

State of Indiana



General Assembly

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October 23, 2019

Indiana State Board of Education
143 W. Market St., Suite 500
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To the Honorable State Superintendent McCormick and all members of the State Board of Education,

In August, state leaders joined together in unanimously calling for a one-year "hold harmless" policy regarding 2019 school accountability grades and Teacher Appreciation Grants (TAG's). After recent discussions among legislators and the executive branch, we are proposing the following plan for implementing this policy in the most timely, least disruptive way possible for our schools.

We call on the Department of Education to release guidance to schools informing them that they may use 2018 school accountability grades and/or 2018 assessment results in this year's teacher evaluations, if any teachers they employ would not be eligible for a TAG solely because of the yet-to-be-released 2019 school accountability grades and/or 2019 assessment results. We believe the DOE guidance should be reinforced by a resolution from the State Board.

Directing schools to take advantage of this flexibility will ensure that TAG's are received by teachers before the statutory deadline in December, and will ensure that no teacher will lose eligibility for a TAG because of this year's ILEARN results. The General Assembly will codify this policy through legislation when the 2020 session gets underway in January.

We will also expedite legislation in January directing the State Board to implement a similar "hold harmless" for 2019 school accountability grades. In the meantime, policies dependent on school accountability grades can continue with the 2018 grades in effect until the State Board adopts new grades based on 2020 legislation.

Thank you for working with us on this important initiative for our students and educators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodric D. Bray".

Rodric D. Bray
President Pro Tempore, Indiana Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Bosma".

Brian C. Bosma
Speaker of the House