



IAHE ACTION  
P.O. Box 80121  
Indianapolis, IN 46280

**Protecting Homeschool Freedom for the Next Generation.**

May 13, 2016

Mr. Dan Zylstra, Principal  
West Central Elementary School  
1842 South U.S. Highway 421  
Francesville, IN 47946

Dear Principal Zylstra,

By way of introduction, Indiana Association of Home Educators Action is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators. As a homeschool advocacy organization in the state of Indiana, we act as a liaison with state and federal agencies in regard to issues related to home education. The Indiana Department of Education frequently refers calls received by that agency to our sister organization, Indiana Association of Home Educators to give guidance to those who are considering home education.

We have received an inquiry from the parent of a child formerly enrolled in West Central Elementary School. The parent asked us if the Withdrawal from public school and transfer to a non-accredited, nonpublic school located in Indiana form was required to be signed to transfer the student to a home school. The Indiana Association of Home Educators, whom has been serving Indiana home educators since 1983, recommends parents send a letter to the school at the time of transfer to a home school. The parent had sent a letter to the school and had already transferred her child to home by the time she received the form.

Indiana Code 20-33-2-28.6 provides the following:

- (a) **This section applies to a high school student who is transferring to a non-accredited nonpublic school.**
- (b) Before a student withdraws from a public school, the principal of the student's school shall provide to the student and to the student's parent information on a form developed by the department and approved by the state board that explains the legal requirements of attending a non-accredited nonpublic school located in Indiana. The principal and a parent of the student shall both sign the form to acknowledge that the parent understands the content of the form.
- (c) If the parent of the student refuses to sign the form provided by the principal under subsection (b), the student is considered a dropout and the principal shall report the student to the bureau of motor vehicles for action under section 28.5(g) of this chapter. The student is considered a dropout for purposes of calculating a high school's graduation rate under IC 20-26-13-10. (emphasis added)

We have sought and received a legal opinion on this matter from The Law Office of Blair Todd. Mr. Todd has reviewed the above statute and concluded that the form that the parent presented to us is only to be used by a high school student. It is not required for elementary aged students. A copy of Mr. Todd's opinion letter has been attached to this letter for your reference.

Sincerely,

Debi Ketron

cc: Mr. Ron Sandlin, Office of Governor Pence; Ms. Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction; State Senator Dennis Kruse; State Representative Robert Behning; Indiana Association of Home Educators, homeschoolers of the state of Indiana