



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	Cause No. 11-112020
LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL)	
(SCHOOL #B145),)	REQUEST PURSUANT TO
)	IC 20-51-4-9
PETITIONER,)	
)	

COMBINED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND PROPOSED DETERMINATION

Pursuant to IC 20-51-4-9(b), Lakeview Christian School (“Lakeview”) requests that the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”) grant the school a waiver from the consequences imposed under IC 20-51-4-9(a) so that Lakeview may enroll new choice scholarship students for the 2021-2022 school year. The undersigned recommends Lakeview’s waiver request be granted.

I. Basis for Agency Review

During the 2017 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly enacted P.L. 251-2017, which, in relevant part, amended IC 20-51-4-9 to include subsection (b). Subsection (b) permits an eligible school that is subject to the consequences imposed under IC 20-51-4-9(a) to request that the Board waive those consequences for one year.

A. Consequences under IC 20-51-4-9(a)

In general, an eligible school may accept choice scholarship funds from eligible choice scholarship students enrolled at the school. However, an eligible school that receives any combination of Ds or Fs in consecutive years shall have its ability to enroll new choice scholarship students suspended. Under subsection (a), the eligible school’s ability to enroll new choice scholarship students shall remain suspended until the eligible school receives a C or better in consecutive years.

B. Requests for a Waiver or Delay of Consequences under IC 20-51-4-9(b)

IC 20-51-4-9(b) affords eligible schools an opportunity to seek a waiver from the Board to avoid the consequences imposed under subsection (a). Pursuant to IC 20-51-4-9(b), an eligible school that is subject to the consequences imposed under subsection (a) may submit a request to the Board to waive or delay the consequences for a period of one year. In order to obtain the waiver, subsection (b) provides, in relevant part, that the Board “may grant a request to an eligible school that requests a waiver or delay under this subsection **if the eligible school demonstrates that a majority of students in the eligible school demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding school year.**” (emphasis added).



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In other words, the Board's ability to grant an eligible school's request for a waiver is contingent upon whether the eligible school satisfies the legal threshold by showing that a majority of students demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding year. Waivers can only be granted for one year; however, a school may return to the Board and ask for a waiver the following year until the school is removed from consequences under the statute.

II. Combined Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

Lakeview is a K-12, nonpublic school that serves approximately 185 students in Marion, Indiana. Because Lakeview has been assigned one of the two lowest letter grades for three (3) consecutive years, absent a waiver, the school's ability to receive choice scholarship funds for new students will be suspended until the school receives two (2) consecutive grades of a "C" or higher.¹ See IC 20-51-4-9(a)(2). Justin Simos, Lakeview's principal, submitted a request for a waiver of consequences based on demonstrated academic improvement by a majority of Lakeview's students during the 2019-2020 school year.

Data from the Indiana Department of Education ("Department") show Lakeview received an "F" (56.9 points) for the 2016-2017 school year, a "D" (63.0 points) for the 2017-2018 school year, and a "D" (69.1 points) for the 2018-2019 school year, showing an improvement in total points in the three (3) years preceding the passage of P.L.2-2020. In light of this demonstrated academic improvement, Lakeview petitioned the Board for and received a waiver from consequences for the current school year.

To determine whether an eligible school has demonstrated that a majority of its students have demonstrated academic improvement, the Board has historically considered three things, each of which is calculated using student-level data from the statewide assessment: whether the eligible school's A-F grade or the total points associated with that grade has increased from one year to the next; a hypothetical letter grade calculated using an N-size of 0; and student growth data. Because the 2019-2020 administration of the statewide assessment was canceled, student-level data is not available. In the absence of student-level data from the statewide assessment, Lakeview has provided the Board with student performance data from its winter administration of I-Ready diagnostic assessments in reading and math. Lakeview has also provided an explanation of the changes the school has made with respect to its curriculum and personnel.

III. Proposed Determination


In limited instances such as this, where student-level data from the statewide assessment is unavailable, academic improvement may be demonstrated through other means. Lakeview has provided student performance data from their winter administration of I-Ready assessments in

¹ Pursuant to P.L.2-2020, Lakeview's 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 letter grades may not be used in the determination of consequences under IC 20-51-4-9. Further, Lakeview's letter grade for the 2020-2021 school year shall be considered Lakeview's letter grade for the school year immediately following the 2017-2018 school year for purposes of applying consequences under IC 20-51-4-9.



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reading and math. That data, coupled with the school's prior demonstrated improvement in total points and student growth on the statewide assessment, demonstrate that a majority of Lakeview's students demonstrated academic improvement during the prior school year, as required under IC 20-51-4-9(b). Therefore, the undersigned recommends Lakeview's waiver request be granted.


Chad E. Ranney
General Counsel
Indiana State Board of Education

To the Indiana State Board of Education,

Lakeview Christian School (B145) hereby request a waiver of consequence per IC 20-51-4-9(b) for the 2020 Hold Harmless A-F Grade. Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Indiana schools, including Lakeview Christian School, were not able to take part in ILEARN and ISTEP student assessments for the 2019-2020 school year and therefore did not have the opportunity to demonstrate growth through such testing. However, data collected from the privately operated diagnostic assessment system, I-Ready, by Curriculum Associates, demonstrates that the majority of students in attendance at Lakeview Christian School demonstrated academic improvement during the 2019-2020 school year. I-Ready by Curriculum Associates is an Indiana Formative Assessment Grant approved partner of the IDOE. In this request of consequence I will highlight changes made to improve the quality of education provided to our students and present the data provided by I-Ready (Curriculum Associates) illustrating student growth during the 2019-2020 school year.

In the spring of 2020, the administration of Lakeview Christian School went before the Board of Education to request a waiver of consequence for the 2018-2019 school year and was granted the waiver due to significant student learning growth that was demonstrated by student assessments. Lakeview Christian School has continued to make changes for the betterment of our students' educational experience.

In the fall of the 2019-20 school year Lakeview Christian School dove into a full curriculum review of the products being used to educate our students in comparison to student success on standardized tests. It was found that the current, mostly private school curriculum, did not align to the IDOE academic standards. Because of this, we believed our students and teachers were put at a disadvantage and therefore, decided to make the needed changes. Beginning in the fall of 2020 Lakeview Christian School switched to I-Ready by Curriculum Associates for both Math and Language Arts in grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade. This decision was made after careful review of curriculum and seeking advice from successful schools and state officials. Our goal was to purchase a curriculum that would do the best job of preparing students to be successful in their educational journey regardless if the company was a Christian-owned company or not. As a school, we believe our mission is to assist students in reaching their greatest potential and we believe I-Ready curriculum will help achieve that mission.

Other significant changes that were made to provide a higher quality of education for the students of Lakeview Christian School included personnel changes. Lakeview hired an assistant principal who not only holds an Indiana Administrators license but has significant experience in teaching struggling students. A highly qualified and experienced school counselor was added to our staff to assist not just with students' emotional needs but a new level of professionalism in tracking student pathway data for

our school. As a school Lakeview has also committed to hiring teachers who hold valid Indiana educators licenses and have graduated from accredited higher educational institutions. For the 2020-21 school year Lakeview Christian School has added two teachers who meet these requirements.

The last point of change I would like to highlight is our new approach to teaching students with greater educational need. As a school we took an honest look at our methods in assisting struggling students and found areas we could improve. One of these areas was a shift from daily work assessments to weekly mastery of standards assessments. This was possible through our new partnership with I-Ready. Not only does I-Ready provide curriculum but standards mastery assessments that teachers can utilize. As a school we have two Title 1 reading specialists, afterschool tutoring, and a summer school program. Even in this unprecedented year we have still been able to continue Title 1 assistance and afterschool tutoring. Lastly, Lakeview Christian School employs two full-time special education teachers to practice push-in and pull-out assistance as the student case warrants.

