



The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in collaboration with the Indiana Middle Level Education Association (**IMLEA**) and partners: Indiana Association of School Principals (**IASP**), Indiana Department of Education, Lilly Endowment, MSD Decatur Township

## *Indiana Schools to Watch*<sup>®</sup> 2011-2012 Application

Your school is invited to demonstrate its progress in becoming a high-performing middle level school by applying for this prestigious recognition. Schools To Watch are schools that are

- **Academically Excellent.** These schools challenge all students to use their minds well.
- **Developmentally Responsive.** These schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
- **Socially Equitable.** These schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.
- **Organizational Structures and Processes.** These schools are a learning organization that establishes norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence.

Selected schools will be featured in state and national publications, and may be visited by educators from around the country looking to see where “things are being done right.” Schools will serve as a model for other schools using the Schools to Watch Criteria to guide school improvement and reform. Schools visited by the selection committee but not selected for Schools To Watch recognition will be offered a follow-up visit to discuss particular strengths and challenges of the school and ways in which IMLEA can assist the school in its efforts to meet the criteria. After a year of implementing changes the school can re-apply for recognition.

Please return the attached application to Shirley Wright at [imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org) by Nov. 30, 2011.. Call IMLEA if you have any questions at 317-894-2937. We look forward to receiving your application!

## National Forum to Accelerate Middle-grades Reform Indiana Schools To Watch® Application

School Name:					
School Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone:		Fax:		Website:	
Name of Principal				E-mail:	
School District:					

Members of Application Writing Team & Position in School	

### Narrative—Tell Us What Makes Your School a “School To Watch”

Attach up to an **eight-page** narrative that describes how your school is making its way toward becoming a high-performing middle-grades school. Write a two-page narrative for each component

- *academically excellent;*
- *developmentally responsive;*
- *socially equitable; and*
- *Organizational structure.*

Match the sequence of your narrative to the numbered criterion of each component. Specific examples of how your school addresses each criterion should be outlined within each section of the narrative. For example, Academic Excellence criterion should be outlined as AE1, AE2, etc.

***Providing evidence is the key.***

Write an **additional two-page** narrative (entire narrative not to exceed 10 pages) on your school’s plans for the future based on your staff’s collaborative analysis and discussion including answers to the following questions.

- What overall progress have you made in student achievement scores over the past several years?
- What are your ISTEP+ performance trends over the last five years?
- Did your school make AYP? If not, what area(s) did you miss, and what are your plans for making AYP this year?
- What PL221 category is the school and what is the % of increase or decrease? Explain.
- Provide and discuss additional assessment data used by your school to triangulate the data.
- Summarize your current strategic plan for school improvement.



**Please insert your narrative here.**



**Please insert your completed self-study rubric here.**



**For the 2010-2011 school year:**

1. What grades are included in your school?	
2. What is your total anticipated school enrollment?	
3. What is the total number of students in your school district?	

**Documentation of Your School’s Academic Performance**

Attach a copy of the documentation of your school’s performance on the state’s end-of-grade tests for the past three years. The documentation should include the following:

- Three years of AYP results including all subgroups.
- Three years of state ISTEP+ Reports including sub-groups.
- PL221 placement category and % of increase or decrease.
- Other assessment documentation used by your school

Schools must have three years of test data in order to apply for recognition.

 <b>Please insert your test data here.</b> 
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**Additional Demographic Information**

Answer the following questions for all students in each grade of your school for the 2010-2011 school year as reported in September to DOE:

	Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent								
<b>African American</b>												
<b>Asian</b>												
<b>Latino/ Hispanic</b>												
<b>Native American</b>												
<b>Caucasian</b>												
<b>Multiracial</b>												
<b>Other</b>												

	Number	Percent
• Number and percent of total students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:		
• Number and percent of total students who speak English as a second language:		
• Number and categories of total special education students:	Number	Categories



What percentage of your students was not promoted to the next grade during the last school year?

	Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent								
<b>African American</b>												
<b>Asian</b>												
<b>Latino/ Hispanic</b>												
<b>Native American</b>												
<b>Caucasian</b>												
<b>Multiracial</b>												
<b>Other</b>												

What was the average absentee rate (percent of all students) in your school during the 2010-2011 school year?	
What is your current mobility rate?	
Explain any significant changes in your student population with regard to demographics or socio-economic status in the last five years.	
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**Staff information**

Number of full-time certified staff \_\_\_\_\_

Number of full-time certified staff with advanced degrees \_\_\_\_\_

Number of full-time certified staff with National Board Certification \_\_\_\_\_

Length of service for full-time certified staff at your school

- 0-3 years \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-6 years \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-10 years \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-15 years \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 and above years \_\_\_\_\_

What was the average absentee rate of teachers (percentage of ALL teachers) in your school during the 2010-2011 school year? \_\_\_\_\_

How long has your administrative staff been in place at the school?

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**What was the suspension rate for the 2010-2011 school year? Please clarify whether data reflect incidents or students.**

	<b>In-School Suspensions</b>				<b>Out of School Suspensions</b>			
	<b>1-10 Days</b>		<b>10+ Days</b>		<b>1-10 Days</b>		<b>10+ Days</b>	
	Number of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Cases (Duplicated Count)	Number of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Cases (Duplicated Count)	Number of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Cases (Duplicated Count)	Number of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Cases (Duplicated Count)
<b>African American</b>								
<b>Asian</b>								
<b>Latino/ Hispanic</b>								
<b>Native American</b>								
<b>Caucasian</b>								
<b>Multiracial</b>								
<b>Other</b>								
<p><b>Write a paragraph that will help us understand your school's suspension data.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>								
<p><b>You may attach up to one page of supporting information to clarify any portion of this application. Please be sure to refer to the Schools To Watch Criteria attached to this application in framing your answers. Please watch space requirements. Videos, PowerPoint presentations, scrapbooks, or other supporting material will NOT be considered.</b></p>								

## Signature and Permission

I give permission to the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform and the Indiana Middle Level Education Association to publish the information and materials included in this application on their websites in order to help other schools move toward high performance. I understand that selection committee members will conduct a site visit to my school in January of 2012 and I will gladly host such a visit. Furthermore, if my school is selected as a "School to Watch," a documentation team may visit the school during the spring of 2012 in order to gather further information for a case study. My staff and I will cooperate in the data-gathering effort to the fullest extent possible and will assist in obtaining the necessary releases for the case study. I recognize that being selected as a "School to Watch" may result in an increase of outside visitors and publicity. We are prepared to share our knowledge and experience with others in order to accelerate middle-grades reform.

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Principal's Signature

Date

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Superintendent/Designee's Signature

Date

Please list your Schools To Watch Application Team and provide signatures

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Signature

Position

Date

## Return Your Completed Application

*Please e-mail one copy of the completed application to:*

Shirley Wright

IMLEA

[imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org)

**All applications must be received by November 30, 2011.**

Thank you for helping to strengthen middle-grades schools by taking the time to complete this application.