



Indiana State Board of Education
Request for Freeway School Accreditation
Board Date: July 3, 2013

School: Good Shepherd Christian Academy

Education Director: Julie Hasselbring

Address: 209 West Washington Street
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Grade Span: K-6

Public/Private: Private

Current Enrollment: 42

Targeted Population: Families seeking a faith-based non-public school environment

Identity: Good Shepherd Christian Academy (GSCA) is a private, non-denominational, Christian school which serves students from pre-K through sixth grade. The GSCA campus shares the facility of the First Baptist Church of Greensburg. GSCA is governed by two boards. The GSCA School Board consists of seven members serving three-year, staggered terms. This board focuses on issues of daily school administration, as well as policy making, fundraising, and strategic planning matters. An independent church personnel committee carefully selects board members with diverse educational backgrounds and life experiences, resulting in a balance of skills that would be similar to those needed in any public or private school setting. The present board is comprised of a current teacher in the Greensburg Public School system, a former teacher of early childhood education, a financial specialist, a retired secretary from the Greensburg Public School system, a successful businessperson from the Greensburg community, and a parent of a school aged children.



Curriculum: GCSA will continue to compare the elements of our curriculum with the Common Core Standards adopted by the state of Indiana. We will continue to align our curriculum with these standards subject by subject. GSCA implements the 90-minute reading block by using the Daily 5 program. We offer differentiated instruction and monitor progress by using DIBELS, Accelerated Reader, Terra Nova, Heggerty, IREAD K-3, and ISTEP+. The Common Core standards have been adopted by our K-2nd grade and will continue to be implemented, as the state requires.

Staffing: All instructional staff members are licensed in Indiana

Waiver Requests: IC 20-30-5-8, IC 20-30-5-9, IC 20-30-5-11 (Statutes concerning safety education, health education, and alcohol, tobacco, and drug education) Safety, health, and alcohol, tobacco and drug education is integrated throughout the school year into classes such as science and physical education. These subjects are addressed regularly from a Christian worldview using Biblical teaching in a variety of ways.

511 IAC 6.1-5-0.5, 511 IAC 6.1-5-1, 511 IAC 6.1-5-2.5 (Rules concerning general curriculum principles for kindergarten and elementary school) In order to comply with our vision of providing a Christian education that is both Biblically based and academically excellent, GSCA requests the freedom to choose its own curriculum. At this time our entire curriculum is aligned to the Indiana state standards.

IC 20-20-5-1 through IC 20-20-5-4, IC 20-26-12-24, IC 20-26-12-28, 511 IAC 6.1-5-5 (Statutes and rules concerning textbooks)

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation

PETITION TO THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

for

DESIGNATION AS A FREEWAY SCHOOL

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
GREENSBURG, INDIANA

GRADES K-6

June 2013

Submitted by:
Good Shepherd Christian Academy
209 West Washington Street
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
(812) 663-2410

1. Identify the school entity to be declared a Freeway School

Good Shepherd Christian Academy (GSCA) is a private, not-denominational, Christian school which serves students from pre-K through sixth grade. The GSCA campus shares the facility of the First Baptist Church of Greensburg located at 209 West Washington Street, Greensburg, Indiana 47240.

GSCA is governed by two boards. The GSCA School Board consists of seven members serving three-year, staggered terms. This board focuses on issues of daily school administration, as well as policy making, fundraising, and strategic planning matters. An independent church personnel committee carefully selects board members with diverse educational backgrounds and life experiences, resulting in a balance of skills that would be similar to those needed in any public or private school setting. The present board is comprised of a current teacher in the Greensburg Public School system, a former teacher of early childhood education, a financial specialist, a retired secretary from the Greensburg Public School system, a successful businessperson from the Greensburg community, and a parent of a school aged children.

GSCA School Board decisions are subject to the oversight of the First Baptist Church Council Board.

GSCA Mission

GSCA partners with family and church to provide a Christ-centered, Biblically-based education emphasizing excellence and character development.

