



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

School: Spirit of God  
Education Director: Geraldine Jones  
Address: 1010 Roosevelt Street  
Gary, Indiana 46404  
Grade Span: K-8  
Public/Private: Private  
Current Enrollment: 80

Targeted Population: Families seeking a safe, quality, private 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: SOGAE is located on the West side of Gary in an area that has a number of economic challenges, as well as high crime. The current population in our zip code is 72% African-American, 10% Caucasian, 10% Hispanic and 8% other ethnicities.

SOGAE is unique in that it is 98% minority students. The student population reflects the demographics of the church (although only 5% of the students attend Spirit of God Fellowship East) and the minorities of the surrounding community. Our student population grew by 8% in the 2011-2012 school years and the majority of the growth is from families of current SOGAE students and referrals. We seek to further diversify our student population through various student events and commercials.

As of July 2011, 70% of our families qualified for free lunch and 20% for reduced lunch. Though SOGAE cannot currently offer scholarships, we do accept CCDF, or children whose care is subsidized by the State.

Curriculum: In preparation for the 2012-2013 school years, SOGAE staff will begin aligning its curriculum with the Indiana standards. After receiving training from a Curriculum Development Specialist, the teachers will match the ABeka curriculum to the Standards and



mapped out standards which were to be addressed each week. Teachers submit their weekly lesson plans to the Principal and the standards to be addressed are noted on each plan.

To further ensure the proper standards are being addressed, each week students are given a short speed drills with questions from basic to higher order. Students who score a 74% or below, are required to review the Standard with the Principal and or Intervention Specialist.

Testing History: Without accreditation, SOGAE has not had access to ISTEP+ testing.

Staffing: SOGAE greatly values its teaching staff and the service which they provide. Of our five elementary teachers, two have teaching licenses, one is actively pursuing teaching degrees (and emergency licenses) and one has a CDA. The last one has an over 80 college credit hours, and is in the process of enrolling in Indiana University Northwest to continue her education in Elementary Ed.

The Principal of SOGAE is known city wide for her work with thousands of young people. She has taught with charter and private schools for over eight years. This is her first year as principal and, has shown a thriving vision to go beyond the twenty first century.

Waiver Requests: Textbook statutes

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation