



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Career Academy High School
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education
RE: Appeal by Career Academy High School of its 2015-16 Letter Grade
DATE: March 8, 2017

Finding: Career Academy High School's appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of an "F" grade should be approved.

I. Facts

Career Academy High School ("Career Academy") received a letter grade of "F" for the 2015-16 school year. Career Academy appealed the "F" grade due to concerns regarding the use of data from the previous school year in light of the school's accountability baseline reset.

II. Argument and Analysis

During the 2015-16 school year the Indiana State Board of Education ("Board") granted Career Academy's request for a baseline reset pursuant to 511 IAC 6.2-10-9, which states:

- (a) This section applies to schools that:
 - (1) open;
 - (2) reopen;
 - (3) reconfigure; or
 - (4) redistribute students.
- (b) To obtain a new accountability baseline, a school described in subsection (a) must clearly demonstrate all of the following:
 - (1) An increase or decrease of at least seventy percent (70%) in the student population from the previous year.
 - (2) A significant change in educational philosophy, curriculum, or staffing.
 - (3) A change is not being made to avoid accountability.

Due to Career Academy's reconfiguration and reset, it should be treated as a new school. The Board's accountability rule states that new schools receive a grade calculation based solely on growth for the first three years. See 511 IAC 6.2-10-10. However, there is no growth data to calculate its 2015-16 grade.

For the foregoing reasons, Career Academy's "F" grade should be altered, and a "null" grade assigned.