



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: State Board of Education
From: Brian Murphy, State Board of Education
Date: September 2, 2020
RE: Freeway Contract Amendment for Bloomington Islamic School

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Bloomington Islamic School (“BLISS”) request to amend the Freeway School Contract should be granted.

I. Introduction

BLISS is requesting to amend its Freeway School Contract (“contract”) to allow for one year without students during the 2020-2021 school year.

II. Basis for Agency Review

Pursuant to IC 20-26-15-1 *et seq.*, school corporations or individual schools may seek Freeway Accreditation by petitioning the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”). The petition submitted by the school corporation or school must agree to abide by the legal requirements set forth in IC 20-26-15. If the Board votes to approve the Freeway Petition, the parties must enter into a Freeway Contract. Per IC 20-26-15-9, the governing body of a Freeway School and the Board “acting jointly” may amend a contract:

- (1) to comply with any law enacted subsequent to the formation of the contract;
- (2) to alter the educational benefits to a level that is not below the minimum educational benefits listed in section 7 of this chapter; or
- (3) for a purpose jointly agreed to by the parties.

III. Facts and Law

In this instance, BLISS is requesting that the contract be amended to account for one year without students. HEA 1003 (2020) states that the Board may not, after June 30, 2020, enter into, renew, or otherwise extend freeway accreditation. BLISS’s request does not fall under any of the prohibited scenarios in HEA 1003.