



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

September 23, 2013

Richmond Community School Board Of School Trustees
Richmond Community Schools
300 Hub Etchison Parkway
Richmond, IN 47374-5339

Dear Richmond Community School Board Of School Trustees:

Thank you for contacting Governor Pence regarding the A-F grading system for schools. He appreciates the time you took to express your views.

A bipartisan task force was recently charged with examining Indiana's A-F School Accountability Model. John Grew and Bill Sheldrake conducted a thorough review and issued their report on September 6, 2013. While the Grew-Sheldrake review found that there were some issues due to the complexity of implementing a new accountability system and the transparency with which the Department handled the process, it also found that changes that were made to the grading scale that led to the Christel House receiving an "A" were "plausible" and were "consistently applied to other schools with similar circumstances" as Christel House Academy. A copy of the full report may be found at http://www.in.gov/legislative/pdf/Accountability_Model_Exam.pdf.

Governor Pence, along with the Indiana Senate, House of Representatives, and Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a panel that will work on a fair system of accountability that all Hoosier students, families, teachers, and education administrators can embrace with confidence. The Accountability System Review Panel will consist of 17 members. The Senate, House, Governor and the Indiana Department of Education have each named four members to the panel with Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz serving as co-chair of the group. The Accountability System Review Panel is required to compile a final report with recommendations in regard to the A-F accountability system no later than November 1, 2013.

Governor Pence announced Jim Snapp, Robert Lugo, Casandra McLeod, and Claire Fiddian-Green as his appointments to the Accountability System Review Panel on September 4. You may find more information regarding the governor's appointments to the panel at http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=124000&information_id=187553&type=&syndicate=syndicate.

Governor Pence believes in accountability and thinks that students, parents and teachers deserve to know our state has a fair and impartial grading system that accurately


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describes the performances of our schools. The Accountability System Review Panel will provide the necessary perspective and insight to create a fair system that all Hoosier students, families, teachers and education administrators can embrace with confidence.

Again, thank you for contacting Governor Pence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Kane', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kristen Kane
Constituent Services Representative
Office of the Governor