



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Mr. Mike Keaffaber, Superintendent, M.S.D. of Wabash County; Mr. Troy Friedersdorf, Principal,  
White's Jr. Sr. High School  
FROM: Brian Murphy, acting Hearing Officer  
RE: White's Jr. Sr. High School, 2015–16 Letter Grade  
DATE: January 20, 2017

**Finding:** White's Jr. Sr. High School should be given a "no grade" designation for 2015–16.

## I. Facts

White's Jr. Sr. High School ("WJHS") filed an appeal of an F grade for 2015-2016. WJHS serves grades 6-12, and has received a "no grade" designation since its inception. The school received a "no grade" in prior years because it did not have enough students to meet the minimum n-sizes for performance, growth, and multiple measures domains. However, the new accountability rule, which became effective for the 15-16 year, states that performance, growth, and multiple measures domains aggregate back to prior years until there is a sufficient n-size. See 511 Ind. Admin. Code §§ 6.2-10-4(b) and (c), 6.2-10-5(b) and (c) and 6.2-10-6(b) and (c).

In this case, the multiple measures domain was the only domain that could be aggregated backwards to create a sufficient n-size, so the school's F grade designation for 15-16 was based solely on college and career readiness and graduation rate calculations. Cynthia Roach, the State Board's Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment, noted that the reason there were insufficient n-sizes for performance and growth, even with the 'aggregate back' provision, is that WJHS is on the grounds of White's Residential and Family Services, and many of the students in attendance are placed by DOC, DCS, and DOE, and are not enrolled the minimum required 162 days per year to be included in the calculations. See 511 IAC 6.2-10-1(15) ("Eligible Student" is defined as a student that "was enrolled at the school for at least one hundred sixty-two (162) days in the accountable year").

## II. Argument and Analysis

WJHS argues that only using the multiple measures domain, aggregated backwards, does not accurately portray the school. I agree.

Ms. Roach stated:

While the rule was designed to allow for Multiple Measures to be a stand-alone domain, the intent was to allow for school corporations who had an upper grades high school consisting of only Grades 11 and 12 to be able to receive a grade. In the case of White's Jr-Sr High School, this school enrolls students in Grades 6-12, and without the ability to include both performance and growth in the calculations for those students in Grades 6-10, it is really not possible to get an accurate picture of this school.

WJHS also inquired about the effect this decision could have on the corporation grade. It would not have an effect. Corporation grades are calculated based on data of each individual student in the corporation, not, for example, on the average aggregate grades of each school. Therefore, the issue

that necessitates a change in grade for WJHS – that an F grade based only on the multiple measures domain unfairly represents the school – does not result in the same concern for the corporation.

For the foregoing reasons, WJHS's F grade should be changed to a "no grade", and the "no grade" should be published in accordance with IC 20-31-8-6(b). The corporation grade is not affected by this decision.