

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Jennifer McCormick State Superintendent of Public Instruction Indiana Department of Education South Tower, Suite 600 115 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

December 30, 2019

Dear Superintendent McCormick:

Thank you for your participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (the Department) assessment peer review process under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). I appreciate the efforts of the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to prepare for the peer review, which occurred in August 2019. Specifically, IDOE submitted evidence regarding its general high school assessment in reading/language arts and mathematics.

State assessment systems provide essential information that States, districts, principals and teachers can use to identify the academic needs of students, target resources and supports toward students who need them most, evaluate school and program effectiveness and close achievement gaps among students. A high-quality assessment system also provides useful information to parents about their children's advancement against and achievement of grade-level standards. The Department's peer review of State assessment systems is designed to provide feedback to States to support the development and administration of high-quality assessments.

External peer reviewers and Department staff carefully evaluated IDOE's submission and the Department found, based on the evidence received, that the components of your assessment system meet many, but not all, of the statutory and regulatory requirements of sections 1111(b)(1) and (2) of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA. Based on the recommendations from this peer review and our own analysis of the State's submission, I have determined the following:

• Reading/language arts (R/LA) and mathematics general assessments in high school (ISTEP+): Substantially meets requirements of the ESEA, as amended by the NCLB and the ESSA.

Substantially meets requirements means that these components meet most of the requirements of the statute and regulations but some additional information is required. The specific list of items required for IDOE to submit is enclosed with this letter. Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, IDOE must provide to the Department a plan and timeline by which it will submit the additional documentation. If adequate progress is not made in providing this information, the Department may take additional action.

The full peer review notes from the review are enclosed. These recommendations to the Department formed the basis of our determination. Please note that the peers' recommendations may differ from the

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Department's feedback; we encourage you to read the full peer notes for additional suggestions and recommendations for improving your assessment system beyond what is noted in the Department's feedback. Department staff will reach out to your assessment director in the next few days to discuss the peer notes and the Department's determination and to answer any questions you have.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for all students. I look forward to our continued partnership as we move ahead with this critical work. I appreciate the work you are doing to improve your schools and provide a high-quality education for your students.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff at: <u>OESE.Assessment@ed.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures

cc: Charity Flores, Director, Assessment Kristine David, Assistant Director, Assessment

Critical Elements Where Additional Evidence is Needed to Meet the Requirements for Indiana's Use of the ISTEP+

Critical Element	Evidence Needed	
2.1 – Test Design and	For the ISTEP+ R/LA and mathematics tests in high school:	
Development	• Evidence that tests are designed to assess the full range of the State's academic content standards (e.g., evidence that the tests do not systematically exclude content in the content standards from the assessments) and address the depth and complexity found within the content standards.	
3.1 – Overall Validity,	For the ISTEP+ R/LA in high school:	
including Validity Based on Content	 Description of a systematic process and timeline the State will implement to address specific gaps and/or weaknesses identified in the alignment studies submitted by the State (e.g., the alignment of the rigor of the ISTEP tests with State academic content standards as measured by depth of knowledge (DOK classification)). 	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Peer Review of State Assessment Systems

August 2019 State Assessment Peer Review Notes



U. S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Washington, D.C. 20202

Note: Peer review notes provide the combined recommendations of the individual peers to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), based on the statute and regulations, the Department's peer review guidance, and the peers' professional judgement of the evidence submitted by the State. These assessment peer review notes, however, do not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for assessment peer review. Although the peer notes inform the Secretary's consideration of each State's assessment system, the Department makes the final decision regarding whether the assessment system meets the requirements in the statute and regulations. As a result, these peer notes may not completely align with the final determination made by the Department. Contents

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SECTION 1: STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
For academic content standards:		Not applicable because previously met.
The State formally adopted challenging academic content standards for all students in reading/language arts, mathematics and science and applies its academic content standards to all public schools and public school students in the State.		
Section 1.1 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
 The following additional evidence is no [list additional evidence needed w/ 	1	

Critical Element 1.1 – State Adoption of Academic Content Standards for All Students

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
For academic content standards: The State's challenging academic content standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science are aligned with entrance requirements for credit-bearing coursework in the system of public higher education in the State and relevant State career and technical education standards.		Not applicable.
Section 1.2 Summary Statement		·
 No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is ne [list additional evidence needed w/ 	-	

Critical Element 1.2 – Challenging Academic Content Standards

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State's assessment system includes	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Not applicable.
annual general and alternate assessments		
aligned with grade-level academic		
achievement standards or alternate		
academic achievement standards in:		
• Reading/language arts (R/LA) and		
mathematics in each of grades 3-8		
and at least once in high school		
(grades 9-12);		
• Science at least once in each of three		
grade spans (3-5, 6-9 and 10-12).		
AND		
The State's academic content		
assessments must be the same		
assessments administered to all students		
in the tested grades, with the following		
exceptions:		
• Students with the most significant		
cognitive disabilities may take an		
alternate assessment aligned with		
alternate academic achievement		
standards.		
• A State may permit an LEA to		
administer a nationally recognized		
high school academic assessment in		
lieu of the State high school		
assessment if certain conditions are		
 A State that administers an end-of-		
• A State that administers an end-of- course high school mathematics		
assessment may exempt an 8 th grade		
student from the mathematics		
assessment typically administered in		
assessment typically administered in		

Critical Element 1.3 – Required Assessments

 eighth grade and allow the student to take the State end-of-course mathematics test instead. The Department may have approved the State, under the Innovative 	
Assessment Demonstration Authority, to permit students in some	
LEAs to participate in a	
demonstration assessment system in	
lieu of participating in the State	
assessment.	
Section 1.3 Summary Statement	
No additional evidence is required or	
The following additional evidence is ne • [list additional evidence needed w/	

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State requires the inclusion of all	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Not applicable.
bublic elementary and secondary school		
tudents in its assessment system and		
learly and consistently communicates		
his requirement to districts and schools.		
For students with disabilities, policies		
state that all students with disabilities		
in the State, including those children		
with disabilities publicly placed in		
private schools as a means of		
providing special education and		
related services, must be included in		
the assessment system;		
For ELs:		
• Policies state that all ELs must		
be included in all aspects of the		
content assessment system,		
unless the State has chosen the		
statutory option for recently		
arrived ELs under which such		
ELs are exempt from one		
administration of its reading/		
language arts assessment.		
• If a State has developed native		
language assessments for ELs in		
R/LA, ELs must be assessed in		
R/LA in English if they have		
been enrolled in U.S. schools for		
three or more consecutive years,		
except, if a district determines,		
on a case-by-case basis, that		
native language assessments		
would yield more accurate and		
reliable information, the district		
may assess a student with native		
language assessments for a		

<u>Critical Element 1.4 – Policies for Including All Students in Assessments</u>

	period not to exceed two		
	additional consecutive years.		
0	If the State uses the flexibility		
	for Native American language		
	schools and programs: (1) the		
	State provides the content		
	assessment in the Native		
	American language to all		
	students in the school or		
	program; (2) the State submits		
	such content assessment for peer		
	review as part of its State		
	assessment system; and (3) the		
	State continues to provide ELP		
	assessments and services for ELs		
	as required by law. The State		
	must assess in English the		
	students' achievement in R/LA		
	in high school.		
Sectio	n 1.4 Summary Statement		
No	additional evidence is required or		
	-		
The	e following additional evidence is ne	eeded/provide brief rationale:	
•	[list additional evidence needed w/h	/brief rationale]	
No	in high school. n 1.4 Summary Statement additional evidence is required or e following additional evidence is near	•	

Critical Element 1.5 – Meaningful Consultation in the Development of Challenging State Standard	ls and Assessments
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Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
	reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
If the State has developed or amended	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Not applicable.
challenging <u>academic</u> standards and		
assessments, the State has conducted		
meaningful and timely consultation with:		
• State leaders, including the Governor,		
members of the State legislature and		
State board of education (if the State		
has a State board of education).		
• Local educational agencies (including		
those located in rural areas).		
Representatives of Indian tribes		
located in the State.		
• Teachers, principals, other school		
leaders, charter school leaders (if the		
State has charter schools), specialized		
instructional support personnel,		
paraprofessionals, administrators,		
other staff, and parents.		
Section 1.5 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is ne		
• [list additional evidence needed w/	brief rationale]	

(Note: this is a new requirement under ESSA, so it does not apply to standards and assessments adopted prior to the passage of ESSA (December 2015)).

SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Critical Element 2.1 – Test Design and Development

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
 The State's test design and test development process is well-suited for the content, is technically sound, aligns the assessments to <u>the depth and breadth of the State's academic content standards</u> for the grade that is being assessed and includes: Statement(s) of the purposes of the assessments and the intended interpretations and uses of results; Test blueprints that describe the structure of each assessment in sufficient detail to support the development of assessments that are technically sound, measure the depth and breadth of <u>the State's grade-level academic content standards</u> and support the intended interpretations and uses of the results. Processes to ensure that each academic assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in <u>the State's academic content standards</u>, reflects appropriate inclusion of challenging content, and requires complex demonstrations or applications of knowledge and skills (i.e., higher-order thinking skills). If the State administers computer-adaptive assessments, the item pool and item selection procedures adequately support the test design and intended uses and interpretations of results. 	 Indiana: For the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) reading/language arts and mathematics tests in high school: Evidence that tests are designed to assess the full range of the State's academic content standards (e.g., evidence that the tests do not systematically exclude content in the content standards from the assessments). ISTEP Mathematics Longitudinal Blueprint ISTEP ELA Longitudinal Blueprint These longitudinal blueprints illustrate the diversity of items across the standards across test administrations. Evidence #31 WestEd Alignment Study from prior submission. 	 Only the grade 10 Blueprint was submitted. Overall mathematics test administrations: the reporting categories target ranges fall within the projected target point ranges (minimum and maximum percentages). It is unclear how the State addresses all the standards for each content area in the assessments. Do these non-tested standards have common characteristics (e.g., level of cognitive complexity)? Three of the six Measurement and Geometry standards and five of the eight DSP standards show zero items. When ELA point ranges from released blueprints include ranges from zero to one and two or three, the number of items per standard are most frequently zero across administrations. The development plan extends into 2020, but didn't appear to address standards that were initially identified as not being assessed, and there appears to be no response from the state regarding this. ISTEP ELA Longitudinal Blueprint: Across test administrations all four Reporting Categories showed at least the minimum number of items based on original priority. The submitted longitudinal blueprints present the numbers of items per reporting category, but they do not appear to provide information regarding item types, the proportion of item types, response formats, range of item limits.

