



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Bernice A. N. Corley, General Counsel, IDOE

RE: HEA 1427 and Department guidance regarding 2nd Grade

Per HEA 1427, the State Board of Education, after May 15, 2013, “may take no further actions to implement. . .” common core standards. However, the bill makes clear that common core standards adopted *prior* to May 15, 2013 “remain in effect.” In August 2010, the Indiana State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the common core standards. The Board’s action permitted schools to adopt common core standards for all k-12 grades. After the Board’s action in 2010, the Department posted guidance which suggested a timeline schools should follow with respect to implementation of common core for each grade level. The purpose of the guidance was to ensure alignment between standards taught at a grade level and the assessments thereto. Schools were free to follow the guidance or accelerate the adoption of common core.

After HEA 1427, the Department modified its guidance regarding implementation of common core. The Department recommended that for the 2013-2014 school year, 2nd grade students should continue to be taught identified indicators under the Indiana Academic Standards as well as the CCSS in these subjects. This is a change from previous IDOE transition guidance, which stated 2nd grade students should be taught only the CCSS in E/LA and mathematics during the 2013-2014 school year. The reason for the change in guidance for implementation for 2nd grade is that HEA 1427 also requires that for the 2013-2015 biennium, ISTEP be administered. If the schools teach common core only to 2nd graders, the standards taught would not be aligned to the assessment given during 2014-2015, when the 2nd graders are to take the 3rd grade ISTEP.

DOE’s guidance does not conflict with HEA 1427. The guidance offered supports continued teaching of common core.