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COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
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2014 Indiana "A" School Corporation

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February 23, 2015

The Honorable Mike Pence
Office of the Governor
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Pence:

With increased student learning a top priority for our public schools, the 2015 ISTEP "debacle" continues. After a year of preparing a test by CTBS to match untested Indiana standards and now penetrating the integrity of the test by artificially diminishing times by students taking different forms of such, our students, staff members and schools reputations will be critically harmed. There is no way any consultant can wave a magic wand and dissect a test to do something it was not created to do. The 2015 ISTEP lacks any credibility to grade our students, their learning growth, our staff, and/or our schools. Please insure this does not happen by admitting this catastrophe and moving on.

It is clear that Indiana is not capable of executing a statewide test that provides learning growth by students prior to the end of the school year. This is evidenced by years of providing results the following school year. Please move the entire 2016 test to the end of the school year, April and May, to allow for quality teaching time particularly with weather conditions that cancel much student learning time in Indiana. It is time we admit that our current system will not work to give students, parents, and staff members the growth information prior to the next school year as was originally promoted years ago.

As a review, please recognize the adult driven errors in our system and do not label our students, parents, teachers, and schools this 2015 school year. In the future, move the test back to allow increased quality instruction prior to the test, as there has been no evidence, in Indiana, to support us being able to use the data prior to the next school year as it was originally intended.

Professionally Yours,

Dr. Judith DeMuth
Superintendent