



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Ron Sandlin, Senior Director of School Performance & Transformation  
**Date:** June 3, 2020  
**RE:** Greater Clark County Schools Baseline Reset Request (IC 20-19-2-22)

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**Recommendation:** Approve the baseline reset request application submitted by Greater Clark County Schools (1010) for Maple Elementary School (0869) and Spring Hill Elementary School (0877) and direct the Indiana Department of Education to eliminate the school numbers assigned to these two schools and assign Franklin Square Elementary a new school number pursuant to IC 20-19-2-22.

**Background:** State law authorizes the Indiana State Board of Education ("Board"), upon request of a school corporation, to approve the issuance of new school numbers for any school that is currently in operation. The criteria used to evaluate an application for a new school number for an existing school is outlined in Board administrative rule (511 IAC 6.2-10-9).

**Analysis:** When determining whether or not to issue a new school number, Board staff relied on the following three part criteria included in Board rule:

1. an increase or decrease of at least 70% of the student population;
2. a significant change in the educational philosophy, curriculum, or staff; and
3. a change is not being made to avoid accountability.

The application submitted by Greater Clark County Schools explains that Maple Elementary School and Spring Hill Elementary School will both close at the of the 2019-2020 school year and most of the students and staff from each school will merge into a newly built school facility, Franklin Square Elementary School. Although Franklin Square Elementary is a new school, a baseline reset is required in order for the IDOE to assign a new school number. Without a baseline reset, Franklin Square Elementary School would inherit the school number of one of the two merging schools.

Based on a review of the application and evidence submitted by Greater Clark County Schools, Board staff determined the current reconfiguration fulfills all three aspects of the criteria required to approve a baseline reset. Combining the two schools will result in more than an 100% increase in student population and a significant change in staffing. There is also no evidence to conclude this request is being made to avoid accountability given both schools have a history of earning a C rating or better, and the corporation constructed a brand new facility after substantial analysis of the corporations fiscal health.

The full application is included along with this memo.



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Baseline Reset Request for Consequences under IC 20-31-9, IC 20-24-2.2-2, or IC 20-51-4-9

**511 IAC 6.2-10-9 School changes due to opening, reopening, reconfiguring, or redistribution of students; new accountability baselines**

Beginning March 1, 2016, this section applies to schools that:

- open;
- reopen;
- reconfigure; or
- redistribute students.

To obtain a new accountability baseline, an eligible school must clearly demonstrate all of the following criteria:

1. An increase or decrease of at least seventy percent (70%) of the student population from the previous year, either by elimination or addition.
2. A significant change in educational philosophy, curriculum, or staffing.
3. A change is not being made to avoid accountability.

In addition to completing and submitting this application, each applicant must submit accompanying artifacts and evidence to support the request for a baseline reset. These resources should directly relate to the claims made within this application, including changes in educational philosophy, curriculum, or staffing. The application **must include**, at a minimum, copies of meeting minutes or meeting notes from the governing body of the school or corporation during which the referenced changes were discussed. In the case of an accredited

non-public school that is unable to provide meeting minutes or notes due to the structure of the organization, please acknowledge that under Criteria 3 and explicitly reference what the school has submitted in lieu of this requirement.

Supplementary artifacts and evidence should be submitted as electronic files via email, along with the completed request form, to [applications@sboe.in.gov](mailto:applications@sboe.in.gov) with the subject line, *Baseline Reset Request*.

Please complete this section for each school requesting a new baseline.

School Number	School Name	Current Grade Span	New Grade Span (If Applicable)	Most Recent Performance Rating
0877	Spring Hill Elementary	PreK – 5	Closed	C
0869	Maple Elementary School	K – 5	Closed	C
NEW	Franklin Square Elementary School	N/A	PreK – 5	N/A

CRITERIA 1: An increase or decrease of at least seventy percent (70%) of the student population from the previous year, either by elimination or addition. (figures may be based on estimation and informed projections)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
School Name	Previous Enrollment (Avg ADM)	Next Year Projected Enrollment	# Students Eliminated due to reconfiguration	# Students Added due to reconfiguration	Student Population Change Detail (Total Sum should equal column D + E)
Spring Hill Elementary	187	0	187	-	193 to Franklin Square Elementary
Maple Elementary School	170	0	170	-	210 to Franklin Square Elementary
Franklin Square Elementary School	N/A	380	-	380	193 from Spring Hill Elementary 210 from Maple Elementary



Criteria two requires the requesting school corporation to demonstrate a significant change in educational philosophy, curriculum, or staffing. Please submit information for each school under the specific area(s) for which the corporation believes the school has had a significant change.