• If the State administers a computer- adaptive assessment, it makes	The blueprints do not appear to include the depth and breadth of the State's grade-level academic content
proficiency determinations with	standards in terms of balance of content (i.e., knowledge,
respect to the grade in which the	cognitive process, cognitive complexity).
student is enrolled and uses that	
determination for all reporting.	For example, the results from the State's recent alignment
• If the State administers a content	study (page 15) indicate that 46% and 50% of the State's
assessment that includes portfolios,	high school math items were at Level 1 (Recall - DOK
such assessment may be partially	Level 1) or Level 2 (Basic Application – DOK Level 2),
administered through a portfolio but	respectively. Items with complexity level above level 3
may not be entirely administered	were not found and only a very few level 3 items were
through a portfolio.	included in the blueprints.
	The State might want to reconsider its methods of building test blueprints such that they require the inclusion of challenging content and complex demonstrations or applications of knowledge and skills (i.e., items that assess higher-order thinking skills, such as item types appropriate to the content that require synthesizing and evaluating information and analytical text-based writing or multiple steps and student explanations of their work). This submission is limited to the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) reading/language arts and mathematics tests in high school; it does not include reading/language arts and mathematics tests in grades 3-8 or ISTEP+ in high school science. Additional evidence is required. See ED decision letter (September 24, 2018).
	Also the submission did not appear to address the (Indiana
	Standards Tools for Alternate Reporting (ISTAR)), the
	rationale for the reduced breadth within each grade and/or
	comparison of intended content compared to grade-level academic content standards (e.g., an evidence-based rationale for the reduced breadth within each grade and/or
	comparison of intended content compared to grade-level academic content standard). See ED decision letter
	(September 24, 2018).

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

Section 2.1 Summary Statement

_X__ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

• For the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) reading/language arts and mathematics tests in grades 3-8: Evidence that tests are designed to assess the full range of the State's academic content standards (e.g., evidence that the tests do not systematically exclude content in the content standards from the assessments).

Critical Element 2.2 – Item Development

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State uses reasonable and technically		Not applicable.
sound procedures to develop and select		
items to:		
 Assess student achievement based 		
on the State's academic content		
standards in terms of content and		
cognitive process, including higher-		
order thinking skills.		
Section 2.2 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is ne	eeded/provide brief rationale:	
• [list additional evidence needed w/	/brief rationale]	

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
	reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
The State implements policies and		Not applicable.
procedures for standardized test		
dministration; specifically, the State:		
Has established and communicates to		
educators clear, thorough and		
consistent standardized procedures		
for the administration of its		
assessments, including administration		
with accommodations;		
Has established procedures to ensure		
that general and special education		
teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers		
of ELs, specialized instructional		
support personnel, and other		
appropriate staff receive necessary		
training to administer assessments		
and know how to administer		
assessments, including, as necessary,		
alternate assessments, and know how		
to make use of appropriate		
accommodations during assessments		
for all students with disabilities;		
If the State administers technology-		
based assessments, the State has		
defined technology and other related		
requirements, included technology-		
based test administration in its		
standardized procedures for test		
administration, and established		
contingency plans to address possible		
technology challenges during test		
administration.		
Section 2.3 Summary Statement	•	
No additional evidence is required or		

Critical Element 2.3 – Test Administration

_ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

• [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State adequately monitors the administration of its State assessments to ensure that standardized test administration procedures are implemented with fidelity across districts and schools. Monitoring of test administration should be demonstrated for all assessments in the State system: the general academic assessments and the AA-AAAS.	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Not applicable.
Section 2.4 Summary Statement No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is needed • [list additional evidence needed w/	1	

Critical Element 2.4 – Monitoring Test Administration

Critical Element 2.5 – Test Security

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
		Not applicable.
The State has implemented and		
documented an appropriate set of policies		
and procedures to prevent test		
irregularities and ensure the integrity of		
test results through:		
• Prevention of any assessment		
irregularities, including maintaining		
the security of test materials (both		
during test development and at time		
of test administration), proper test		
preparation guidelines and		
administration procedures, incident-		
reporting procedures, consequences		
for confirmed violations of test		
security, and requirements for annual		
training at the district and school		
levels for all individuals involved in		
test administration;		
 Detection of test irregularities; 		
 Remediation following any test 		
security incidents involving any of		
the State's assessments;		
• Investigation of alleged or factual test		
irregularities.		
• Application of test security		
procedures to all assessments in the		
State system: the general academic		
assessments and the AA-AAAS.		
Section 2.5 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is ne	eeded/provide brief rationale:	
• [list additional evidence needed w/	-	

