

Administrative Memo

Date: May 24, 2016

To: School Administrators

From: Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator, School Improvement, Office of Quality Schools

Subject: QS-16-005 - Application of “Hold Harmless” Policy within 2016 Annual Performance Report

As communicated by administrative memo QS-16-004, the Department will apply a “hold harmless” policy when calculating new English language arts and mathematics assessment data within Standards 1 and 2 of the 2016 Annual Performance Report (APR). This policy ensures that districts do not experience a drop in accreditation based on data derived from new assessments. However, this policy does not assure an elevated accreditation for unaccredited or provisionally accredited districts that carry forward a prior year’s point total within the current year’s APR.

For example, if a provisionally accredited district were to perform within the accredited status range while carrying forth 2014 English language arts and mathematics point totals, the Department cannot guarantee that the district in question would be recommended for an elevated accreditation. In these cases, the Department will formulate an accreditation recommendation based upon a close inspection of multiple years of data. This approach permits the Department to examine any current trends that may not be immediately apparent when solely weighing point totals carried forth from prior years.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please email msip@dese.mo.gov or call 573-751-4426.