



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: McLean Alternative Education Center
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education
RE: Appeal by McLean Alternative Education Center of its 2015-16 Letter Grade
DATE: March 8, 2017

Finding: McLean Alternative Education Center's appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of an "F" grade should be granted.

I. Facts

McLean Alternative Education Center ("McLean"), part of the Vigo County School Corporation, received a letter grade of "F" for the 2015-16 school year. McLean appealed the "F" grade due to concerns regarding the accountability model's application to the population of students it serves.

II. Argument and Analysis

McLean contends that the accountability model does not accurately reflect their student population. McLean is a non-traditional school that provides education to students that have not experienced academic success in a typical school setting due to attendance, behavioral, mental, or other academic challenges. For example, many students attend McLean as a result of an expulsion hearing that occurred at another school or a court placement, and are only enrolled for a very short period of time. Due to the unique nature of McLean's student population, the vast majority of students at McLean were not eligible to be included in the school's performance calculation, leaving the multiple measures as the only domain to calculate the school's grade. Because multiple measures was the only domain available to calculate the school's grade, it is not possible to get an accurate picture of the school.

For the foregoing reasons, McLean's "F" grade should be changed to null, and the appeal should be granted.