CRITERIA 2a: Significant change in certified staff at the school.

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
School Name	# Previous Year Staff	# Next Year Projected Staff	# Staff Eliminated due to reconfiguration	# Staff Added due to reconfiguration	Staffing Change Detail (Should equal the sum of column D & E)
Spring Hill Elementary	29.4	0	0	0	14.6 transferred from Spring Hill to Franklin Square 1 principal to Franklin Square
Maple Elementary School	22.5	0	8	0	8 staff members transferred out of Maple Elem 29.5 staff transferred to Franklin Sq 1 Assistant Principal Transferred to a middle school
Franklin Square Elementary School	-	45	0	45	1 Principal from Spring Hill Elem 29.5 staff members from Maple Elem 14.6 Staff Members from Spring Hill

CRITERIA 2b and 2c: Significant change in education philosophy or curriculum. A significant change in education philosophy may be demonstrated in a number of ways; however, must go beyond changes to programming and/or curriculum only.

Column A School Name	Column B Changes in Educational Philosophy	Column C Changes to Curriculum (e.g. implementation of a magnet program, IB, etc)
Spring Hill Elementary	See explanation for Franklin Square Elementary	See explanation for Franklin Square Elementary
Maple Elementary School	See explanation for Franklin Square Elementary	See explanation for Franklin Square Elementary
Franklin Square Elementary School	We are striving to become an innovative school at Franklin Square Elementary focusing on the integration of science, technology, engineering and math disciplines with the goal of deploying problem – based and inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning in the classroom, while developing critical thinking skills and creating strong pathways to postsecondary readiness and career opportunities.	<p>Spring Hill and Maple Elementary Schools implemented a traditional curriculum in the past. Our vision for Franklin Square Elementary is to become an IDOE Certified STEM School where students will experience evidence – based STEM curriculum everyday. We applied for and were awarded the STEM acceleration grant from the IDOE. Our goal is to create non-traditional STEM classrooms that shifts students away from learning discrete bits and pieces of phenomena and rote procedures, and work toward investigating and questioning the interrelated facets of the real world.</p> <p>We will support our teachers by providing them with the professional development they need to successfully implement the new curriculum. We will engage in strategic planning to pursue IDOE STEM Certification for Franklin Square Elementary.</p> <p>In designing this program, we selected PLTW Launch, <a href="http://code.org">code.org</a>, Codelicious, and CS First by Google to help us accomplish our goal to intentionally create meaningful STEM learning experiences for all of our students. PLTW Launch is a PreK-5 module based program that empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. Code.org is an online library of lessons with a specific focus on coding and embedded PD for teachers. <i>Codelicious</i> is an engaging Computer Science program that focuses on coding while building skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and perseverance while reinforcing social and emotional learning competencies. CS First by Google is a computer science</p>



		<p>curriculum that makes coding easy and fun to learn through the use of video based activities with different themes like sports, art and game design. We chose these specific programs because they are engaging and they fit with our overall belief that STEM and Computer Science should be an integrated part of the classroom curriculum.</p> <p>We will strive to develop a student's ability to think logically, solve problems, innovate in both academic and real-world contexts, engage in inquiry and collaborate with peers. Our goal will be to build necessary competencies and connections across all four STEM disciplines. This will require a pedagogical shift in instruction that connects education to students' own interests and experiences.</p> <p>Our Board of Education and administration is committed to this work. In building the new school, our district partnered with the City of Jeffersonville to significantly improve student performance with a state-of-the-art-facility, incorporating STEM education at all levels, engaging local businesses, and adopting new curriculum and instructional practices.</p> <p><b>Projected Implementation Timeline:</b></p> <p>July 2020 - CodeLicious Training for Teachers in Grades K-5 (1 Day in-person Training, on-going Virtual Training)</p> <p>Fall 2020 - PLTW Launch Training for Elementary Teachers</p> <p>August 2020- <a href="https://code.org">Code.org</a> Training for Teachers in Grades K-12 (1 Day in-person Training, on-going Virtual Training)</p> <p>October 2020 - CS First Training for Teachers in Grades 4-8: Level 1 (General) and Level 2 (Subject-Area Integration) (1 Day in-person Training with ongoing virtual support).</p> <p>March 2021 - Vertical Alignment Day (1 Day in-person collaborative meeting) - Teacher representatives from each grade level will meet together to create a vertical alignment of STEM/CS Curriculum. This will create a consistent and clear curriculum alignment to ensure that all our students in Grades K-5 have access to integrated STEM learning opportunities.</p>
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**CRITERIA 3: A change is not being made to Avoid Accountability.**

