



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: July 3, 2024
Subject: Accreditation Petition for IN Aspire Academy

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in its petition for performance-based accreditation and the final recommendation from the Indiana Department of Education (Department) regarding the accreditation of IN Aspire Academy (INAA).

Background & Demographic Information

IN Aspire Academy plans to operate in Michigan City, Indiana and serve students in kindergarten through grade 12, in person and virtually.

INAA's mission statement is "to provide a nurturing, compassionate environment where each student's learning style, characteristics, readiness, and unique needs are given continual attention by all staff members." Their vision is "to provide a customized education plan for learners in order to support them in achieving their highest potential."

INAA'S projected enrollment for their first year of accreditation is 10 students. They anticipate their enrollment to grow another 5-10 students each year.

Operations

Facilities: INAA plans to operate at 4121 Franklin St., Michigan City, Indiana. The building has had all required inspections, with no findings of noncompliance.

Tuition: Annual tuition for each student totals \$30,000. The students also have a \$100 registration fee. INAA indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Staffing: Stacy Attar is the director of INAA. She has served as the Director of Special Education for Michigan City Area Schools from August 2017-2024. Her professional experience includes teaching special education for all ages, teaching graduate courses for educators and holding the role of a school counselor. Ms. Attar received a B.A. in Special Education from Purdue University, an M.A. in School Counseling from Gallaudet University, certification in Building Level Administration at Western Governors University and certification for Director of Special Education through Arkansas State University. In the community, Stacy is a Board Member for CISV (Children's International Summer Village) and volunteers for local organizations providing food and support to community members in need.

The school plans to employ two licensed teachers and plans to hire 21 paraprofessionals within the next five years.



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Academic Programming

INAA plans to provide one-to-one academic instruction in a comfortable and engaging learning environment. Each student's academic objectives will be individualized to their own level of learning. They will partner with parents to customize each student's education plan while carefully matching the child with the most caring teachers and instructors. INAA's unique program is suited for students with various learning challenges. Student-athletes and professionals with alternative scheduling issues are also encouraged to enroll. Students will have a one-to-one class size for academic courses and a small group for elective courses such as STEM, Yoga, PE, and Art.

INAA's daily schedule meets the student instructional day requirements according to IC 20-30-2-2 and IC 20-30-2-2.7. The school will provide in-person instruction, Monday through Thursday, and provide virtual instruction every Friday. They will provide synchronous instruction for 50% of the day and asynchronous instruction for the remainder 50% of the day.

The school will utilize the Imagine Learning curriculum. The curriculum offers courses from K-12 that support all academic areas. There will be a supplemental curriculum to support students with learning needs and high abilities. In addition, curriculum from Wilson Reading will be used to support those students with reading disabilities or challenges. INAA has given assurance that their curriculum aligns with the Indiana Academic Standards.

INAA has also given assurance that they understand which students and grades take each state assessment and that they will administer these required state assessments when applicable.

Department Recommendation

IN Aspire Academy has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, IN Aspire Academy has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance-based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting IN Aspire Academy provisional state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.