

Executive Summary: Application to Administer Alternate Survey of Learning Conditions

Under Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.153) and Illinois Administrative Code (23 IAC 1.97), local education agencies (LEAs) can opt out of the default 5Essentials Survey by applying to use an approved alternate framework. Meridian CUSD 223 has successfully administered Panorama this past year and intends to again use this platform for the upcoming cycle.

Critical Requirements & Compliance Timeline

To secure approval from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the district must strictly adhere to the following statutory requirements:

- **Board & Union Agreement:** The Letter of Intent requires the signatures of both the School Board President and the local teachers union President.
- **Submission Deadline:** The completed application must be submitted via email to ISBE at 5Essentials@isbe.net by September 15, 2026.
- **Mandatory Meeting:** As a condition of final approval, the survey coordinator and the superintendent must attend an official alignment meeting with ISBE.
- **Survey Window:** The approved alternate survey must be administered between January 2027 and March 2027.

State Accountability & Risk Impact

Factor	Impact / Risk of Non-Compliance
Data Reporting	Survey data must be formatted into an official template and will be published directly on the public Illinois Report Card website.
School Designations	Metrics gathered from the survey are used to calculate each school's annual summative accountability designation.
Default Penalty	Failure to submit the signed paperwork or attend the mandatory meeting will result in an automatic rejection, forcing the district to revert back to the 5Essentials Survey.
Accountability Penalty	Failure to submit the final survey data and reports by the state deadline will result in the district receiving zero points for this portion of our state accountability score.

Recommendation

I recommend that the board of education consider the approval of the application to administer an alternate survey of learning conditions. Approving this application allows the district to enter its second year of utilizing the Panorama platform, maintaining continuity in how we measure and analyze our schools' climates.