

**Indiana State Board of Education  
Request for Freeway School Accreditation****Board Meeting Date: June 5, 2019**

School: Bloomington Islamic Academy (A009)  
Administrator: Ms. Yvette McLaren-Roberts  
Address: 2005 East Atwater Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
Grade Span: Prekindergarten-06  
Public/Nonpublic: Nonpublic

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The following executive summary has been compiled by the Indiana Department of Education (Department). This summary includes information presented by the above-mentioned school in its petition to the Indiana State Board of Education (Board) for freeway accreditation. The Department also shared this summary with Board staff for review.

**Background & Demographic Information**

Bloomington Islamic School is a subsidiary of the Islamic Center of Bloomington. Bloomington Islamic School is located in the city of Bloomington, Indiana. The school was opened to meet the growing need of the international student population in Bloomington. Bloomington Islamic School's vision is "...to create a K-12 Islamic school that instills faith and an understanding of Islam in our students, is highly regarded for its academic excellence, and actively serves and improves the community in which it operates."

The students that attend Bloomington Islamic School are predominately the children of international families working or studying at IU-Bloomington or living in the greater Bloomington community.

While the entity is seeking accreditation as a PK-06 school, they currently only have five (5) prekindergarten students enrolled. When asked, Ms. McLaren-Roberts expressed that they opened as a Prekindergarten-06 school for the 2018-2019 school year, but due to miscommunication with parents, only prekindergarten students enrolled. Bloomington Islamic School estimates that they will enroll 37 school-age students for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Operations**

**Facilities:** The entity currently operates in a building close to the campus of IU-Bloomington at 2005 E. Atwater Ave. The facility has a maximum capacity of 37 school-age students. The Department visited the facility for an inspection on November 19, 2018, and verified that the facility met Department standards for student occupancy.

**Tuition:** Bloomington Islamic School cost of tuition varies based on grade level; for school-age prekindergarten students, tuition is \$5,100 per year; for kindergarten, tuition is \$5,725 per year; for grades 1-3, tuition is \$5,800 per year; and finally, tuition is \$5,900 per year for grades 4-6. The entity has also indicated that they are interested in participating in the Choice Scholarships program if accredited.

**Staffing:** Bloomington Islamic School currently employs three (3) teachers, one (1) of which currently holds an Indiana teaching license. The entity expressed that it intends to hire more teachers in the future, with preference given towards applicants that hold valid Indiana teaching licenses. While they did not have students eligible to take state assessments enrolled during the 2018-2019 school year, Bloomington Islamic School registered a state testing coordinator during the seeking accreditation process.

### **Academic Programming**

**Curriculum and Instruction:** Bloomington Islamic School offers an integrated curriculum that ensures that science, mathematics, fine arts, and social studies components align with Indiana learning standards and with strong Islamic components in the areas of Qur'an, Islamic Studies, and Arabic. Bloomington Islamic School utilizes the McGraw-Hill curriculum, which is aligned to Indiana State Standards. Each curriculum has an accompanying curriculum map that aligns the topics to the Indiana State Standards. The curriculum also includes benchmarks and learning outcomes that ensure that the material that is being taught is aligned with the Indiana Learning Standards.

Bloomington Islamic School also plans to use the Star 360 Analysis program to track students' academic progress, and identify students for potential remediation. Progress monitoring will be conducted by home room teachers for end of course assessments, who are responsible for monitoring and reporting student progress in accordance to the Bloomington Islamic School progress report schedule. The entity also integrates a wide range of technology into its core academic instruction, and requires all of its students to have access to tablets to support instruction.

### **Considerations**

Pursuant to IC 20-18-2-4, an elementary school is defined as any school that provides instruction for any of grades kindergarten through 8. During its seeking accreditation year, Bloomington Islamic School had no students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8. If Bloomington Islamic School continues to provide instruction only to preschool students then it will not meet the definition of a school, and would be ineligible to hold accreditation as a school.

Additionally, 410 IAC 6-5.1 outlines the health and safety requirements for school buildings and school sites with which all schools must comply. 410 IAC 6-5.1-1(i) defines a "school as any place, or structure in which systematic instruction of any kind or grade is carried on for more than ten (10) persons for five (5) hours or more per week or two and one-half (2 ½) hours or more per day, including preschools, kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools providing instruction to meet the compulsory attendance law under IC 20-33-2. Because the enrollment at Bloomington Islamic School was less than ten (10) students, it does not meet the definition of a "school" under 410 IAC 6-5.1. Therefore, it is not required or compelled to comply with health and safety requirements for school buildings and school sites.

### **Recommendation:**

The Department and Board staffs jointly recommend the Board enter into a contract with Bloomington Islamic School for freeway accreditation.