The following information is from the I-Ready diagnostic growth assessment taken between 12/9/2020 and 12/27/2020. According to I-Ready, there are two important statistics that illustrate student growth: Annual Typical Growth and Annual Stretch Growth.

<p><u>Annual Typical Growth:</u> The average annual growth for a student at this grade and initial placement level.</p>
<p><u>Annual Stretch Growth:</u> An ambitious but attainable level of annual growth which puts below-grade level students on a path towards proficiency and on-grade level students on a path to achieve/maintain advanced proficiency levels.</p>

When looking at these indicators Lakeview Christian School does demonstrates that a majority of students in the eligible school demonstrated academic improvement during the preceding school year of 2019-2020. In December of 2020 the median percent progress toward typical growth for Lakeview Christian School was 84% in the area of Reading. As a school we are very excited to present this data showing tremendous student growth in the 2019-2020 school year. It is also noted as a school we saw significant growth in the Stretch Growth which means our students who began the year behind grade level saw growth. According to the data, 38% of those behind grade level made up 60% of their needed progress or more in the area of Reading. An additional 18% of struggling students made up 40% or more of the needed progress as well.

In the subject of Math, Lakeview Christian the median score only fell 2% below the target of 50% for the December testing as the halfway point. Our median percent progress toward Typical Growth for our school was 48%. When looking at the data class by class I am pleased to say we do see positive

movement among our most at risk groups, those behind grade level at the start of the year. On report three below, data is shown for those students who began the year one, two, three or more grades behind their actual class. In this report one can see that the median Typical Growth of a Lakeview Christian School student who began the school year one grade level behind is 54% The goal for December was 50%. The median for a student who began the school year two grade levels behind is 72% and again the goal was 50%. This means when looking at these two groups of students who started the school year one or two grades behind, a majority of these struggling students have shown improved placement.

The following pages contain three reports:

Report 1: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum AssociatesPage: 4

Winter Diagnostic READING: Comparing August to December by grade.

This report illustrates progress made by Lakeview Christian School students in the month of December. The median percent progress towards Typical Growth for our school was 84%. Typical growth is the average annual growth for a student at their grade and placement level.

Report 2: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum AssociatesPage: 5

Winter Diagnostic MATH: Comparing August to December by grade.

This report illustrates progress made by Lakeview Christian School students in the month of December. The median percent progress towards Typical Growth for our school was 48%. Typical growth is the average annual growth for a student at their grade and placement level.

Report 3: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum AssociatesPage: 6

Winter Diagnostic MATH: Comparing August to December by Initial Placement.

This report illustrates that although the Math score as a school is lower than desired, students who began the school year behind grade level showed considerable growth between August and December.

Report 1: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum Associates

Winter Diagnostic READING: Comparing August to December by grade

i-Ready
Management ▾ Assess & Teach ▾ Reports ▾ Help ▾
Justin Simos ▾

Diagnostic Growth ▾

Subject

Reading ▾

School

LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Key

● ● ●

Academic Year

2019 - 2020 ▾

Comparison Diagnostic

2nd Window 2019 ▾

12/09/19 - 12/27/19

Placement Definition

Standard View ▾

Students Assessed/Total: 147/157

Progress to Annual Typical Growth (Median) [Learn more about growth](#)

84%

The median percent progress towards Typical Growth for this school is 84%. Typical growth is the average annual growth for a student at their grade and placement level.

