

To: Indiana School Counselors

From: Ms. Robin LeClaire, Director of School Improvement  
Ms. Christy Berger, Assistant Director Social, Emotional, & Behavioral Wellness  
Ms. Courtney Hott, School Counseling Specialist

Date: May 10, 2019

Subject: Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Recognition Program

**Background**

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) contracted with Butler University to complete a review of the Gold Star School Counseling Recognition Program in the fall of 2018. The [results](#) indicated no significant difference between Gold Star schools and all others. The intention is to update the process making it more data driven, impactful, and aligned with new IDOE initiatives to produce better outcomes for students and schools.

**Guidance**

IDOE will work with counseling stakeholders across the state and representatives from ASCA, to update the process and requirements of the Gold Star Award during the 2019-2020 school year. The new Gold Star Award will be a tiered system of recognition making it a more intentional and data driven process for schools. During this update, Indiana School Counselor Competencies will be updated to align with Graduation Pathways, Employability Standards, and Social-Emotional Learning Competencies.

Pending the new Gold Star Award, there will be no Gold Star recognition during the 2019-2020 school year. Schools pursuing the Gold Star award during the 2018-2019 school year will be awarded per the current standards. Cohorts will resume with the new award during the 2020-2021 school year. If you had planned to renew your Gold Star Award during the 2019-2020 school year, please contact us.

If you have questions, please contact:  
Courtney Hott at (317) 232-0552 or email her at [chott@doe.in.gov](mailto:chott@doe.in.gov)