



**Indiana State Board of Education
Request for Freeway School Accreditation**

Board Date: April 4 2012

School: Grace Academy
Education Director: LaDonna Wright
Address: 4001 Lincolnway East
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544
Grade Span: PK-5
Public/Private: Private
Enrollment: 35 [Pre-K – Second Grade]

Targeted Population: Families in the St. Joseph County area seeking a private, faith-based education in a safe atmosphere.

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: Grace Academy is a private, nondenominational, pre-k-5th grade Christian School. Grace Academy has been operating as a preschool/daycare since 2007 and opened the elementary school in August of 2011, after several families asked for an expanded program to include the elementary grades.

Curriculum: Grace Academy uses the Abeka curriculum which reinforces Indiana Academic and Core Standards. Teachers have obtained education in planning and implementing lessons that focus on Indiana standards which ready students for ISTEP testing. Classroom teachers will create objectives that align core academic standards with all lessons.

Testing History: No current testing data is available because of recent addition of elementary grades within the last seven months and the age levels of the students.

Staffing: The current classroom teachers are licensed in the state of Indiana. The pre-K teacher is not. The school is committed to hiring licensed teachers as the enrollment grows and additional staff is required.



Waiver Requests:

- **IC 20-30-5-8 A course in safety education for at least (1) full semester shall be taught in grade 8 of each public and nonpublic school.**

Grace Academy plans to integrate safety instruction into the existing Abeka curriculum rather than using a dedicated school course.

- **IC 20-30-5-9 The principles of hygiene and sanitary science must be taught in grade 5 of each public school and may be taught in other grades.**

Grace Academy uses the Abeka curriculum which teaches hygiene and sanitary science at every grade level.

- **IC 20-20-5-11 For kindergarten through grade 12, the governing body of each school corporation shall provide instruction concerning alcoholic beverages, tobacco, prescription drugs and controlled substances.**

Grace Academy will conduct lessons regarding alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs, and controlled substances but not necessarily in a way as described in the statute.

Issues: Staffing

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation

Rationale: With a commitment to add additional licensed teachers as the school grows, staffing credentials are typical of Freeway schools.