



TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
RE: Accountability Appeals Process Criteria
DATE: August 24, 2014

Pursuant to 511 IAC 6.2-6-12, criteria for appeals need to be set by the Board each year. IDOE is providing input on past practice and scenarios that IDOE has faced during past appeals cycles that may help in determining criteria. IDOE has traditionally broken down the grounds for appeal into three categories, based on the rule language: significant demographic changes in student population; errors in data; and other significant issues.

- **Significant Demographic Changes in Student Population:** Many of the issues that may be appealed concerning demographic changes are already resolved prior to appeals and therefore become moot. For example:
 - Sudden influx of students during the school year: 511 IAC 6.2-6 generally requires that students be enrolled for at least 162 days in a school year for test scores to count toward accountability. Additionally, limited English proficient students enrolled in the US for less than 12 months may be excluded from accountability. Therefore, the significant demographic change resulting from an influx of students during the school year is resolved because the students are not included in accountability, and the issue is moot.
 - Influx of students in recent years: 511 IAC 6.2-6-5.9 provides the opportunity for a school to apply for a new accountability baseline if the school has had a 70% change of student population, a significant change in educational philosophy, curriculum or staffing, and the change isn't being made to avoid accountability. This process allows for a determination to be made as to whether the influx of students has an impact on the accountability before the appeals process occurs. Therefore, the significant demographic change resulting from an influx of student in recent years is resolved.
 - Influx of student population due to voluntary enrollment: The school responsible for a student is the school that receives the funding for that student. Therefore, if the school voluntarily enrolls students and receives the funds for the student, then the school is to be held accountable for that student. Therefore, this is a moot issue.
 - Significant decrease in student population: A school raises an argument that the significant decrease in students has negatively impacted the funding and therefore the school programs, resulting in lower performance. The impact of decreased funding will not be reflected during the year of the decreased enrollment but rather in the subsequent year. Therefore, the issue is moot because the funding concerns will be resolved.



Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

- **Errors in Data:** In past appeals cycles, DOE has had to make some exceptions to its criteria for errors in data. That being said, the intended criteria for include the following:
 - A school may appeal data contained within the State’s information system that is not accurately reflected in the accountability calculation. This is not a change to the data, just an update to the data included in the calculation.
 - A school may appeal data contained within the State’s information system that is incorrectly assigned to a student. This is not a change to the data, just an update to the data included in the calculation.
- **Other Significant Issues:** The only issue that the DOE has encountered that would meet the “other significant issues” grounds would be some sort of “force majeure” or act of god that results in long-term and widespread disruption of education for a school or district due to physical destruction of facilities. Therefore, an “act of god” would be the criteria for the appeal.