



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: St. Thomas Aquinas School  
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education  
RE: Appeal by St. Thomas Aquinas School of its 2015-16 Letter Grade  
DATE: April 5, 2017

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**Finding:** St. Thomas Aquinas' appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of a "B" grade should be denied.

## I. Facts

St. Thomas Aquinas School ("Aquinas") received a letter grade of "B" for the 2015-16 school year. Aquinas appealed the "B" grade due to concerns regarding the possible exclusion of student data used for calculating the school's category placement grade.

## II. Argument and Analysis

Aquinas contends that its category placement calculation did not include growth points for a number of the school's students. The alleged exclusion of student data created an error in calculation in the school's overall growth points. As part of the appeal process, the State Board of Education's ("Board") Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment reviewed the student data provided by Aquinas. Upon review, it was determined that the student data provided by Aquinas had no effect on the school's overall grade. Thus, Aquinas' argument that its appeal should be granted to account for the data provided during the appeal process lacks sufficient evidence.

For the forgoing reasons, Aquinas' "B" grade should not be altered, and the appeal should be denied.