



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

School: Elkhart Christian Academy A990  
Education Director: Sue Alberts  
Address: 25943 CR 22 E  
Elkhart, IN 46517-2127  
Grade Span: K-12  
Public/Private: Private  
Current Enrollment: 433 Students

Targeted Population: Families seeking a quality, faith-based education.

*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: Elkhart Christian Academy, Inc. is a private Christian school in Elkhart, Indiana. Established in 1973, ECA services students in Pre-kindergarten (four year old) through grade twelve. Owned and operated by the First Baptist Church of Elkhart and the school is considered a ministry of the church. The responsibility of this corporation is vested in the voting membership of First Baptist Church. However, the membership delegates its authority to the governing body of the school, the School Board of Elkhart Christian Academy.

The mission of Elkhart Christian Academy states that we will provide an education that is distinctive, Biblical and life changing. Our vision is to be the leading Michiana-based school that partners with Christian parents who desire an excellent education integrated with biblical truth in order to prepare students for life.

Curriculum: Elkhart Christian has taken steps to ensure that we are moving forward with the state of Indiana in regards to staying current with the Indiana academic standards, and now the Common Core Standards. All teachers are proficient in using the current standards, and they have invested time this year in learning how the Common Core Standards will be implemented so they are fully compliant with them by the time the PARCC assessment



becomes the norm in 2014. While their scores for the IREAD 3 were over 90% passing and did not require us to adopt new reading curriculum, we have taken it upon ourselves to begin seeking out curriculum with more complex text and more informational text so our students are fully prepared for the change in rigor. Three staff members and the principal went to a summer institute on implementing the Common Core Standards in order to serve as resources for the rest of the staff. The ECA reading committee has put a framework in place that will be evaluated as the next school year progresses to ensure a transition to the Common Core standards is smooth. The content areas are also preparing for the change to Common Core Standards. A heavy emphasis in 2012-2013 will be on writing across the curriculum and literacy in the content areas.

Testing History: ECA students traditionally test above Indiana's state average.

Staffing: All teachers are degreed teachers and are teaching in their area of training. All teachers are licensed by American Christian Schools International and many also hold Indiana teaching licenses. As new teachers are hired, most of them hold current Indiana licenses.

Waiver Requests:

- Request to waive alcohol, tobacco and drug education: Elkhart Christian Academy offers required mandatory health curriculum starting at grade 4 through high school. This curriculum covers topics such as health and safety, hygiene, growth and development, nutrition, family life, health promotion and disease control. In addition, the school's nurse assists in the area of health education by giving certified first aid instruction to some of the upper grades. Teachers are assisted in the teaching of health by having textbooks that are in alignment with the school's philosophy and mission.
- Request to waive textbook adoption requirements: When choosing textbooks and other resources, ECA evaluates them as to how well they will help us to meet Indiana academic standards, the objectives stated in our school's curriculum guide, as well as to support our school's mission and philosophy.

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation