



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	Cause No. 04-022020
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 2020-2021 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). Dr. Brian Crouse, 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 prior 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. Further, when an N-size of zero is used to calculate Lakeview’s letter grade for the 2018-2019 school year, Lakeview would receive a “C” with 71.7 total points.

Lakeview’s student growth data provided by the Department show the following:

Grades 3-8

2018/2019 ELA GROWTH			
	LOW	STANDARD	HIGH
Number	32	19	28
Percent	40.5%	24.1%	35.4%

2018/2019 MATH GROWTH			
	LOW	STANDARD	HIGH
Number	26	25	28
Percent	32.9%	31.6%	35.4%

Grade 10

2018/2019 ELA GROWTH			
	LOW	STANDARD	HIGH
Number	■	■	■
Percent	22.2%	44.4%	33.3%

2018/2019 MATH GROWTH			
	LOW	STANDARD	HIGH
Number	■	■	■
Percent	11.1%	44.4%	44.4%

¹ Pursuant to P.L.2-2020, Lakeview’s 2018-2019 letter grade may not be used in the determination of consequences under IC 20-51-4-9.




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As demonstrated by these charts, more than a majority of Lakeview's students have demonstrated standard or high growth in both English/language arts and math in the tested grades.

III. Proposed Determination

Taken together, Lakeview's improvement in total points, the school's grade of C using an N-size of zero, and the school's student growth data 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