



Indiana State Board of Education
Request for Freeway School Accreditation
Board Date: August 1, 2012

School: Avicenna Academy B764

Education Director: Amanda Arceo

Address: 9803 Colorado Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Grade Span: K-8

Public/Private: Private

Current Enrollment: 53 students

Targeted Population: Families seeking a quality education in an Islamic environment

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Office of School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Identity: Avicenna Academy is located in Lake County. While the school has a Crown Point address, it is actually nestled between the city of Crown Point and the towns of Merrillville and Hobart. Crown Point is a city of approximately 20,000 people within a 16.6 square mile area. Merrillville has a population of over 30,000 people within 33.3 square miles, while Hobart has a population of over 25,000 people over 26.7 square miles. This largely industrial region is considered an extension of the Chicago-metropolitan area.

Avicenna Academy provides an “excellent education in an Islamic environment”. Our campus is attached to the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center (mosque). While there is no accurate information regarding the population of Muslims in the United States, the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center has between 500 and 600 active members.

Curriculum: Avicenna Academy currently abides by all Indiana Academic Standards (IAS) and is committed to transitioning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) according to the schedule stipulated by the Indiana Department of Education. Specifically, we will be teaching IAS & CCSS for ELA and Math in 2nd through 8th grade, CCSS in ELA and Math for 1st

grade and under during the 2012-2013 year and we will phase out the IAS by the 2014-2015 academic year.

Testing History: Avicenna Academy administered ISTEP+ assessments during the spring semester of 2009, 2010 and 2011. Our student population is small and therefore the sample sizes in each grade is very low, however as a general rule, our students were achieving either pass or pass plus in both ELA and Mathematics. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, we administered the Measures of Academic Progress and all of our students in kindergarten through seventh grade, with exception to two ELL students in seventh grade, performed at or above level.

Staffing: Classroom teachers in the traditional academic subjects, as well as the building administrator are licensed Indiana educators. Teachers in Islamic-related subjects are well qualified to teach these subjects.

Waiver Requests: Avicenna Academy requests that the following statutes be waived as a part of our freeway accreditation request: IC 20-20-5.5-1 through IC 20-20-5.5-3 Textbook Adoption Requirements.

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation