



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: April 5, 2023
Subject: Accreditation Petition for Emmanuel Christian School of Fort Wayne

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 Emmanuel Christian School of Fort Wayne (ECSFW).

Background & Demographic Information

ECSFW will be a new school in Fort Wayne, Indiana for the 2023-2024 school year and serve students in kindergarten through grade 3. ECSFW plans to expand to serve students in kindergarten through grade 5 in the 2024-2025 school year. ECSFW is a member school of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), but does not hold accreditation through the organization. ECSFW has conducted a feasibility study to assess the need for a new Christian school in southwest Fort Wayne. In addition, Emmanuel Community Church, the sponsor of ECSFW has surveyed the community and hired a qualified consultant.

ECSFW provides a “Christ-centered education quipping students with truth for Christian living; cultivating a clarity of faith, the confidence to stand, and the courage to act.”

ECSFW projects that it will enroll roughly 70 students in kindergarten through grade 3 during the 2023-2024 school year. The school intends to expand its student population to include grade 5 during the 2024-2025 school year and further expand to increase overall enrollment to 236 students within five years.

Operations

Facilities: ECSFW will operate at 12222 US Highway 24 W, Fort Wayne, Indiana and is co-located with Emmanuel Community Church. The building is annually inspected by the Indiana Department of Health and State and Local Fire Marshal, and no findings of noncompliance have been made regarding the facility. A security system already has been established that requires controlled access keycard entry for external entry points.

Tuition: Annual tuition and fees for ECSFW total \$9,050 (\$8,800 for kindergarten)¹. These costs include annual tuition and annual registration fee. ECSFW indicated that it intends to participation in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

¹ The tuition document also indicates total tuition and fees would be \$9,300 for 4th grade and \$9,550 for 5th grade.



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Staffing: William Lance, Head of School for ECSFW, will be the single administrator. He has twenty years of experience in private school administration.

ECSFW intends to hire two grade level teachers holding valid teaching certifications. As of the time of application, ECSFW did not have any teachers on staff.

Academic Programming

Students will be instructed in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and Bible. Students will also receive elective instruction in physical education, music, and art. “ECSFW has adopted Indiana State standards as the standards to assess our curriculum.” A Christian perspective will be used to teach the core curriculum including using Christian materials that are age appropriate and relevant.

ECSFW will assess each student as part of the application process to determine the student’s abilities. During the first year, ECSFW will rely on teacher formative and summative assessments on a daily and/or weekly frequency. In year two, ECSFW plans to integrate MAP testing for admissions and for up to three times during the school year.

Department Recommendation

While ECSFW has not previously operated a school, their accreditation application reflects the research thought, and work needed to become a school. In addition, ECSFW has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, ECSFW has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting Emmanuel Christian School of Fort Wayne provisional state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.