



# Indiana Department of Education

---

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Office of School Accountability  
**Date:** June 1, 2022  
**Subject:** Accreditation Petition for The Performing Arts Conservatory

---

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 The Performing Arts Conservatory.

## **Background & Demographic Information**

The Performing Arts Conservatory seeks to educate students in the Indianapolis metropolitan area that are interested in a performing arts concentration. The school strives to provide an environment where students grow intellectually by focusing on their gifts and talents in music, dance, and drama, while training them to be future leaders.

The Performing Arts Conservatory has operated as an after school program. The 2022-23 school year will be the first year that The Performing Arts Conservatory will operate as a school. The school will provide a combination of in-person and virtual instruction to students.

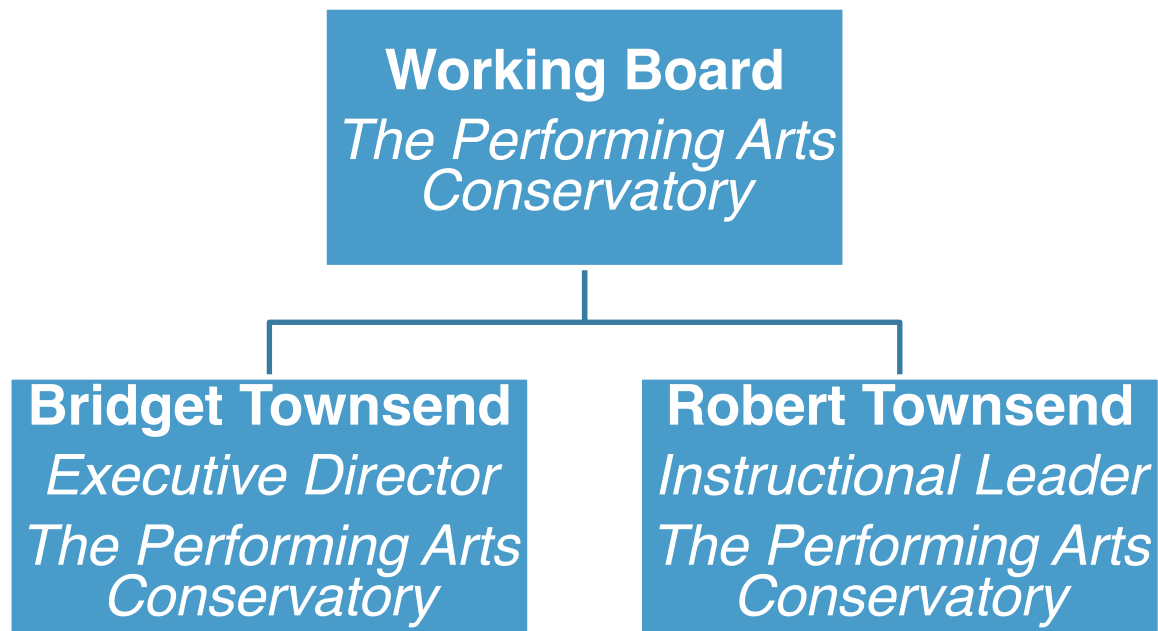
The school projects that it will enroll roughly 30 students in grades 6 and 7 during the 2022-23 school year. Over the next five years, the school intends to expand its student population to include grades 8 through 12 and increase overall enrollment to 150 students.

## **Operations**

**Facilities:** The Performing Arts Conservatory is located at 7106 Shadeland Station, Indianapolis, Indiana. The facility also houses the administrative offices for Castleton United Methodist Church, Still Waters Adult Day Center, the Indiana Metropolitan Police Satellite Office, and a private counseling practice. The facility has demonstrated compliance with applicable building codes, fire prevention codes, local zoning codes, and health and safety requirements.

**Tuition:** Annual tuition and fees for The Performing Arts Conservatory total \$8,000. The Performing Arts Conservatory does not intend to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

**Staffing:** The administrative structure for The Performing Arts Conservatory is as follows:



The “working board” consists of an executive team, an education committee, and a development committee. The board consists of six individuals that support the school with policy and development. The board also helps to raise funds for the organization.

Bridget Townsend serves as the Executive Director. In this role, Ms. Townsend oversees the day-to-day operations of the school. Ms. Townsend has a graduate degree in business and a background in performing arts.

Robert Townsend serves as the Instructional Leader for The Performing Arts Conservatory. Mr. Townsend provides oversight to ensure effective teaching and learning experiences occur daily. Mr. Townsend has a graduate degree in education and a background in performing arts.

The Performing Arts Conservatory projects to hire two full-time state-licensed educators and four part-time performing arts educators for its inaugural school year. Additional staff are anticipated as the school adds grade levels over time.

### **Academic Programming**

Students are provided with in-person instruction in the subjects of English/language arts, mathematics, physical education/health, and performing arts. Students receive virtual instruction in the subjects of science and social studies.

The Performing Arts Conservatory has applied to become a Middle Years Programme candidate school. The school anticipates a decision will be made by August 2022. The school intends to use the curriculum for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. The school has



# Indiana Department of Education

---

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

confirmed alignment with Indiana Academic standards. The Performing Arts Conservatory utilizes inquiry-based instructional methods with a focus on real-world learning.

The Performing Arts Conservatory plans to measure student performance throughout the school year by using benchmark, formative, and summative assessments. Specifically, the school intends to use Aquity to determine benchmark levels in mathematics and English/language arts.

The Performing Arts Conservatory provides small group instruction to students based on their major (dance, drama, instrumental music, and vocal music). Students also receive instruction in performing arts technology, financial literacy, and business and laws for performing artists.

## **Department Recommendation**

Each petition for nonpublic school accreditation is reviewed and scored based on an established rubric where a school may earn a score between 0.0 and 4.0. The Department recommends for approval a petition receiving a final score of 3.0 or higher. The Performing Arts Conservatory received a final score of 3.2 out of 4.0 possible points. Therefore, the Department recommends that The Performing Arts Conservatory be afforded full state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.