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
 The State has policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity and confidentiality of its test materials, test-related data, and personally identifiable information, specifically: To protect the integrity of its test-related data in test administration, scoring, storage and use of results; To secure student-level assessment data and protect student privacy and confidentiality, including guidelines for districts and schools; To protect personally identifiable information about any individual student in reporting, including defining the minimum number of students necessary to allow reporting of scores for all students and student groups. 		Not applicable.
Section 2.6 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is no Ilist additional evidence needed w/	•	

Critical Element 2.6 – Systems for Protecting Data Integrity and Privacy

SECTION 3: TECHNICAL QUALITY – VALIDITY

Evidence (Record document and page # for future Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding Critical Element reference) **State Documentation or Evidence** September 24, 2018, ED decision letter: For the ISTEP+ Indiana: The State has documented adequate reading/language arts and mathematics tests in grades 3-8 For the ISTEP+ reading/language arts and overall validity evidence for its and high school and ISTAR reading/language arts. mathematics tests in high school: assessments consistent with nationally mathematics and science: recognized professional and technical Description of a systematic process and • • Description of a systematic process and timeline the State testing standards. The State's validity timeline the State will implement to address will implement to address specific gaps and/or weaknesses evidence includes evidence that: specific gaps and/or weaknesses identified in identified in the alignment studies submitted by the State the alignment studies submitted to the state (e.g., the alignment of the rigor of the ISTEP tests with The State's academic assessments (e.g., the alignment of the rigor of the ISTEP State academic content standards as measured by depth of measure the knowledge and skills tests with State academic content standards knowledge [DOK classification]; and gaps in ISTAR specified in the State's academic content as measured by depth of knowledge (DOK content coverage as measured by number of grade-level standards, including: standards assessed). classification). Documentation of adequate • The 2020 ISTEP+ ELA Content Development alignment between the State's The current peer review submission was limited to ISTEP+ Plan is attached. Please see the tab, "Items By assessments and the academic reading/language arts and mathematics tests in high school. content standards the assessments are Standard and Priority." Column J includes Additional evidence will be required at least for ISTEP+ designed to measure in terms of 'Item Needs Based on WestEd Alignment reading/language arts and mathematics tests in grades 3-8 content (i.e., knowledge and process), Study.' The tab, "Counts Per Strand' indicate and ISTAR reading/language arts, mathematics and , balance of content, and cognitive which standards items will be developed based science. complexity; on these identified needs. Documentation that the assessments Evidence #31, page 9:12 ELA standards were not address the depth and breadth of the The 2020 ISTEP+ MA Development Plan is associated with any aligned items in the Grade 10 pool. content standards; attached. Please see the tab, "3. Gap Analysis & If the State has adopted alternate • 2020 ISTEP+ ELA Content Development Plan: Items by IDP". The notes indicate the deficiencies notes academic achievement standards and Standard and Priority (Column J) and Total Operational by the WestEd study and rationale for administers alternate assessments Items in Bank (Column D) development based on those identified needs. aligned with those standards, the 9-10. ML.2.1 = zero items two items assessments show adequate 9-10. RL. 4.1 =zero items zero items alignment to the State's academic These documents will serve to describe the 9-10. RL. 4.2 = zero itemszero items content standards for the grade in intentions of the IDOE to develop towards 9-10. RN. 2.2 = zero itemsfive items which the student is enrolled in terms 9-10. RN. 4.1 = zero itemsfive items of content match (i.e., no unrelated 9-10. RN. 4.2 = zero itemszero items content) and the breadth of content 9-10. RN. 4.3 = zero itemsthree items and cognitive complexity determined

Critical Element 3.1 – Overall Validity, Including Validity Based on Content

in test design to be appropriate for	specific gaps and weaknesses as identified by the	9-10. RV. 2.3 = zero items two items
students with the most significant	alignment study submitted.	9-10. RV. 2.5 = zero items zero items
cognitive disabilities.	unghinent study submitted	9-10. RV. $3.2 =$ zero items ten items
e		9-10. W. $3.3 =$ zero items three items
	Evidence #31 WestEd Alignment Study from prior	9-10. ML.2.2 = zero items zero items
	submission.	
	Submission.	Inspection of Column J (Item Needs Based on WestEd
		Alignment Study) indicates zero items for each of the 12
		ELA standards that were not associated with any aligned
		items in the Grade 10 pool. Four standards (Column J)
		reference DOK 3. Five of the 12 standards (Column D)
		show zero operational items in the bank. Column H (Items
		to Acquire for 2020 Dev) shows seven standards with
		apparent item development plans and five standards
		without item development plans.
		The Tab, "Counts Per Strand" indicates that 154 items will
		be developed by strand with little information about item
		construction by standard.
		It is suggested that the State merge an expanded (e.g., DOK)
		Blueprint with the ELA content development plan. At this
		point it is not clear that the State has sufficiently addressed
		the specific gaps and/or weaknesses (DOK) identified in
		the alignment study.
		Evidence #31, page 15: In mathematics, 50 % of the items
		showed a DOK level of 2, while 46 % were at a DOK level
		of 1.
		According to the 2020 ISTEP+ MA Development Plan
		(Tab, 3 Gap Analysis & IDP), only 7 of the 54 math
		standards are eligible for DOK 3 level items. The rationale
		for this is unclear.
		It appears that 9 of the 41 2019-2020 development phase
		field test items were designed to be at DOK level 3 (Tab 3,
		Column T). Seems that these 9 items will measure the 7
		math standards that are eligible for DOK 3 level items.

	Column AA on tab G10 bank total shows the vast majority of items at either DOK level 1 or 2, with very few DOK 3s. A clear delineation of the systematic process and timeline the State will implement to address specific gaps and/or weaknesses identified in the alignment studies are
	 expected. Peers had a conversation about the following statements and aren't sure that enough is being done, however: The State is making some progress remediating some of the math DOK deficiencies. For the high school mathematics there is at least a 2020 plan and timeline to make improvements, but peers question whether the plan and timeline are realistic.
Section 3.1 Summary Statement	

<u>X</u> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

• For the ISTEP+ reading/language arts and mathematics in high school: Description of a systematic process and timeline the State will implement to address specific gaps and/or weaknesses identified in the alignment studies submitted by the State (e.g., the alignment of the rigor of the ISTEP tests with State academic content standards as measured by depth of knowledge (DOK classification).

Critical Element 3.2 – Validity Based on Cognitive Processes

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has documented adequate validity evidence that its assessments tap: <u>the intended cognitive processes</u> appropriate for each grade level as represented in the State's academic content standards.		Not applicable.
Section 3.2 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is no Ilist additional evidence needed wa	1	

Critical Element 3.3 – Validity Based on Internal Structure

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the scoring and reporting structures of its assessments are consistent with the sub-domain structures of the State's <u>academic content</u> <u>standards</u> .		Not applicable.
Section 3.3 Summary Statement		
 No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is no [list additional evidence needed w/ 		

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the State's assessment scores are related as expected with other variables.		Not applicable.
Section 3.4 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
 The following additional evidence is no [list additional evidence needed w/ 		

<u>Critical Element 3.4 – Validity Based on Relations to Other Variables</u>

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL QUALITY – OTHER

Critical Element 4.1 – Reliability

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has documented adequate		Not applicable.
reliability evidence for its assessments for		
the following measures of reliability for		
the State's student population overall and		
each student group consistent with		
nationally recognized professional and		
technical testing standards. If the State's		
assessments are implemented in multiple		
States, measures of reliability for the		
assessment overall and each student group		
consistent with nationally recognized		
professional and technical testing		
standards, including:		
• Test reliability of the State's		
assessments estimated for its student		
population;		
Overall and conditional standard		
error of measurement of the State's		
assessments, including any domain or		
component sub-tests, as applicable;		
Consistency and accuracy of		
estimates in categorical classification		
decisions for the cut scores,		
achievement levels or proficiency		
levels based on the assessment		
results;		
• For computer-adaptive tests,		
evidence that the assessments		
produce test forms with adequately		
precise estimates of a student's		
academic achievement.		
Section 4.1 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
no additional evidence is required or		

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The following additional evidence is no • [list additional evidence needed w/	1	

Critical Element 4.2 – Fairness and Accessibility

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<i>For all State academic assessments,</i> assessments should be developed, to the extent practicable, using the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) (see definition ¹).		Not applicable.
For academic content assessments, the State has taken reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that its assessments are accessible to all students and fair across student groups in their design, development and analysis.		
Section 4.2 Summary Statement		•
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is no	eeded/provide brief rationale:	
• [list additional evidence needed w/	/brief rationale]	

¹ see page 28 of "A State's Guide to the U.S. Department of Education's Assessment Peer Review Process", September 24, 2018 available at: www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

Critical Element 4.3 – Full Performance Continuum

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has ensured that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for <u>academic assessments</u> , including performance for high- and low-achieving students.		Not applicable.
Section 4.3 Summary Statement		
 No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is ne [list additional evidence needed w/ 	-	

Critical Element 4.4 – Scoring

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State has established and documented standardized scoring procedures and protocols for its assessments that are designed to produce reliable and meaningful results, facilitate valid score interpretations, and report assessment results in terms of the State's <u>academic</u> <u>achievement standards</u> .		Not applicable.
Section 4.4 Summary Statement		
 No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is no [list additional evidence needed w/ 		

	Not applicable.
eded/provide brief rationale:	
brief rationale]	

Critical Element 4.5 – Multiple Assessment Forms

Critical Element 4.6 – Multiple Versions of an Assessment

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
 If the State administers any of its assessments in multiple versions within a subject area (e.g., online versus paperbased delivery; or a native language version of the academic content assessment), grade level, or school year, the State: Followed a design and development process to support comparable interpretations of results for students tested across the versions of the assessments; Documented adequate evidence of comparability of the meaning and interpretations of the assessment results. 		Not applicable.
Section 4.6 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is no • [list additional evidence needed w/	-	

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
 The State: Has a system for monitoring, maintaining, and improving, as needed, the quality of its assessment system, including clear and technically sound criteria for the analyses of all of the assessments in its assessment system (i.e., general assessments and alternate assessments), and Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State's website. 		Not applicable.
Section 4.7 Summary Statement No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is ne • [list additional evidence needed w/	1	

Critical Element 4.7 – Technical Analysis and Ongoing Maintenance

SECTION 5: INCLUSION OF ALL STUDENTS

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
	reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
The State has in place procedures to		Not applicable.
ensure the inclusion of all public		
elementary and secondary school students		
with disabilities in the State's assessment		
system. Decisions about how to assess		
students with disabilities must be made by		
a student's IEP Team under IDEA, the		
placement team under Section 504, or the		
individual or team designated by a district		
to make that decision under Title II of the		
ADA, as applicable, based on each		
student's individual abilities and needs.		
If a State adopts alternate academic		
achievement standards for students with		
the most significant cognitive disabilities		
and administers an alternate assessment		
aligned with those standards under ESEA		
section 1111(b)(1)(E) and (b)(2)(D),		
respectively, the State must:		
• Establish guidelines for determining		
whether to assess a student with an		
AA-AAAS, including:		
• A State definition of "students		
with the most significant		
cognitive disabilities" that		
addresses factors related to		
cognitive functioning and		
adaptive behavior;		
• Provide information for IEP Teams to		
inform decisions about student		
assessments that:		

Critical Element 5.1 – Procedures for Including Students with Disabilities

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
• Provides a clear explanation of		
the differences between		
assessments aligned with grade-		
level academic achievement		
standards and those aligned		
with alternate academic		
achievement standards,		
including any effects of State		
and local policies on a student's		
education resulting from taking		
an AA-AAAS, such as how		
participation in such		
assessments may delay or		
otherwise affect the student		
from completing the		
requirements for a regular high		
school diploma;		
 Ensure that parents of students assessed with an AA-AAAS are 		
informed that their child's		
achievement will be measured based		
on alternate academic achievement		
standards;		
• Not preclude a student with the most		
significant cognitive disabilities who		
takes an AA-AAAS from attempting		
to complete the requirements for a		
regular high school diploma; and		
• Promote, consistent with		
requirements under the IDEA, the		
involvement and progress of students		
with the most significant cognitive		
disabilities in the general education		
curriculum that is based on the		
State's academic content standards		
for the grade in which the student is		
enrolled; and		

Cr	itical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
•	Develop, disseminate information on,		
	and promote the use of appropriate		
	accommodations to ensure that a		
	student with the most significant		
	cognitive disabilities who does not		
	take an AA-AAAS participates in		
	academic instruction and assessments		
	for the grade in which the student is		
	enrolled.		
٠	The State has in place and monitors		
	implementation of guidelines for IEP		
	teams to apply in determining, on a		
	case-by-case basis, which students		
	with the most significant cognitive		
	disabilities will be assessed based on		
	alternate academic achievement		
	standards, if applicable. Such		
	guidelines must be developed in		
	accordance with 34 CFR § 200.6(d). ²		
Se	ction 5.1 Summary Statement		
	No additional evidence is required or		
	_ The following additional evidence is ne		
	• [list additional evidence needed w/	/brief rationale]	

² See the full regulation at 34 CFR § 200.6(d) (online at <u>https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-</u>

idx?SID=07e168e9e7a6c5931b4549cc15547ee9&mc=true&node=se34.1.200_16&rgn=div8)

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

State Documentation or Evidence
Not applicable.

Critical Element 5.2 – Procedures for Including English Learners in Academic Content Assessments

Interview reference) State Documentation or Evidence The State makes available appropriate accommodations and ensures that its assessments are accessible to students Not applicable. with disabilities and ELs, including ELs with disabilities. Specifically, the State: Not applicable. Ensures that appropriate accommodations or available to measure the academic accommodations are available for ELs; Has determined that the accommodations are available for ELs; Has determined and effective for meeting the individual student's need(s) to participate and effective for meeting the individual student's need(s) to participate and effective for meeting the individual student's need(s) to participate in the assessments, (2) do not aller the construct being assessed, and (3) allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who do not need and do not receive accommodations are students who do not need and do not receive accommodations by ond those routinely allowed. • Has a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who does not deny	Critical Element 5.5 – Accommoda	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
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required assessments do not deny			
	students with disabilities or ELs the		

