



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Office of School Accountability, Indiana Department of Education
RE: Third-Party Recognition Petition for Lumen Accreditation
DATE: May 3, 2023

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the organization in the petition, as well as the Department's final recommendation regarding the recognition of the Lumen Accreditation as a third-party accrediting organization.

Department Recommendation

The department recommends approving Lumen Accreditation request to be recognized as a third-party accrediting organization for the State of Indiana.

Background

The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) is charged with recognizing national and regional accreditation agencies that accredit Indiana schools so that they may become eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. Pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, the department reviews petitions from accrediting organizations seeking recognition and provides a recommendation to the SBOE for action. The recommendation is based on a rubric based on five core components:

1. Overview of Agency
2. Organization Staffing
3. Internal Agency Procedures
4. Outline of Accrediting Standards for Member Schools
5. Signed Recognition Agreement

Lumen Accreditation applied for recognition.

Organization Overview

Mission and Objectives: Lumen Accreditation seeks to advance and promote the distinctive excellence of K-12 Catholic school education.

Lumen Accreditation operates out of The Catholic University of America through the Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education. The Catholic University of America was founded in 1887 and plays a pivotal role in Catholic secondary and elementary education. The Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education was founded in 2019 and seeks to advance the distinctive excellence of Catholic education as a gift for each person and for society. Lumen Accreditation was started in 2022.

Member Schools: Lumen Accreditation is currently partnering with the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and a high school in Denver, Colorado. Lumen Accreditation is currently not working with any Indiana schools or dioceses.

Agency Personnel: Lumen Accreditation employs three full time personnel. Biographies for the following staff positions were submitted:

- Director of Accreditation



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- Associate Director of Accreditation
- Administrative Assistant

In addition, Lumen Accreditation assembles a visitation team of five to ten experienced Catholic educators selected by Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education.

Accreditation Process and Procedures

Review and Approval Process: Lumen Accreditation occurs in the following five phases/years:

- Year One: Invitation Phase
 - Application and onboarding
- Year One: Preparation Phase
 - Mission retreat
 - Community summary
 - School Discernment
 - Self-study
 - Community surveys
 - Strategic Planning
- Year Two: Visitation Phase
 - Data Review
 - School & Classroom observations
 - Stakeholder interviews
 - Informal discussion of the team findings
- Year Two: Proclamation Phase
 - Creation of the formal accreditation report and recommendation
 - Assignment of an accreditation status
- Years Three through Six: Accompaniment Phase
 - Biennial briefs

Expectations and Requirements for Approval: The two types of Lumen Accreditation and their requirements:

- Candidacy
 - Support of the Bishop
 - Support of the Office of Education, if applicable
 - Identification of a Commissioner (must also understand role)
 - Qualified/Certified Staff and Administration
 - In-person instruction
 - Minimum 180 days of instruction per academic year
 - Demonstrates the readiness to continue in the accreditation process
- Accredited
 - Successful completion of the Invitation, Preparation, and Visitation phases
 - Alignment of improvement goals with the Church's vision for Catholic School mission and identity.
 - Commitment to all briefings, communications, and feedback opportunities within the Accompaniment phase.



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Assistance, Monitoring and Communication: Once accredited, schools must maintain their accreditation status by participating in biennial briefs in years four and six. During the briefs schools are expected to provide an update on progress toward improvement priorities and data to determine the efficacy of programming and improvement initiatives.

Accreditation Standards

Standards and Expectations: Lumen Accreditation utilizes The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools, first published in 2012, these standards assess a Catholic school's effectiveness and sustainability.

Evaluation Process: The AMS Board provides the final accreditation approval based on the recommendation of the AMS School Accrediting Commission. Schools that are not recommended for accreditation by the Commission will often be provided with up to one year to come into compliance with the standards. Depending on the standard, an onsite team can be sent out for verification.

Signed Recognition Agreement

Lumen Accreditation provided the Department with a signed copy of the recognition agreement.

Summary of Findings

Lumen Accreditation utilizes a well-thought out and organized process for the accreditation of schools. Lumen Accreditation's accreditation process is rigorous while providing valuable feedback to the schools. Furthermore, Lumen Accreditation provides numerous resources to the schools to assist in their advancement.

The Department recommends approval of Lumen Accreditation as a third party accrediting body in Indiana.