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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: May 11, 2020
RE: IDOE Review of Students with No Mode of Communication

The vast majority of students who participate in the alternate assessment are able to complete the test 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. **Please note, IDOE will not complete this review for the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 Waiver.**

This review process is outlined below.

- Year 1: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on the alternate assessment. **This would occur following the 2021 administration and reported as NMC.**
- Year 2: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on the alternate assessment for two years. IDOE reviews the student's IEP for a communication goal and reports back to the corporation with any findings. **This would include students who were reported as NMC for 2019 and 2021 only. Note: No assessment data is available for 2020.**
- Year 3+: The student is identified as having No Mode of Communication on the alternate assessment for three or more consecutive years. 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. **This would include students who were reported as NMC for 2021, 2019, and 2018. Note: No assessment data is available for 2020.**

IDOE review of IEP goals will typically take place during the summer following the administration of the alternate assessment. Corporations should expect feedback with IDOE findings near the start of the following school year. **A 2020 review will not occur due to the COVID-19 Waiver.**

Please contact Stephanie Thompson at sthompson2@doe.in.gov or INAssessments@doe.in.gov with questions about this process.