Distribution of Progress to Annual Typical Growth

% Progress	% Students
<=19	28%
20-39	7%
40-59	6%
60-79	6%
80-99	7%
100+ Met	46%

Distribution of Progress to Annual Stretch Growth

% Progress	% Students
<=19	34%
20-39	10%
40-59	18%
60-79	12%
80-99	8%
100+ Met	18%

Current Placement Distribution

- At Risk for Tier 3
19% (From 33%)
- Tier 2
32% (From 34%)
- Tier 1
49% (From 33%)

Show Results By

Grade ▾

Showing 9 of 9

	Annual Typical Growth ⓘ		Annual Stretch Growth ⓘ		% Students with Improved Placement	Students Assessed/Total
	Progress (Median) ▾	% Met ▾	Progress (Median) ▾	% Met ▾		
Grade K	38%	21%	29%	14%	50%	14/17
Grade 1	76%	42%	57%	8%	67%	12/12
Grade 2	56%	29%	39%	14%	43%	14/14
Grade 3	114%	56%	62%	19%	56%	16/16
Grade 4	108%	55%	60%	18%	45%	22/22
Grade 5	105%	56%	44%	19%	38%	16/17
Grade 6	108%	57%	50%	24%	52%	21/23
Grade 7	10%	35%	4%	13%	35%	23/24
Grade 8	62%	50%	22%	25%	42%	12/12

Report 2: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum Associates

Winter Diagnostic MATH: Comparing August to December by grade

i-Ready
Management ▾ Assess & Teach ▾ Reports ▾ Help ▾
Justin Simos ▾

Diagnostic Growth ▾
PDF CSV

Subject: **Math** School: **LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** Key

Academic Year: **2019 - 2020** Comparison Diagnostic: **2nd Window 2019** Placement Definition: **Standard View**

12/09/19 - 12/27/19

Students Assessed/Total: **146/157**

Progress to Annual Typical Growth (Median) [Learn more about growth](#)

48%

The median percent progress towards Typical Growth for this school is 48%. Typical growth is the average annual growth for a student at their grade and placement level.

Distribution of Progress to Annual Typical Growth

Distribution of Progress to Annual Stretch Growth

Current Placement Distribution

- At Risk for Tier 3
21% (From 28%)
- Tier 2
48% (From 55%)
- Tier 1
31% (From 16%)