<u>Critical Element 5.3</u> – Accommodations

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
opportunity to participate in the assessment and any benefits from participation in the assessment.		
Section 5.3 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
 The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale: [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale] 		

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State monitors test administration in		Not applicable.
its districts and schools to ensure that		
appropriate assessments, with or without		
accommodations, are selected for all		
students with disabilities and ELs so that		
they are appropriately included in		
assessments and receive accommodations		
that are:		
• Consistent with the State's policies		
for accommodations;		
 Appropriate for addressing a 		
student's disability or language needs		
for each assessment administered;		
provided to the students during		
instruction and/or practice;		
• Consistent with the assessment		
accommodations identified by a		
student's IEP Team under IDEA,		
placement team convened under		
Section 504; or for students covered		
by Title II of the ADA, the individual		
or team designated by a district to		
make these decisions; or another		
process for an EL;		
 Administered with fidelity to test 		
administration procedures;		
 Monitored for administrations of all 		
required academic content		
assessments and AA-AAAS.		
Section 5.4 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is no		

<u>Critical Element 5.4 – Monitoring Test Administration for Special Populations</u>

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
• [list additional evidence needed w/	/brief rationale]	

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

SECTION 6: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS AND REPORTING

Critical Element 6.1 – State Adoption of Academic Achievement Standards for All Students

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
	reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
For academic content standards:		Not applicable.
The State formally adopted challenging		
academic achievement standards in		
reading/language arts, mathematics, and		
science for all students, specifically:		
• The State formally adopted academic		
achievement standards in the required		
tested grades and, at its option,		
alternate academic achievement		
standards for students with the most		
significant cognitive disabilities;		
• The State applies its academic		
achievement standards to all public		
elementary and secondary school		
students enrolled in the grade to		
which they apply, with the exception		
of students with the most significant		
cognitive disabilities to whom		
alternate academic achievement		
standards may apply;		
The State's academic achievement		
standards and, as applicable, alternate		
academic achievement standards, include:		
(1) at least three levels of achievement,		
with two for high achievement and a third		
for lower achievement; (2) descriptions of		
the competencies associated with each		
achievement level; and (3) achievement		
scores that differentiate among the		
achievement levels.		
Section 6.1 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The following additional evidence is no • [list additional evidence needed w/	1	

Critical Element 6.2 – Achievement Standards Setting

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State used a technically sound method and process that involved panelists with appropriate experience and expertise for setting:		Not applicable.
• <u>Academic achievement standards</u> <u>and, as applicable, alternate</u> <u>academic achievement standards</u> .		
Section 6.2 Summary Statement		
 No additional evidence is required or The following additional evidence is ne [list additional evidence needed w/ 		

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
For academic achievement standards:	No evidence submitted.	Not applicable.
The State's academic achievement		
standards are challenging and aligned		
with the State's academic content		
standards and with entrance requirements		
for credit-bearing coursework in the		
system of public higher education in the		
State and relevant State career and		
technical education standards such that a		
student who scores at the proficient or		
above level has mastered what students		
are expected to know and be able to do by		
the time they graduate from high school		
n order to succeed in college and the		
workforce.		
If the State has adopted alternate		
academic achievement standards for		
students with the most significant		
cognitive disabilities, the alternate		
academic achievement standards (1) are		
aligned with the State's challenging		
academic content standards for the grade		
n which a student is enrolled; (2)		
promote access to the general curriculum		
consistent with the IDEA; (3) reflect		
professional judgment as to the highest		
possible standards achievable for such		
students; (4) are designated in the IEP for		
each student for whom alternate academic		
achievement standards apply; and (5) are		
aligned to ensure that a student who meets		
he alternate academic achievement		
standards is on track to pursue		

Critical Element 6.3 – Challenging and Aligned Academic Achievement Standards

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
postsecondary education or competitive		
integrated employment.		
Section 6.3 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is ne	eded/provide brief rationale:	

Critical Element 6.4 – Reporting

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State reports its assessment results for all students assessed, and the reporting facilitates timely, appropriate, credible, and defensible interpretations and uses of those results by parents, educators, State officials, policymakers and other stakeholders, and the public.		Not applicable.
The State reports to the public its assessment results on <u>student academic</u> <u>achievement for all students and each</u> <u>student group at each achievement</u> <u>level³</u>		
For academic content assessments , the State reports assessment results, including itemized score analyses, to districts and schools so that parents, teachers, principals, and administrators can interpret the results and address the specific academic needs of students , and the State also provides interpretive guides to support appropriate uses of the assessment results.		
• The State provides for the production and delivery of individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports after each administration of its academic content assessments that:		

³ Although all students with disabilities must be included in a State's assessment system, requirements for public reporting in ESEA section 1111(h)(1)(C)(ii) apply only to children with disabilities as defined in section 602(3) of the IDEA.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

