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Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

TO: Superintendents, Principals, School Leaders
FROM: Dr. Charity Flores, Director of Student Assessment
Dr. Nancy Holsapple, Director of Special Education
DATE: July 8, 2019
RE: IDOE Review of Students with No Mode of Communication

The vast majority of students who participate in I AM, and formerly ISTAR, are able to complete the assessment through various communication mechanisms. A small number of students have no observable way to communicate. Test administrators implement a protocol during the assessment which identifies these students as No Mode of Communication during reporting. This process is clearly defined in the I AM Test Administrator's Manual (TAM) and the I AM Test Coordinator's Manual (TCM).

IDOE also developed a systematic review for these students identified as having No Mode of Communication for subsequent years. This process is outlined below.

- Year 1: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on I AM.
- Year 2: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on I AM (and previously on ISTAR) for two years in a row. IDOE reviews the student's IEP for a communication goal and reports back to the corporation with any findings.
- Year 3: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on I AM (and previously on ISTAR) for three years in a row. IDOE reviews the student's IEP for a communication goal and reports back to the corporation with any findings. IDOE shares this information with our Indiana Resource Network to support corporations with new strategies to assist in moving toward communication by the student.

Year 3 of this review process concludes with the 2019 administration of I AM. Corporations should expect communication from IDOE regarding the findings of this review in late July, 2019.

Please contact Stephanie Thompson, sthompson2@doe.in.gov, or Kristan Sievers-Coffer, ksievers@doe.in.gov, with any questions about this process.