



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Lowell Middle School
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education
RE: Appeal by Lowell Middle School of its 2015-16 Letter Grade
DATE: March 8, 2017

Finding: Lowell Middle School's appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of a "B" grade should be denied.

I. Facts

Lowell Middle School ("Lowell"), part of the Tri-Creek School Corporation, received a letter grade of "B" for the 2015-16 school year. Lowell appealed the "B" grade due to concerns regarding the scoring of individual student assessments and the rescore request process.

II. Argument and Analysis

Scoring of individual student assessments: Lowell contends that its review of student assessment results identified multiple examples of scoring issues regarding 2015-16 assessments. As part of the appeal process, the State Board of Education's ("Board") Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment reviewed the examples provided by Lowell. Upon review, it was concluded that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that this appeal should be granted.

Insufficient number of rescore requests: Lowell also contended that there were too few rescore requests submitted by parents. This concern is actually two-fold. First, Lowell contends that the rescore process is time-consuming for parents to complete. Second, Lowell asserts that school administrators and educators should be permitted to request rescoring.

Regarding the first concern, the amount of time required to submit a rescore is not relevant for determining whether or not the school grade accurately reflects the school's performance.

In regards to the second concern, the law during the 2015-16 school year did not permit schools to request a rescore. Only parents could request rescoring. Thus, Lowell's contention that its appeal should be granted due to its inability to request rescoring lacks legal support.

For the forgoing reasons, Lowell's "B" grade should not be altered, and the appeal should be denied.