



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: June 26, 2023
Subject: Accreditation Petition for Stepping Stones Education 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 Stepping Stones Education Academy (SSEA).

Background & Demographic Information

Stepping Stones Education Academy is seeking to be accredited as a Kindergarten through grade 6 school operating on the northside of Indianapolis, Indiana. They currently serve students in kindergarten through grade 2, who will remain enrolled until grade 6. SSEA is affiliated with Stepping Stones Behavioral Solutions, LLC which has many locations.

Instruction currently occurs in-person, but virtual options could be provided in the future as the need arises.

SSEA is seeking immediate accreditation in the 2023-2024 school year to secure eligibility for the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program.

SSEA currently serves 11 students in kindergarten through grade 2, who will remain enrolled until grade 6.

Operations

Facilities: SSEA is located at 1209 E. 46th St. Indianapolis, Indiana. The school building includes two classrooms. These classrooms are utilized for whole and small group instruction by a licensed teacher, a teacher's aide, and/or Registered Behavior Technicians that utilize the concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis to teach new skills.

Tuition: SSEA charges \$12,000 annually per student, which includes tuition, supplies/materials, technology, food service and monthly field trips.

Data & Reporting: In the 2023-2024 school year, SSEA intends to use Gradelink, which is Ed-Fi certified, as their student information system to manage its data and reporting requirements with the state.

Staffing: The staff at SSEA consists of a principal, administrative secretary, and a teacher who is licensed to provide instruction for K-6 in the state of Indiana and is also a Registered Behavior



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Technician (RBT). Additionally, there is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (undergraduate and graduate degrees in Special Education), a teacher's assistant (undergraduate degree, starting a graduate degree, RBT), and 7-10 support staff that all have RBT certifications. There is also a clinical manager who oversees the daily maintenance of the building's routines, scheduling, and communications.

Academic Programming

SSEA provides an academic curriculum based on the Indiana Academic Standards. They use Foundations, Heggerty and Eureka Math.

Instruction is given by a licensed teacher with the assistance of Registered Behavior Technicians and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst to provide individualized instruction within a smaller, more flexible learning environment. Students are provided with in-person instruction within small group sessions and 1:1 attention when needed. Each student is given modifications based on his/her individual needs.

Students will be instructed in English/language arts, math, science/social studies, and a variety of special subjects (art, gym, music, STEM). Additionally, the students are provided with learning opportunities within the community to acquire new daily living skills within routines and generalized previously acquired skills across scenarios, and locations.

Upon enrollment, Student visits and the teacher determine the student's grade level and need for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

SSEA tracks student progress with the NWEA twice per year. Additionally, students are given the Foundations inventory placement (an assessment within the English/language arts curriculum being utilized), the Words Their Way inventory assessment, and the Equipped for Reading Success Comprehensive Assessment (targets phonemic awareness and fluent word recognition). SSEA assures that they will administer all required state assessments.

Department Recommendation

Stepping Stones Education Academy was in operation for the 2022-2023 school year. The school has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, Stepping Stones Educational Academy has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting Stepping Stones Educational Academy provisional state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana to serve grades Kindergarten through grade 6 at the 1209 E. 46th St. Indianapolis location.