Critica	l Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
0	Provide valid and reliable	,	
	information regarding a		
	student's academic		
	achievement;		
0	Report the student's academic		
	achievement in terms of the		
	State's grade-level academic		
	achievement standards;		
0	Provide information to help		
	parents, teachers, and principals		
	interpret the test results and		
	address the specific academic		
	<u>needs of students;</u>		
0	Are provided in an		
	understandable and uniform		
	format;		
0	Are, to the extent practicable,		
	written in a language that parents		
	and guardians can understand or,		
	if it is not practicable to provide		
	written translations to a parent or		
	guardian with limited English		
	proficiency, are orally translated		
	for such parent or guardian;		
0	Upon request by a parent who is		
	an individual with a disability as		
	defined by the ADA, as		
	amended, are provided in an		
	alternative format accessible to		
	that parent.		
	e State follows a process and		
	eline for delivering individual		
	dent reports to parents, teachers,		
	d principals as soon as practicable		
aft	er each test administration.		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence	
Section 6.4 Summary Statement	Section 6.4 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or			
 The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale: [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale] 			

SECTION 7: LOCALLY SELECTED NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS

(if applicable; evidence for this section would be submitted in ADDITION to evidence for sections 1 through 6)

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
Crucal Element	reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
The State has established technical criteria to use in its review of any submission of a locally selected, nationally recognized high school academic assessment. The State has completed this review using its established technical criteria and has found the assessment meets its criteria prior to submitting for the Department's assessment peer review.	N/A	N/A
 The State's technical criteria include a determination that the assessment: Is aligned with the challenging State academic standards; and Addresses the depth and breadth of those standards. 		
AND		
The State has procedures in place to ensure that a district that chooses to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment administers the same assessment to all high school students in the district except for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who may be assessed with an AA-AAAS.		

Critical Element 7.1 – State Procedures for the Use of Locally Selected, Nationally Recognized High School Academic Assessments

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
AND		
 The technical criteria established by the State in reviewing a locally selected, nationally recognized high school academic assessment must ensure that the use of appropriate accommodations does not deny a student with a disability or an EL— The opportunity to participate in the assessment; and Any of the benefits from participation in the assessment that are afforded to students without disabilities or students who are not ELs. 		
Section 7.1 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or		
The following additional evidence is no • [list additional evidence needed w/		

reference) State Documentation or Evidence The State must have procedures in place to ensure that: N/A Before a district requests approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment, the district notifies all parents of high school students it serves— N/A • That the district intends to request approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment in place of the statewide academic assessment in place of the statewide academic assessment; • Of how parents and, as appropriate, students may provide meaningful input regarding the district's request (includes students in public charter schools who would be included in such assessments); and • Image: Comparison of the state in the state i	Assessments Critical Element Evidence (Record document and page # for future Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding		
The State must have procedures in place to ensure that: N/A Before a district requests approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment, the district notifies all parents of high school students it serves— N/A • That the district intends to request approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment in place of the statewide academic assessment; N/A • Of how parents and, as appropriate, students may provide meaningful input regarding the district's request (includes students in public charter schools who would be included in such assessments); and Of any effect of such request on the instructional program in the	Critical Element		
 approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment in place of the statewide academic assessment; Of how parents and, as appropriate, students may provide meaningful input regarding the district's request (includes students in public charter schools who would be included in such assessments); and Of any effect of such request on the instructional program in the 	The State must have procedures in place to ensure that:		
	 from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment, the district notifies all parents of high school students it serves— That the district intends to request approval from the State to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment in place of the statewide academic assessment; Of how parents and, as appropriate, students may provide meaningful input regarding the district's request (includes students in public charter schools who would be included in such assessments); and Of any effect of such request on the instructional program in the 		
Section 7.2 Summary Statement	Section 7.2 Summary Statement	1	1
No additional evidence is required or			

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding
	future reference)	State Documentation or Evidence
The locally selected, nationally recognized high	N/A	N/A
school academic assessment:		
• Is equivalent to or more rigorous than the		
statewide assessment, with respect to-		
• The coverage of academic content;		
• The difficulty of the assessment;		
• The overall quality of the assessment;		
and		
• Any other aspects of the assessment		
that the State may establish in its		
technical criteria;		
• Produces valid and reliable data on student		
academic achievement with respect to all		
high school students and each subgroup of		
high school students in the district that—		
• Are comparable to student academic		
achievement data for all high school		
students and each subgroup of high		
school students produced by the		
statewide assessment at each academic		
achievement level;		
• Are expressed in terms consistent with		
the State's academic achievement		
standards; and		
• Provide unbiased, rational, and		
consistent differentiation among		
schools within the State for the		
purpose of the State determined		
accountability system including		
calculating the Academic Achievement indicator and annually		
e . e		
meaningfully differentiating between schools.		

<u>Element 7.3 – Comparability of the Locally Selected Nationally Recognized High School Academic Assessments</u>

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence	
Section 7.3 Summary Statement	Section 7.3 Summary Statement		
No additional evidence is required or			
The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale: [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale] 			