Please provide a statement ensuring that the change is not being made to avoid accountability. Please reference and submit supplementary artifacts and evidence along with this application which must include, but is not limited to, minutes from all public governing board meetings during which the changes described above were on action or discussion over the past four years. In the case of an accredited non-public school that is unable to provide meeting minutes or notes due to the structure of the organization, please acknowledge that under Criteria 3 and explicitly reference what the school has submitted in lieu of this requirement.

Additional evidence may include a third party facilities study that illustrates an emerging facility need, a fiscal audit demonstrating recent financial burden, a recent population growth that requires reevaluation of school boundaries, a transportation study representing a recent transportation burden, corporation consolidation, or other evidence that supports a recent change in school/corporation circumstance.

***Accountability Statement***

Greater Clark County Schools has been collecting evidence and data for several years to support the closing of Spring Hill and Maple Elementary Schools due to several factors: Facility issues, enrollment declines, and financial challenges. The timeline dates back to 2007 and through several superintendents who explored the idea of closing both schools. Closing the two schools and opening Franklin Square Elementary is by no means a change in our district structure to avoid accountability.

I am providing several documents attached to support these claims above:

- Enrollment Decline - A spreadsheet that illustrates the enrollment decline that exists at both Spring Hill and Maple locations over the past 13 years. This data supports an obvious financial strain from operating two small buildings, each less than 200 students.
- Financial Cost Savings - A document is attached to illustrate the cost savings of merging the two buildings into the new Franklin Square. The financial savings is approximately \$841,000 to the district when the new school opens in July of 2020.
- Facility Assessment 2014 - A facility study was completed in 2014 in Greater Clark County Schools. The data collected and summaries from this study indicate facility issues at both Spring Hill and Maple Elementary schools that justify the need to close the schools. These documents are attached to this application. The report outlines several facility concerns indicating sub-par conditions at both Spring Hill and Maple.
- Board Meeting Minutes dated July 5, 2017 are included to provide the actions taken to approve an elementary transition plan for both Spring Hill and Maple Elementary schools to close. The plan provided for students to transition to a new downtown elementary school (Franklin Square) as early as the 2019 – 2020 school year if a partnership with the City of Jeffersonville was successful and a provision to transfer the students from these two buildings to existing schools if the plan with the city was unsuccessful.
- Board Meeting Hearing Minutes dated January 23, 2018, January 30, 2018 and February 6, 2018 are attached as well to give the



public an opportunity to share objections and support for the construction of a new downtown school to improve educational facilities.

- In July of 2019 – Dr. Thomas Keeley provided a Fiscal Review of the district which includes recommendations on our facility plans and infrastructure and maintenance needs as well as other financial concerns we have been facing that warranted our quest to close Maple and Spring Hill and merge them into a new Franklin Square School.

***Facility Study 2014 in its entirety***

Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2tus7eisxclwxx3/GCCS%20Assessment%20Book.pdf?dl=0>

Corporation or Non-public Name:

*Greater Clark County Schools*

Superintendent or Designee Name:

*Kimberly C. Hartlage*

Superintendent or Designee Signature:

*Kimberly C. Hartlage*

Date:

*5/26/2020*

*Email completed form to [applications@sboe.in.gov](mailto:applications@sboe.in.gov) with the subject line Baseline Reset Request*

