



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Chad E. Ranney, General Counsel – Indiana State Board of Education
Date: January 13, 2021
RE: **Motion to Rescind SBOE Actions with Respect to “Good Cause” and Excessive Homeschool Exit Audit**

Recommendation: (1) Approve the Motion to Rescind, as outlined in this memo; and (2) Approve the Motion to Adopt the parameters necessary for demonstrating “good cause,” as outlined in this memo.

On July 8, 2020, the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”) adopted a process for implementing IC 20-26-13-10(b) that defined the parameters necessary for demonstrating “good cause” for purposes of determining whether a student that was removed from the 2020 graduation cohort should actually be removed or whether they should be returned to that cohort and classified as a “dropout.”¹ Under the Board approved process, a school successfully demonstrates “good cause” if:

1. The high school provides documentation demonstrating the student’s mobilization to homeschool was initiated and approved by the student’s parent or guardian; and
2. The high school provides documentation demonstrating that the student was “on track” to graduate at the time the student was mobilized to home school.

On December 9, 2020, the Board adopted the Indiana Department of Education’s (“Department”) findings from the Excessive Homeschool Exit Audit, which incorporated the Board-approved parameters for demonstrating “good cause”.² As a result of the Board’s December 9, 2020 action, 1,081 students that were originally removed from the 2020 graduation cohort will be returned to the cohort and classified as “dropouts.”

Should the Board wish to revisit (1) its approved parameters for “good cause” for the 2019-2020 cohort only, and (2) its recent adoption of the Department’s audit findings that incorporate those parameters, it may do so via a Motion to Rescind its July 8th and December 9th actions. After the Board’s actions have been rescinded, a motion to adopt new “good cause” parameters and audit findings consistent with those parameters is required.

Step 1: Motion to Rescind Board’s July 8th and December 9th actions with respect to the definition of “good cause” and excessive homeschool exits audit review standards.

Step 2: Motion to Adopt the following parameters necessary for demonstrating “good cause” for purposes of determining whether a student that was removed from the 2020 graduation cohort should actually be removed or whether they should be returned to that cohort and classified as a “dropout.”

1. The high school provided documentation demonstrating the student’s mobilization to homeschool was initiated and approved by the student’s parent or guardian, consistent with Indiana law.

As a result of this action, 467 students that were originally removed from the 2019-2020 graduation cohort will be returned to the cohort and classified as “dropouts.”

¹ See July 8, 2020 Memo – [Process for IC 20-26-13-10\(b\)](#).

² See December 9, 2020 Memo – [Excessive Homeschool Exit Audits](#).