GSCA Vision

Our goal is to provide an educational environment that is spiritually based, emotionally encouraging, physically safe and intellectually challenging. We believe a child has the best opportunity for success when home, church and school are working together in harmony toward these ends.

GSCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

2. Provide the demographic data pertinent to this request.

Founded in 2002, Good Shepherd Christian Academy accepts students from preschool through the sixth grade. For the 2012-2013 school year GSCA had an enrollment of 70 students, 42 of whom were in the K-6 program. We anticipate an increase in those numbers for the 2013-2014 school year by as many as 20 students and expect substantial increase over the next several years for the following reasons:

1. GSCA will be adding a Pre-Kindergarten class this coming year, which will open up 12 additional spots.
2. In the previous years we have been moving from multi-grade classrooms to single grade classrooms which has been the preference for many families.
3. We are a School Choice school and have started to see an increase in our enrollment because it is now an affordable option for local families.
4. Over the years, we have gained recognition in our community as another great option for elementary education. We have used marketing strategies to increase public awareness.

Geographically, GSCA students come from Decatur County and several surrounding counties. They represent many different churches and come from a variety of family structures and economic backgrounds. For the 2012-2013 academic year, approximately twenty percent of students received some form of financial assistance.

The faculty and staff of GSCA are highly qualified, energetic, and devoted to providing students with a quality Christian education that will prepare them for success in their future school careers and in their Christian lives. GSCA employs six full time teachers for the K-6 program. The student-to-teacher ratio in this program is 9 to 1. Additionally, we utilize the talents of dedicated volunteers, several of whom are retired or former Indiana licensed teachers.

Our current teacher hiring policy requires that all teachers have a valid Indiana teaching license. Teachers are required to be certified for the grade levels they teach. All of our current teachers meet these requirements.

GSCA utilizes Title 2 funding for professional staff development.

3. Identify the statues and rules to be suspended as a result of this contract.

IC 20-30-5-8, IC 20-30-5-9, IC 20-30-5-11 (Statues concerning safety education, health education, and alcohol, tobacco, and drug education)

Safety, health, and alcohol, tobacco and drug education is integrated throughout the school year into classes such as science and physical education. These subjects are addressed regularly from a Christian worldview using Biblical teaching in a variety of ways. Students are taught that they are personally responsible for their choices and that many choices regarding health result in long lasting repercussions. Students study related Biblical teachings and attend weekly chapel, which regularly address these issues. They are further instructed that God has created them and that their bodies are temples that should be treated with respect. Student questions

regarding any of the above issues are always encouraged and answered in an age appropriate and Biblically based manner.

511 IAC 6.1-5-0.5, 511 IAC 6.1-5-1, 511 IAC 6.1-5-2.5 (Rules concerning general curriculum principles for kindergarten and elementary school)

In order to comply with our vision of providing a Christian education that is both Biblically based and academically excellent, GSCA requests the freedom to choose its own curriculum. At this time our entire curriculum is aligned to the Indiana state standards.

IC 20-20-5-1 through IC 20-20-5-4, IC 20-26-12-24, IC 20-26-12-28, 511 IAC 6.1-5-5 (Statutes and rules concerning textbooks)

In addition to having strong Biblical foundation, the GSCA curriculum is tailored by the faculty to provide the highest level of spiritual and intellectual development. GSCA uses a variety of publishers including A Beka and Pearson as its core curriculum but supplements with other religious and secular textbooks, as well as teacher prepared materials. Classes in music, art, physical education, Indiana history, keyboarding and computer literacy and culture further enhance the curriculum.

To promote reading skills and provide greater access to a variety of children's literature, we have access to the library managed by the First Baptist Church of Greensburg. GSCA also uses Accelerated Reader to monitor reading levels of students.

Students take field trips inside and outside of the community. They are encouraged to participate in special school programs such as the annual science fair. They learn about local and Indiana history by participating in events such as Agriculture Day and Pioneer Day.

GSCA has partnered with the Decatur County Family YMCA to offer physical education opportunities two times per week that YMCA's facility.

GSCA requests the ability to continue to select a combination of religious and secular materials and programs that are consistent with our educational vision.

4. Set forth the minimum education benefits expected to be attained as a result of this contract.

During the period of this contract GSCA expects to attain the following minimum education benefits:

Attendance

GSCA will achieve and maintain an average attendance rate that constitutes compliance with IC 20-26-12-7(1) during any given year of the contract. GSCA will comply with the Department of Education's 180 instructional days for students.

ISTEP Testing

GSCA will achieve and maintain a successful completion rate of the assessment program by meeting essential standards under the ISTEP program.

Indiana Common Core Standards

GSCA will continue to compare the elements of our curriculum with the Common Core Standards adopted by the state of Indiana. We will continue to align our curriculum with these standards subject by subject. GSCA implements the 90-minute reading block by using the Daily 5 program. We offer differentiated instruction and monitor progress by using DIBELS, Accelerated Reader, Terra Nova, Heggerty, IREAD K-3, and ISTEP. The Common Core standards have been adopted by our K-2nd grade and will continue to be implemented, as the state requires.

Technology Integration

In the fall of 2012, thirteen new computers were added to our current computer lab. Each computer was equipped with the full Office package that contained Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Publisher. Each computer has Internet access. Accelerated Reader and Raz Kids are available to all students. I pads are also available for the teachers to utilize for daily instruction.

Special Needs Students

Special Needs students will be identified through daily assessments, teacher observations, and parental input. If a student is in need of further assistance, we will contact the local public school and request further testing to implement an individualized service plan. GSCA teachers will be responsible for working with local public school to make sure all needs are being met.

5. Describe what privileges are to be granted as a result of this contract

At GSCA we believe that providing the highest quality Christian education to the students entrusted to us is a mission as well as a duty. We are providing students with the tools they will need to succeed as they go on to other public or private school settings and eventually become Christian leaders in their communities. State accreditation enhances our reputation, affords us an opportunity to take on an extra

measure of accountability for providing maximum educational benefits to our students. We will continue to strive to administer the ISTEP to the best of our abilities every year. State accreditation also provides the opportunity for GSCA to offer School Choice vouchers to students in our community. It also helps attract and retain qualified teachers.

6. Set forth the benchmark by which the Freeway School will determine that the educational benefits are being attained.

Good Shepherd Christian Academy will ensure that the educational benefits listed in this contract are being attained by doing the following:

1. GSCA will continue to administer ISTEP testing every academic year throughout the contract period. GSCA will report ISTEP results as required. In the spring of 2013, ISTEP was administered online for all of our students.
2. GSCA will document and report attendance rates as required electronically as well as other required online data reporting.
3. GSCA has benefited by the WebEx trainings offered for the state of Indiana and plans on continuing to participate in these events.

IC 20-26-15-7 provides the benchmarks that a Freeway School must meet with regard to educational benefits, and it is the position of GSCA that meeting these requirements (with the exception of section 3 which applies only to high schools) within the contract period will constitute compliance with this portion of the contract. The provisions of IC 20-6-15-7 are as follows:

The minimum educational benefits that a freeway school corporation or a freeway school must produce under this chapter are the following:

- (1) An average attendance rate that increases:
 - (A) not less than two percent (2%) each school year until the average rate is eighty-five percent (85%); and
 - (B) one percent (1%) each school year until the average attendance rate is ninety percent (90%).
- (2) A successful completion rate of the assessment program by meeting essential standards under the ISTEP program (IC 20-32-5) or a locally adopted assessment program established under section 6(7) of this chapter that increases:
 - (A) not less than two percent (2%) each school year until the successful completion rate is not less than eighty-five percent (85%); and
 - (B) one percent (1%) each school year until the successful completion rate is not less than ninety percent (90%); of the students in the designated grade levels under the ISTEP

assessment program (IC 20-32-5) or the locally adopted assessment program that are grades contained in the freeway school corporation or freeway school.

