

# Superintendent News

WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
ADMINISTRATION CENTER

This Edition:

Warrick County School  
Corporation Earns an A  
Grade for 2013

12 of 16 Schools Earn an A  
Grade for 2013

## School Grades Finally Released

## January 3, 2014

School accountability grades were finally released, and I'm proud to report the Warrick County School Corporation once again earned an A grade. It's also a pleasure to report 12 of our 16 schools also earned an A grade as determined by the Indiana Department of Education. I want to personally thank our students, teachers, and parents for all their hard work in earning these high marks. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the School Board, building administrators, and all support staff personnel for their contributions in making our schools great places for kids to learn. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all the Warrick County businesses, officials, organizations, and patrons who support our mission and are keys to our success. As your superintendent, I recognize and understand that it takes everyone working together for our students to achieve greatness. For all you do, a sincere and heartfelt Thank You!

While we are pleased to have earned an A grade, know that we are not satisfied and will continue to improve our schools and instructional practices and programs. Teachers and administrators will now begin the tedious task of reviewing, analyzing, and studying the data that comes with the ISTEP+ tests. School Improvement teams will make adjustments to programs, scheduling, lesson plans, and any other aspect of the curriculum that may improve student achievement. Delays in releasing this year's grades have put school officials under the gun, as ISTEP+ testing will begin in April, giving us little time to develop and implement those changes. Also know that while we understand the importance of these grades and test scores, the WCSC is committed to teaching our students more than just "test material." Our mission and focus on providing all students with a well-rounded education will not be sacrificed just to raise test scores. Our kids deserve that!

In the coming months legislatures will consider more changes to our public education system. Most of the proposals will revolve around increasing the number of charter schools, even though charter schools recorded some of the worst ISTEP+ scores in the state last year. It should also be noted that the charter school at the center of the Tony Bennett scandal last summer, Christel House, earned an F grade in 2013. You will recall Christel House was Dr. Bennett's shining example of the educational improvements charter schools could provide Indiana students. Even with that data readily available, our governor and some of our legislators are proposing we increase the number of charter schools in our state. Also know they are proposing to subsidize charter schools up to \$12,000.00 per teacher. That's your tax dollars subsidizing charter schools that are FOR PROFIT! Please contact your local representative and ask them to stop wasting tax dollars on charter schools and vouchers. Ask them to instead invest that money in our public schools instead of for-profit charter schools based in Florida. Hoosiers deserve better! Our kids deserve better! In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a 2014 filled with health, happiness, and joy.

Brad Schneider, Superintendent, Warrick County School Corporation