



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Gary Middle College  
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education  
RE: Appeal by Gary Middle College of its 2015-16 Letter Grade  
DATE: April 5, 2017

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**Finding:** Gary Middle College's appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of an "F" grade should be granted.

## I. Facts

Gary Middle College ("GMC"), a public charter school serving grades 9-12, received a letter grade of "F" for the 2015-16 school year. GMC appealed the "F" grade due to concerns regarding the failure to designate GMC as an Adult High School and the weights associated with the College and Career Readiness ("CCR") and Graduation Rate Calculation ("GRC") goals contained 511 IAC 6.3.

## II. Argument and Analysis

Adult High School: GMC contends that it fits the requirements for the Adult High School and should be graded using that model. As part of the appeal process, the State Board of Education's ("Board") Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment reviewed the calculation of GMC's grade using the Adult High School model. Upon review of GMC's data points, it was determined that it would be appropriate to calculate the GMC's category placement utilizing the Adult High School model. However, applying the Adult High School model does not alter the school's overall grade.

College and Career Readiness and Graduation Rate Adjustment: GMC also requests that its CCR and GRC goals under the new Adult High School model should be adjusted for the 2015-16 school year. In support of GMC's request, the school noted that the CCR goal contained in the new Adult High School model became effective in the middle of the 2015-16 school year. GMC contends that due to the mid-year enactment of the revised regulation, the new model was applied to students that had already graduated. Thus, GMC's category placement was negatively impacted as the school had to apply the new model to students who no longer attended the school. Additionally, as the new rule became effective in the middle of the 2015-16 school year, it was impractical for GMC to implement the revised CCR and GRC requirements contained in the new Adult High School model during that school year. While it is not appropriate to revise the CCR and GRC goals for only one school, GMC has demonstrated that its category placement was negatively impacted by the new Adult High School model becoming effective during the school year.

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