- (3) Beginning with the class of students who expect to graduate four (4) years after a freeway school corporation or a freeway school that is a high school obtains freeway status, a graduation rate as determined under 511 IAC 6.1-1-2(k) that increases:
- (A) not less than two percent (2%) each school year until the graduation rate is not less than eighty-five percent (85%); and
 - (B) one percent (1%) each school year until the graduation rate is ninety percent (90%).

After a freeway school corporation or a freeway school has achieved the minimum rates required under subdivisions (1) through (3), the freeway school corporation or freeway school must either maintain the minimum required rates or show continued improvement of those rates.

7. Identify the strategies for the curriculum to address issues related to: character education; hygiene; alcohol and drugs; diseases transmitted sexually; honesty; respect; and abstinence and restraint

The GSCA curriculum is based on and interpreted in the light of God's revealed Word. The Bible provides the moral framework for all aspects of character education. Character education is an integral part of the way classes are taught on a daily basis. All teacher and assistants must give testimony of personal faith in Christ, be Christ-like examples to students in all areas of life, and be faithful in attendance and involved in a Christian church. Students are taught, by instruction and example, the importance of self-respect and respect for others, and that seeking God's approval is more important than gaining the approval of the world. The topics listed in this data prompt are all taught from a Biblical perspective to the extent that they are age appropriate.

1. Give the plan for securing and maintaining a safe and disciplined learning environment for students and teachers.

Our goal is to provide an educational environment that is spiritually based, emotionally encouraging, physically safe, and intellectually challenging. We believe a child has the best opportunity for success when home, church, and school are working together in harmony toward these ends. For that reason, certain expectations are required of parents who enroll their children in GSCA. All parents receive a copy of the student handbook, which explains school policies and governs conduct. Parents are required to sign an agreement that they will adhere to and actively support these policies.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christian manner. The standard by which students must relate to each other and their superiors includes honesty,

respect, kindness, humility and a servant-spirit. Students are required to show respect for themselves, the faculty and staff, their fellow students, and the school facility at all times. The school dress code is an extension of these values, and is integral to maintaining an atmosphere of discipline, cohesion, and respect for modesty.

Discipline flows from the principle that each student is personally accountable for his or her behavior and consistent standards of discipline are applied. Incidents of misconduct and bullying are dealt with swiftly and decisively. Any student who is unable to conform to the policies of the school will be asked to leave.

GSCA shares the facility of the First Baptist Church. Exterior doors to the school are locked during school hours, and the School Administrator must admit all visitors to the school. Security cameras have been installed at the exterior entrance with a camera monitor located in the Administrator's office to monitor all visitors. Access to classrooms is strictly limited to ensure student safety and to prevent disruptions of the learning environment.

GSCA staff members greet students outside the building in the morning and ensure that they safely enter the school. Students are supervised at all times throughout the day. If a teacher must leave the classroom, another staff member, such as the school administrative coordinator, supervises the students. Staff members make sure that anyone other than a parent or court appointed guardian who picks up a child has authorization to do so.

All school staff and volunteers are required to have an expanded criminal background check pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-10.

The Greensburg Fire Department and the State Fire Marshall inspect the school facility annually. Smoke detectors and fire safety equipment are consistently maintained. Fire, tornado, earthquake, and lockdown drills are conducted regularly. Emergency procedures and records are kept on file.

The Decatur County Health Department is used as a resource for information and policies regarding student health. A church member who is a registered nurse volunteers her time to consult as needed.

The school facility is well maintained by the church custodian.

2. The contract must identify the quantitative measures which will be used to determine that the terms of this contract are being carried out.

To ensure compliance with this contract, Good Shepherd Christian Academy will annually report to the Indiana Department of Education the following:

- Results of ISTEP Testing
- Attendance Rate (The attendance rate for the 2012-2013 academic year was 96.3%)

Appendix A- Expanded Criminal Background Check Policy

Good Shepherd Christian Academy
School Policy Requiring Expanded Criminal Background Checks for School Workers
Adopted May 13, 2013
President Julie M. Hasselbring

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5, et. seq., Good Shepherd Christian Academy will conduct criminal history background checks on all individuals who:

(1) apply for:

(A) employment with the school corporation; or

(B) employment with an entity with which the school corporation contracts for services;

(2) seek to enter into a contract to provide services to the school corporation; or

(3) are employed by an entity that seeks to enter into a contract to provide services to the school corporation;

if the individuals are likely to have direct, ongoing contact with children within the scope of the individuals' employment.

An expanded criminal history background check will be conducted on each applicant for noncertificated employment or certificated employment before or not later than three (3) months after the applicant's employment by the school. Each individual hired for noncertificated employment or certificated employment may be required to provide a written consent for the school to request an expanded criminal history check concerning the individual before or not later than three (3) months after the individual's employment by the school corporation. The school may require the individual to provide a set of fingerprints and pay any fees required for the expanded criminal history check. Each applicant for noncertificated employment or certificated employment may be required at the time the individual applies to answer questions concerning the individual's expanded criminal history check. The failure to answer honestly questions asked under this subsection is grounds for termination of the employee's employment. The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining the expanded criminal history check. An applicant may not be required by Good Shepherd Christian Academy to obtain an expanded criminal history check more than one (1) time during a five (5) year period.

All information obtained under this policy will be used in accordance with law.

Based upon the criminal history background check, an individual convicted of one (1) or more of the following offenses shall not be employed by Good Shepherd Christian Academy:

(1) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).

(2) Causing suicide (IC 35-42-1-2).

(3) Assisting suicide (IC 35-42-1-2.5).

- (4) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).
- (5) Reckless homicide (IC 35-42-1-5).
- (6) Battery (IC 35-42-2-1) unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (7) Aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).
- (8) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).
- (9) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3).
- (10) A sex offense under IC 35-42-4.
- (11) Carjacking (IC 35-42-5-2).
- (12) Arson (IC 35-43-1-1), unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (13) Incest (IC 35-46-1-3).
- (14) Neglect of a dependent as a Class B felony (IC 35-46-1-4(b)(2)), unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (15) Child selling (IC 35-46-1-4(d)).
- (16) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor (IC 35-46-1-8), unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (17) An offense involving a weapon under IC 35-47 or IC 35-47.5, unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (18) An offense relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4, unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (19) An offense relating to material or a performance that is harmful to minors or obscene under IC 35-49-3, unless ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (20) An offense relating to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated under IC 9-30-5, unless five (5) years have elapsed from the date the individual was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever is later.
- (21) An offense that is substantially equivalent to any of the offenses listed in this subsection in which the judgment of conviction was entered under the law of any other jurisdiction.

An individual employed by Good Shepherd Christian Academy shall notify the school board, if during the course of the individual's employment, the individual is convicted in Indiana or another jurisdiction of an offense described above.

Appendix B-Teaching Staff Information

Teacher	SPN	CLASS	Subjects
Sarah O'Dell	12934844	K	Reading, Math, Writing, P.E.
Jody Keppel	12934860	01	Math, Language, Spelling, Reading, Science, S. Studies, Bible, Worship, Keyboarding
Nicole Reiner	13065823	02	Math, Language Spelling, Reading, Science, S. Studies, Bible, Culture, Keyboarding
Katherine Thomay Krenzke 13081446		03	Math, Language, Spelling, Reading, Science, History, Bible, Math Helps Keyboarding
Katherine Thomay Krenzke 13081446		04	Math, Language, Spelling, Reading, Science, Indiana History, Bible, Math Helps, Keyboarding
Deborah Deavers	1293480	06	Math, Language, Spelling, Reading, S. Studies, Science Bible, Title 1, Keyboarding