



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Dr. Kenneth Folks, Superintendent EACS; Mr. Doug Hicks, Principal EAU

FROM: John Snethen, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education

RE: Appeal by East Allen University School of its 2015–16 Letter Grade

DATE: January 17, 2017

Finding: East Allen University should be given a null grade for 2015–16.

I. Facts

East Allen University (“EAU”) in Fort Wayne began in the 2012–13 school year with a Grade 9 class only. In the 2015–16 school year, EAU was a Grades 9–12 high school and graduated its first class of Grade 12 seniors. EAU’s seniors have done a capable job. One hundred percent of them graduated this year, with more than half earning academic honors and three-quarters of them earning an Associate’s Degree from Vincennes University, including five out of seven of EAU’s English Learners. The least amount of college credit earned by any graduating senior was 23 credits, and eighty-six percent of the graduating seniors plan to attend college. EAU was endorsed in 2014–15 by the Center of Excellence in Leadership learning as an Indiana Early College. Nevertheless, EAU’s school accountability grade was an F.

II. Argument and Analysis

EAU argues that its F grade “is not a true reflection of this outstanding school.” (EAU’s request for appeal 11/22/16.) I agree.

The Indiana State Board of Education’s school accountability rule assigns points to a high school based on four factors: (1) performance on the Grade 10 ISTEP+ English/Language Arts assessment; (2) performance on the Grade 10 ISTEP+ Algebra assessment; (3) graduation rate; and (4) college and career readiness. *See* 511 Ind. Admin. Code 6.2-10. The first two factors together account for twenty-five percent of a high school’s accountability grade. The last two factors are determined in arrears, that is, they are determined for the year before the school year being graded; however, EAU did not have a Grade 12 in 2014–15, and so lacks any data on the last two factors. As a result, EAU’s entire grade was calculated based on the performance of its Grade 10 students on ISTEP+ in 2015–16.

Placing 100% weight on factors that, at most, should account for no more than twenty-five percent of a high school’s grade achieves a result that does not accurately portray EAU’s educational efforts as evidenced by the accomplishments of its 2015–16 graduating class. *See* 511 Ind. Admin. Code 6.2-10-11. Consequently, I find that EAU’s request for a null grade for 2015–16 should be granted.