

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 25, 2017

Dear Dr. Folks & Mr. Houser:

On April 19, 2017, the Department's Office of Assessment received communication from your staff that all students at New Haven Middle School utilized a calculator on a non-calculator section of the ISTEP+ mathematics assessment due to inaccurate guidance from the State's testing vendor, Pearson. The Department recognizes your concern regarding the test administration and impact this incident may have on your School's accountability for the 2016-17 school year. The intent of this letter is to provide up-to-date information, and an outline of next steps for the School and the Department.

As an initial step, we request that New Haven Middle School complete the attached form ("Testing Irregularity Report"). Completion of this form will ensure the Department may appropriately follow up with Pearson regarding this matter. This form, and any questions regarding this form, should be completed and submitted to inassessment@doe.in.gov within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving this letter.

The invalidation of assessment results due to administration issues may have an impact on a school's accountability grade. Below, the Department has outlined the components of accountability that utilize statewide assessment scores, and how invalidated assessment results may or may not affect accountability for your School.

- **Performance Domain = 50% of overall grade**
 - **Proficiency Rates:** The proficiency rates for English/language arts and Mathematics assessments are weighted equally to produce the performance domain score. These proficiency rate calculations include only students with a valid test result. Therefore, the students with invalidated results on the Mathematics assessment will not be included in the proficiency rate calculation (neither numerator nor denominator).
 - **Participation Rates:** The proficiency rates for each subject area are weighted based on the respective participation rates. Students with invalidated results are, per the administrative rule, considered to be non-participants. Therefore, the students with invalidated results on the Mathematics assessment will be included in the participation rate denominator, but not the numerator. The Department is in the process of contacting the US Department of Education to confirm that the State may take action to remove these students from the participation rate calculation entirely to ensure that the school is not negatively impacted in participation.
- **Growth Domain = 50% of overall grade**
 - **For 2016/17:** The growth scores for English/language arts and Mathematics are weighted equally to produce the growth domain score. A growth score can only be determined for students that have two consecutive years of valid test results in the subject area. Therefore, the students with invalidated results on the

115 W. Washington Street ■ South Tower, Suite 600 ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mathematics assessment will not be included in the growth calculation (neither numerator nor denominator).

- For 2017/2018: Because growth requires two consecutive years of valid test results, students that received an invalid test result in 2016/2017 for Mathematics will not receive a growth score for 2017/18.

The Department recognizes that the School may have a high volume of invalidated Mathematics test results, which in turn leaves proficiency rates and growth scores to be based on a small subset of the overall School population. The Department does not have any authority to address or rectify this concern; however, the State Board of Education conducts an appeals process for schools that believe the final A-F letter grade does not accurately reflect the school's performance, growth, or multiple measures, as applicable. The School may wish to submit an appeal to the State Board to address the impact these invalidated test results may have on the School's accountability placement. This appeals process will not occur until 2016-17 A-F grades have been calculated. The Department will ensure that the School is aware of this opportunity when the time comes.

Please know that the Department is acting with a heightened sense of urgency regarding this matter so that all parties see prompt resolution. The Department is also devoted to continued support for your School and District. Therefore, do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions related to the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charity Flores
Director of Assessment
Indiana Department of Education
Phone: (317) 232-9051
Email: cflores@doe.in.gov

Maggie Paino
Director of Accountability
Indiana Department of Education
Phone: (317) 232-9185
Email: mpaino@doe.in.gov