or C as a result of 2015-16 data, the school will have a shortened monitoring visit but would continue the implementation of interventions as required in the ESEA waiver. No new schools will be identified as Focus or Priority Schools as a result of the “hold harmless” approach.

WHEN IS THE BILL EFFECTIVE AND WHO IS IMPACTED?

The effective date of the bill is retroactive (July 1, 2015). All schools and corporations that received a grade for 2014 and 2015 will be subject to application of this hold harmless approach for 2015 accountability.

WHEN WILL SCHOOLS RECEIVE THE FINAL HOLD HARMLESS GRADE?

Schools can view their final 2014-2015 results on Learning Connection on January 25, 2016 in an embargoed state. The embargo will be lifted pending State Board action at its business meeting on January 26, 2016.