

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

School: World Changers School of the Arts (D917)
Administrator: Ms. Trease Sears
Address: 3346 Teakwood Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Grade Span: 06-08
Public/Nonpublic: Nonpublic

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

World Changers School of the Arts (WCSA) is a private school which operates a “three-tier educational model focusing on academics, visual and performing arts and entrepreneurship.” WCSA has been in operation since 2017, and predominantly serves students in the Indianapolis Metropolitan area. Educational programming centers around “...the belief that everyone has the ability to learn and be creative, and uses innovative and productive approaches to the learning process that allow our children the freedom to be creative while utilizing their gifts and talents”. The entity complied with data reporting during the 2018-2019 seeking accreditation process.

Currently, WCSA serves seven (7) students in grades 6-8, but intends to eventually extend to offer grades 9-12 by adding a grade every year, in accordance with their slow growth model. The entity anticipates enrollment of thirty (30) students for the 2019-2020 school year, with ten (10) students per grade level.

Operations

Facilities: WCSA currently operates in a community center at 3346 Teakwood Drive in Indianapolis. The facility has a capacity of up to seventy (70) students. The Department conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on November 28, 2018 and verified that the facility met Department standards for student occupancy.

Tuition: Tuition to attend WCSA is \$5,500 per year. The entity has indicated that they would like to participate in the Choice Scholarships program.

Staffing: WCSA’s founder and Head of School is Trease Sears. WCSA currently employs six (6) full time teachers, two (2) of which are licensed with the State of Indiana. Teachers at WCSA that do not hold licensure do not teach core subjects, and all have high levels of professional experience in the fine arts fields they are teaching. The entity has a designated test coordinator, and was successfully able to administer ILEARN during the 2018-2019 school year in accordance with state testing protocol.

Academic Programming

Curriculum and Instruction: WCSA has aligned its curriculum and instruction to the Indiana Academic Standards. The instructional schedule consists of 7.5 hours of instruction daily, and incorporates core academic instruction with dedicated art instruction. The foundations of academic learning at WCSA are as follows:

- To implement innovative and productive approaches to the learning process that will allow our students the freedom to be creative while utilizing their gifts and talents.
- To bridge the gap between academics, visual & performing arts and entrepreneurship.
- To provide students with the necessary tools and in school experiences (hands on) to help them secure a fruitful future.
- To provide a creative and nurturing environment where students are excited about learning and are held accountable for their desired education results.

The academic program at WCSA includes English/language arts and literacy; social studies; mathematics; entrepreneurship; theatre; dance; visual arts; and music curricula.

WCSA operates with a 15:1 student teacher ratio, and incorporates a variety of instructional strategies and learning styles in order to provide more individualized instruction to its students. To that end, all students meet one-on-one with the Head of School Trease Sears at the beginning of each semester for a goal-setting session for the semester, with monthly follow-up sessions to make sure students are on track to meet their goals.

Considerations:

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 WCSA 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 WCSA for freeway accreditation.