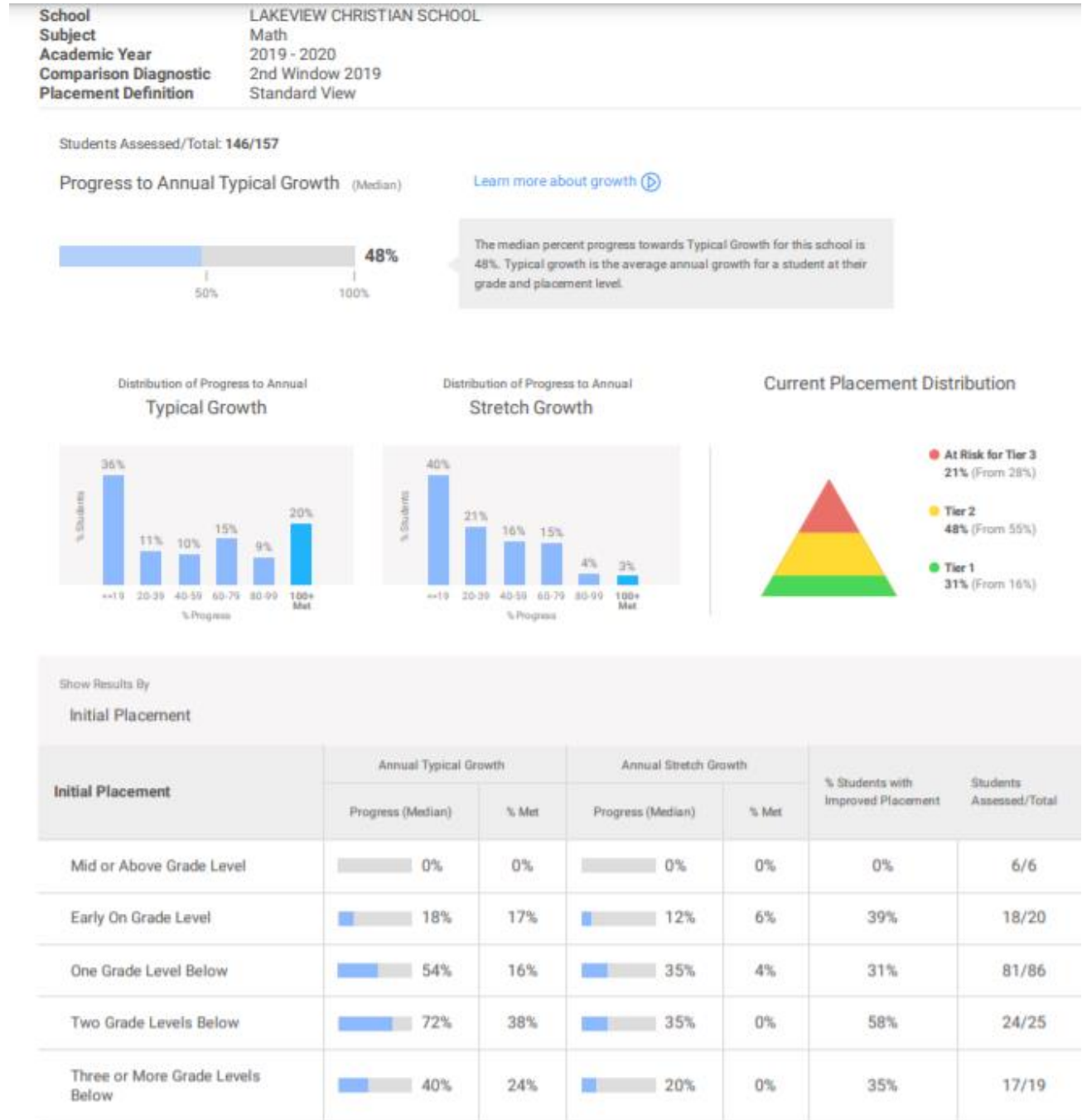
Show Results by: **Grade**

Showing 9 of 9

Grade	Annual Typical Growth ⓘ		Annual Stretch Growth ⓘ		% Students with Improved Placement	Students Assessed/Total
	Progress (Median) ▾	% Met ▾	Progress (Median) ▾	% Met ▾		
Grade K	42%	7%	30%	0%	43%	14/17
Grade 1	46%	17%	33%	8%	50%	12/12
Grade 2	0%	7%	0%	0%	29%	14/14
Grade 3	56%	31%	42%	0%	56%	16/16
Grade 4	61%	23%	41%	0%	55%	22/22
Grade 5	42%	25%	24%	6%	19%	16/17
Grade 6	79%	29%	38%	5%	33%	21/23
Grade 7	0%	19%	0%	5%	14%	21/24
Grade 8	14%	10%	6%	0%	20%	10/12

Report 3: Data from I-Ready by Curriculum Associates

Winter Diagnostic MATH: Comparing August to December by Initial Placement



In conclusion, Lakeview Christian School (B145) hereby request a waiver of consequence per IC 20-51-4-9(b) for the 2020 Hold Harmless A-F Grade. As a school we were looking forward to taking the I-Learn in the Spring of 2020 as we felt confident we were poised to show student growth and regret we were not able to do so. The 2019-2020 school year held many unknowns for the educational community and we appreciate the leadership shown by the IDOE and board of education in this unprecedented year. We believe the I-Ready data illustrates academic improvement during the 2019-2020 school year, especially in the area of Reading. As a school we have also made substantial changes to continue to improve our ability to educate our students. Again, we are looking forward to the I-Learn testing this Spring as we believe our efforts over the past two years will yield higher test scores and perhaps more important than just test scores the ability to show student progress and growth. Your consideration is greatly appreciated on this important decision.

Sincerely,

Justin Simos

Head of School

Lakeview Christian School

Marion, Indiana 46953