



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Alicia Kielmovitch, Senior Director of Policy and Legislation
RE: Immediate Freeway Accreditation for Riverview Adventist Christian Academy
DATE: November 25, 2017

Recommendation: Approve five-year freeway accreditation contract beginning 2018-19.

Issue Summary: Riverview Adventist Christian Academy is interested in obtaining accreditation through the freeway provision. It is petitioning the Board to issue immediate freeway accreditation beginning in 2018-19. HEA 1384 authorizes the State Board to issue immediate freeway accreditation to a school, which permits it to access choice funding in year one, if it so chooses, and waive any applicable statute through its contract.

Rationale: Riverview Adventist Christian Academy will be part of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists ministries, a subsidiary of the North American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists. The Seventh-day school system is the 2nd largest Protestant education network in the United States.

Riverview Adventist Christian Academy will be joining a school network with established instructional practices, curricula, and governance. It plans on using the curricula developed by the NAD and used in other Seventh-day Adventist schools. The Seventh-day Adventist Education Department will be responsible for rules, policies, and staffing for Riverview. It will have a local board, but would be overseen by the state governance structure. The local board will meet once a month to monitor and evaluate the school's functionality. The Indiana Conference's Board of Education meets 5 times per year to discuss the functionality of all Indiana Seventh-day schools.

The Indiana Conference school system currently operates thirteen schools currently across the state, with six schools utilizing the voucher system and administering ISTEP in Indiana. The achievement and growth data based is varied based on school, with some having higher achievement than others. Almost all of the schools (save Indianapolis Junior Academy) have high growth for students in Math and ELA. The proficiency data, however, is not as high. Three out of the six schools have ELA proficiency at or above the state average; none of the schools perform above state average in Math. The chart below shows the 2017 ISTEP proficiency, growth, and accountability grades for all Adventist schools in Indiana.

	Proficiency	Growth	Grade
Aboite Christian School	Math: 32.7% (below state average)	Math: 75 points for Top 75% Growth 48.1 points for Bottom 25% Growth	C
	ELA: 70.4% (above state average)	ELA: 116.9 points for Top 75% Growth 131.3 points for Bottom 25% Growth	



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	Proficiency	Growth	Grade
Adventist Christian Elementary	Math: 58.1% (below state average)	Math: 80.4 points for Top 75% Growth 75 points for Bottom 25% Growth	No grade
	ELA: 54.8% (above state average)	ELA: 87.5 points for Top 75% Growth 150 points for Bottom 25% Growth.	
Cross Street Christian School	Math: 33.3% (below state average)	Math: 83.9 points for Top 75% Growth 97.5 points for Bottom 25% Growth	A
	ELA: 50% (below state average)	ELA: 74.3 points for Top 75% Growth 126.9 points for Bottom 25% Growth.	
Indianapolis Junior Academy	Math: 25% proficient (below state average)	Math: 70 points for Top 75% Growth 106.3 points for Bottom 25% Growth	F
	ELA: 41.8% proficient (below state average)	ELA: 65.4 points for Top 75% Growth 52.1 points for Bottom 25% Growth.	
South Bend Junior Academy	Math: 55.8% (below state average)	Math: 97.7 points for Top 75% Growth 67.5 points for Bottom 25% Growth	C
	ELA: 67.4% (at state average)	ELA: 97.7 points for Top 75% Growth 85 points for Bottom 25% Growth.	
Terre Haute Adventist School	Math: 42.3% (below state average)	Math: 97.5 points for Top 75% Growth 0 points for Bottom 25% Growth	No Grade
	ELA: 40% (below state average)	ELA: 70.8 points for Top 75% Growth 0 points for Bottom 25% Growth	

The Indiana Adventist school system has a new Superintendent, Nicole Mattson, who spent nearly 14 years in Michigan Adventist schools in grades ranging from Kindergarten to sixth in multi-grade classrooms. She is refocusing the SDA teaching practices in Indiana to be more grounded in state standards. By shifting the instructional strategies to focus more on Indiana standards, Mattson hopes to see an improvement in standardized test scores across all of the schools. Some of the strategies Mattson is implementing across the state include:

- Use of practice tests/applications on a regular basis;
- Monitoring of state standard coverage;
- Teacher/staff tutoring on a small group or one-to-one basis;



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- Utilization of any programs or services designed to help struggling students;
- Strict and regular monitoring of weekly progress in subject areas showing gaps in learning for struggling students;
- Monitoring of teacher and classroom by superintendent of schools;
- On-going assessment of struggling students;
- Professional development when needed for teachers; and
- Home study program with parental involvement when needed.

Background on Riverview Adventist Christian Academy: Riverview has interest from about 20-30 students in grades 1-8. These are families attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Evansville and seeking a faith-based, non-public environment. In the beginning of the school's operation, it will primarily, but not exclusively, serve the students of the congregation. The majority of these students are low-income, Hispanic, and English learners from the neighboring community. All teachers employed at Riverview will be Seventh-day Adventist teachers certified through the NAD. Riverview is seeking freeway accreditation as an independent school in order to meet the unique needs of its student population and congregants. Riverview Adventist Christian Academy plans to pursue accreditation through the NAD, the governing body for all Adventists schools and conferences, in its first year of operation.



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Appendix – Indiana Seventh-day Adventist Conference Data

2016 Academic achievement data:

	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total passed
Aboite Christian School	2 (66.7%)	1 in math (16.7%)	6 (50%)	4 (40%)	3 (75%)	4 (50%)	16 (33.3%)
Adventist Christian Elementary	4 (75%)	1 (100%)			2 (33.3%)	1 (50%)	7 (50%)
Cross Street Christian School	1 in math (50%)	2 (50%)	3 (28.6%)	2 (50%)	5 (25%)	2 (20%)	14 (23.1%)
Indianapolis Junior Academy	3 (50%)	5 (21.4%)	4 (16.7%)	5 (30%)	3 (16.7%)	2 (28.6%)	22 (22.4%)
South Bend Junior Academy	4 (100%)	2 (100%)	3 (33.3%)		4 (75%)	4 (66.7%)	17 (71.4%)
Terre Haute Adentist School			1 (100%)				1 (16.7%)

Iowa Assessment Scores 2014-2016: Composite scores/percentiles

GRADE	2014	2015	2016
3	47	57	50
4	53	50	58
5	55	57	45
6	50	54	50
7	60	54	49
8	56	60	54

GRADE QUIVALENCY

GRADE	2014	2015	2016
3	2.9	3.4	3.2
4	4.3	4.2	4.5
5	5.4	5.5	4.9
6	6.2	6.4	6.2
7	7.9	7.4	7.1
8	8.8	9.2	8.5