



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

School: Indiana Academy for Science Mathematics and Humanities 1443

Education Director: Dr. David Williams

Address: Wagoner Halls  
Ball State University  
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Grade Span: 11-12

Public/Private: University Lab School

Current Enrollment: 295 Students

Targeted Population: The Indiana Academy for Science, Math and Humanities serves a distinctive population of academically gifted eleventh and twelfth grade students reflecting a state-wide population in a residential setting on the campus of a public university.

*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: The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities is a unique secondary educational institution. It serves a distinctive population of academically gifted eleventh and twelfth grade students in a residential setting on the campus of a public university. The Academy, however, is more than just a residential high school. Through its Outreach program, it serves as a statewide center for dissemination of distance learning courses in advanced subjects, training and development for teachers from all across Indiana, and other support services for the gifted. In contrast to the normal public high school, all three facets of the Indiana Academy—academic, residential, and outreach—must coordinate and integrate their activities for the overall program to be successful.

Curriculum: The unique mission of the Indiana Academy necessitates a curriculum that is also unique. We believe the Academy curriculum challenges its students to meet their academic potential in an environment that seeks to create well-rounded individuals. Academy



students should graduate not only with a great amount of knowledge, but also know how to think across discipline boundaries, apply knowledge, and be a contributing member of society.

The academic programs of the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities are comprised of a Core Program, an Exploratory Program, and an Extended Program. The Core Curriculum consists of study in the subjects of science, mathematics, humanities, and core interdisciplinary studies. The Exploratory Curriculum includes individual exploration through independent research, colloquia, apprenticeships, Academy elective courses and university elective courses. The Extended Curriculum utilizes the total Academy environment to educate the whole person through programs in leadership, wellness, community service and cultural events. Extensive opportunities for Advanced Placement courses and dual credit courses are integrated into the curriculum.

Testing History: To further ensure the academic success of its students, the Indiana Academy encourages all students to take the PSAT and AP examinations. Of the 778 juniors who have taken the PSAT beginning with the school year 2005-06, 103 or 13.2 percent were invited to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program. 62 students (8.0 percent) were recognized as "Commended Students" and 2 students or (.3 percent) were recognized as semi-finalists. 39 or 5.0 percent of the students became finalists. 98 percent of the semifinalists became finalists.

From 2006 - 2010, the juniors upon enrolling have had an average score of 1714 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) *taken when they were sophomores*. At graduation, the average score was 1860. From 2006-07 to 2010-11, Indiana Academy students earned a composite score average of a 1859.6 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, 348 points above the national average over the same period.

Staffing: The Indiana Academy has been very successful in attracting high caliber faculty members. Nine of the full-time faculty hold doctoral degrees. The remainder have at least a masters degree.

As part of the extensive faculty evaluation system, every instructor is assessed yearly on their classroom teaching, service to the Academy, and professional development activities. To maintain an academic environment that meets the needs of highly intelligent, motivated students, the Academy courses must be taught by persons who can provide instruction that is rigorous, thought provoking, and challenging. This demands a faculty of exceptional teaching ability and depth of subject matter knowledge. The Academy seeks to hire a quality faculty to meet its instructional needs through extensive, national searches when vacancies occur. The



quality of the faculty is maintained and improved through the annual, comprehensive evaluation system and professional development requirements.

Waiver Requests:

- IC 20-30-5-11 (Instruction Concerning Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, Prescription Drugs and Controlled Substances)

Because the Indiana Academy is a residential school, much of the student education concerning alcoholic beverages, tobacco, prescription drugs and controlled substances takes place in a different manner than in the normal public high school. Our students arrive several days before classes begin for orientation. During that period, much time is spent instructing students on our policies about illegal substances and why they exist. This continues during the school year in the evening programs that are an integral part of our overall curriculum.

- IC 20-26-12-24 through IC 20-26-12-2 (Textbooks)

Since the student population of the Indiana Academy is composed of academically gifted students, most of the courses are taught at a college level and use college texts plus a multiplicity of additional text and software resources. The courses are uniquely designed for the students we admit. Selection of appropriate texts and other resource material originates with the instructor and must be approved by the division, Division Chair and Director of Academic Affairs. Given the variance in the type and number of texts that students must have for each course, the Academy needs flexibility in the policies governing textbooks.

Issues:                      None

Recommendations:    Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation