

Indiana Charter School Board
Charter Application Material Change in Location Request
Indianapolis (Indy) STEAM Academy

What has Indy STEAM Academy accomplished since it was authorized in December 2019?

- Indy STEAM Academy was awarded the Charter School Program (CSP) Grant for \$900,000 to support its start-up costs (Year 0) and program implementation Years 1-2.
- Indy STEAM Academy was awarded the STEM Acceleration Grant for \$40,000 to purchase science kits, engineering modules, and provide professional development for teachers.
- Indy STEAM Academy conducted a survey of 120 parents to garner their preference for a school location. Seventy-five (75%) of parents preferred the Northeast side compared to 15% who preferred the Westside, and 10% of parents indicated either side would be their choice.
- Indy STEAM Academy partnered with Eastern Star Church who donated classroom and library furniture, art supplies, music and robotics materials, and children's books valuing \$8,758.
- Indy STEAM Academy helped recruit 144 Pre-K families with children ages 4-5 years old to participate in the Waterford Upstart Summer Reading Program to close the gap in their learning and prepare them for kindergarten. Parents received free computers and internet access to keep. Sixty-six (66) of the 144 families who participated in this program were from the Northeast side.

Material Change of Location Request Overview

Indy STEAM Academy is still in the planning phase of securing a facility. Initially, our academy sought to locate in the 16 Tech community as indicated in our charter school application. The building where we planned to locate was sold. Due to limited space and lack of availability of buildings owned by IUPUI, hospitals, and local industries, it became difficult to secure a facility in this business/industrial area. The Board of Directors is requesting to change the location of our academy to the Northeast side of Indianapolis where we have had strong parent engagement and community support in the past. **The address of the proposed location is 4020 Sherman Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46226** which is the former Renaissance Elementary School facility.

Proposed Target Community Demographics

The proposed community is the Northeast side of Indianapolis, Indiana which is bounded by Fall Creek, and Keystone Avenues (West), Sherman Drive (East), 46th Street (North), and 34th Street (South). This community includes portions of the 46205, 46218, and 46226 zip codes. According to the Polis Center SAVI Community Information System Database (2020), the total population of this community within a two-mile radius is approximately 51,176 of which 69% is African American, 22% is Caucasian, 5% is Hispanic and 1% is Asian. There are 21,864 households in this community of which 25% are households with children under the age of 18. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the population is school age children and approximately 73% of these children live in poverty. Approximately 73% of all public-school students living in this community are eligible for free/reduced meals. Approximately 82% of students attending charter schools are eligible for free/reduced meals. Approximately 27% of households are single parent families with children under the age of 18 years old. Approximately 25% of the population ages 25 years+ do not have a high school diploma and 4% have a Bachelor's degree. There is an unemployment rate of 13%. Approximately 35% of households have an income below the poverty level (125%). The average income per household is approximately \$33,111 (www.savi.org).

Table 1. Community Demographics by Zip Codes									
Zip Code:	Unemployment Rate			Families Living in Poverty (Below 125%)			Adults Age 25+ Without a HS Diploma		
	Local	State	Diff.	Local	State	Diff.	Local	State	Diff.
46226	16%	6%	+10%	36%	19%	+17%	20%	12%	+8%
46218	17%	6%	+11%	47%	19%	+28%	23%	12%	+11%
46205	10%	6%	+10%	29%	19%	+10%	10%	12%	-2%

Approximately 50 million Americans are poor and for the first time in over 40 years, low income children constitute the majority of students attending public schools. A child’s zip code continues to play a big role in their future academic success (Suits, 2008). Based on the demographics of these Northeast communities **there is a need** to help families overcome generational poverty and reduce illiteracy. **There is a need** to increase the number of students prepared to enter kindergarten, increase the number of students demonstrating reading proficiency by third grade, increase the number of students who are prepared to take advanced coursework in high school, increase the number of graduating high school, entering college, and graduating from college. **There is a need** to help students from low-income families, underserved minorities and underrepresented students like girls from the Northeast of Indianapolis become highly-qualified to acquire high-demand, high wage jobs. **There is a need** to improve the quality of life and economic earning power of families to be self-sufficient productive citizens in their communities. Education is a way out of poverty, especially for minority students (Pew Research Center, 2012). Indy STEAM Academy is committed to address local community needs to overcome generations of poverty, violence, and illiteracy.

The Need for High Performing Charter Schools on the Northeast

Table 2 below identifies demographic and performance data of IPS Schools in the geographic area of the proposed location by zip codes. This data clearly indicates there is a need to provide high-quality elementary and middle school options for parents with school-age children on the Northeast side of Indianapolis. This data clearly indicates the need for high-quality, high-performing schools that will improve the achievement of students across reading, math, and science content areas and the need to better prepare students to take advance coursework in high school and college. Data indicates there are a total of 5 failing “F” rated schools, 4 low performing “D” rated schools, 1 average performing “C” rated school, and only 1 above average to high performing “B/A” in this geographic location.

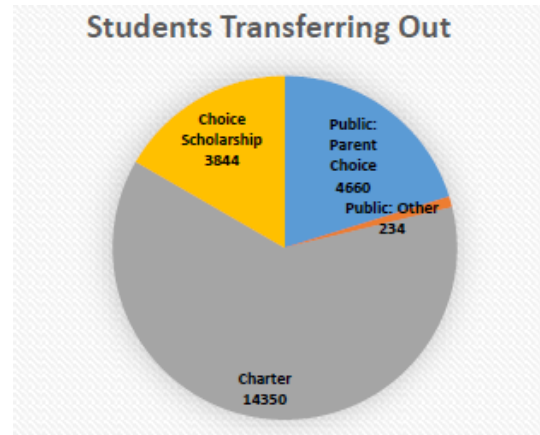
Within these three zip codes there is a high percentage of Black and Hispanic students. The majority of schools in these zip codes have a high percentage of students from low-income families. The percentage of students proficient in reading, math and science with the exception of three schools is well below 25%. Students in these identified schools, based on their levels of proficiency would have a difficult time taking advanced coursework in high school or college. Indy STEAM Academy has a rigorous, innovative instructional model that has potential to be a high-quality educational option for parents and students and enhance the academic achievement.

Table 2. Surrounding IPS Schools: Demographics and Performance Data											
Zip Codes	IPS Schools	Grades Served	Enroll 2020	Ethnicity		FR/RD Meals	Reading Proficient	Math Proficient	Science Proficient	Ratings 18/19	
46226	Robert Lee Frost School 106	PK-6	331	B	72%	72%	13%	12%	6%	F	F
46226	Charles Fairbanks School 105	K-6	320	H	16%	72%	7%	4%	5%	F	F
46226	Floro Torrence School 83	K-6	260	W	2%	83%	16%	19%	5%	D	D
46218	James R. Lowell School 51	PK-6	339	B	40%	81%	9%	10%	4%	F	F
46218	Joyce Kilmer School 69	6	70	H	15%	65%	2%	1%	6%	D	D
46218	Arlington Woods School 99	PK-6	372	W	0%	82%	6%	5%	2%	F	F
46205	Center for Inquiry School 70	K-8	442	B	24%	32%	38%	43%	50%	B	A
46205	Francis Parker School 56	PK-8	348	H	8%	66%	14%	9%	11%	D	D
46205	Louis Russell Jr. School 48	PK-6	290	W	14%	80%	8%	7%	11%	F	F
46205	Rousseau McClellan School 91	PK-8	574	B	27%	39%	40%	39%	44%	D	D
46205	William Bell ButlerLab School 60	PK-8	620	H	14%	34%	47%	38%	55%	C	C
46205				W	50%						

Source: IDOE School Corporation Data

Charter School Demand
The following 2019-20 SY data identifies
“Transfers Out” from
Indianapolis Public Schools

This pie chart identifies the breakdown of students who live in the IPS district boundaries that are state funded, but attend schools outside the boundaries (transferred out) as follows:



- Attend Charter Schools = **14,350**
- Attend a Non-Public School using a Choice Scholarship = **3,844**
- Attend a Different Traditional Public School for reasons other than Parent Choice = **4,660**

IPS Enrollment = 46,855

The list below identifies the number of students who transferred out of IPS and the Charter School they attended during the 2019-20 SY.

ACE Preparatory Academy	22	IN Math & Science Academy	432
Avondale Meadows Elem Academy	355	Hoosier Academy - Indianapolis	34
Avondale Meadows Middle School	131	Andrew J Brown Academy	526
KIPP Indy Unite Elementary	609	Indiana Connections Academy	154
KIPP Indy College Prep Middle	292	Damar Charter Academy	37
Tindley Genesis Academy	367	Phalen Leadership Academy - IN Inc	372
Tindley Summit Academy	198	Vision Academy	412
Charles A Tindley Accelerated Sch	246	Vanguard Collegiate of Indy	75
IN Math & Science Academy North	533	Global Preparatory Academy	571
Herron Charter	508	Ignite Achievement Academy	393
Hope Academy	7	Purdue Polytechnic High School Ind	304
Geist Montessori Academy	1	Purdue Polytechnic High Sch North	25
Indianapolis Metropolitan High Sch	217	J & R Phalen Leadership Academy	468
Paramount Brookside	729	Paramount Community Heights	104
Riverside High School	228	Allegiant Preparatory Academy	10
Circle City Prep Charter School	105	pilotED Schools	122
Paramount Englewood	108	Matchbook Learning	604
Options Charter School - Carmel	13	Urban ACT Academy	306
Irvington Community School	569	Kindezi Academy	360
Enlace Academy	519	Insight School of Indiana	58
Christel House Academy South	603	Indiana Academy for Sci Math	6
Christel House Academy West	387	Options Charter School Noblesville	4
KIPP Indy Legacy High	118	Indiana Agriculture and Technology	11
SE Neighborhood Sch of Excellence	607	Victory College Prep Academy	886
James & Rosemary Phalen Elementary	464	Dynamic Minds Academy	7
Invent Learning Hub	113	Indiana Connections Career Academy	20

Source: IDOE School Year 2019-20 Membership Count and Transfer Report

Observations:

- The highlighted schools in the above chart are in the geographic area of the proposed location. The data indicates that there continues to be a demand for charter schools on the Northeast side of Indianapolis in the 46218, 46226, 46205 zip codes.
- The IDOE Transfer report does not identify the number of students who live in and attend the identified charter schools in their neighborhoods. So, it would be difficult to conclude that parents living in the identified geographical “do not leave their neighborhoods to attend schools elsewhere in large enough numbers to support a new charter school in the area” as reported by Enroll Indy.
- The pie chart above indicates there is a strong parent demand for Charter Schools.

Indy STEAM Academy also analyzed the transfer rates of students in surrounding Township school districts based on **Fall 2019-20 SY** membership counts.

District	State funded students who reside within the boundaries of the district	State funded students who transfer out to attend Public Charter Schools
Avon	10,296	93
MSD Lawrence Township	16,524	662
MSD Pike Township	12,806	430
School Town of Speedway	2,082	225
MSD Warren Township	14,182	1,831
MSD Wayne Township	16,944	351
MSD Washington Township	11,536	456
Hamilton Southeastern	22,635	312
Carmel Clay	16,599	104
Noblesville	111,111	207
Total		4,671

Observations:

- Parents from surrounding townships also choose to send their children to charter schools outside of their township boundaries.
- Indy STEAM Academy would be able to attract parents who have an interest in our STEAM instructional model from surrounding townships.

Why Do Parents Choose Charter Schools?

- 27% choose based on a safe environment;
- 45% choose based on proximity to home or work;
- 59% choose based on the school’s reputation or word of mouth;
- 63% choose based on special programs like STEM, Montessori etc.; and
- 64% choose based on academic performance or State Report Card Letter Grade.

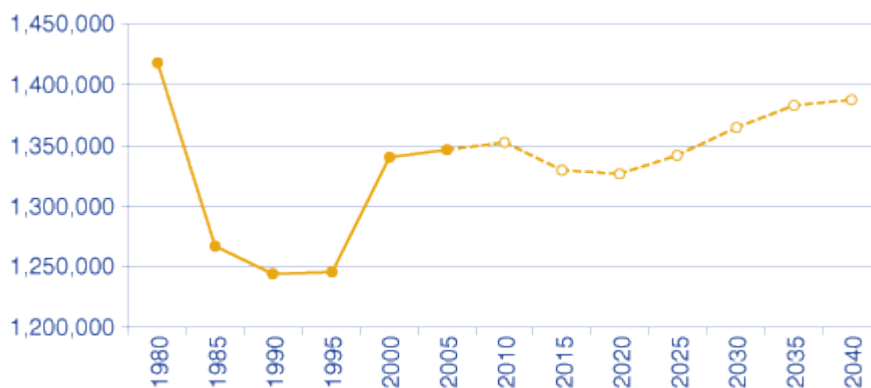
Increase in Population in Marion County

- There is a large pool of preK and kindergarten age children in Marion County.
- The number of school age children 5-19 is on the rise in Indianapolis, so there will be a healthy pool of children in need of high quality educational options in the coming years.

Based on the research from the Interactive Dashboard for Young Children and Families:

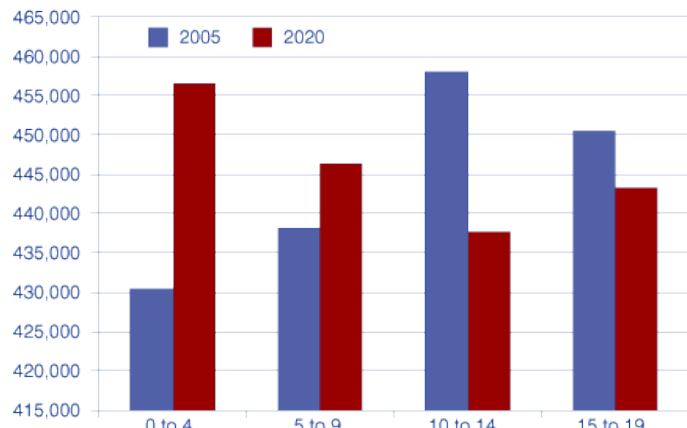
- There are approximately 13,371 four (4) year old (PreK) students in Marion County.
- There are approximately 13,610 five (5) year old (KDG) students in Marion County.

The graph below from the Indiana Business Research Center indicates that there was a decline in the number of school age children between the ages of 5 to 19 from 2010 to 2020; however, “this age group is likely to grow steadily over the next 20 years.”



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana Business Research Center

This graph from the Indiana Business Research Center indicates that there has been an increase in the number of children ages 0-4 and ages 5-9 from 2005 to 2020. There was a decline in the number of students ages 10-14 and 15-19 from 2005 to 2020. The Research Center suggests that since the 0-9 cohorts of children are “considerably larger than the older cohorts, this will lead to a rebound in the school-age population.”



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana Business Research Center

Indy STEAM Academy has realigned its enrollment projections to reflect the enrollment trends that will exist over the next five years (See Below).

School Enrollment Projections

(must align with Charter Application Enrollment Plan)

School Name: **Indianapolis (Indy) STEAM Academy**
 Planned Opening Year: **2021-22**

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Kindergarten	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 1	25	50	50	50	50
Grade 2	25	25	50	50	50
Grade 3	20	25	25	50	50
Grade 4	15	20	25	25	50
Grade 5	15	15	20	25	25
Grade 6		15	15	20	25
Grade 7			15	15	25
Grade 8				15	25
Grade 9					
Grade 10					
Grade 11					
Grade 12					
Adult					
Total Adult Enrollment:	0	0	0	0	0
Total K-12 Enrollment:	150	200	250	300	350
Special Education #	15	20	25	30	35
English Learners #	15	20	25	30	35
FRL #	105	140	175	210	245
K-12 Distribution	\$ 1,076,330.25	\$ 1,449,961.50	\$ 1,812,451.88	\$ 2,174,942.25	\$ 2,537,432.63
Adult Distribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Distribution	\$ 1,076,330.25	\$ 1,449,961.50	\$ 1,812,451.88	\$ 2,174,942.25	\$ 2,537,432.63

The above calculations are estimates based on projected enrollment. The actual distribution to the school will be based on an ADM count of eligible pupils enrolled in the school on two count dates (in September and February).

The Basic Grant amount for K-12 charter schools is \$5,548 in FY2020 and \$5,703 in FY2021. Students in Full Day Kindergarten should be treated as 1 student, students in 1/2 day kindergarten should be treated as 0.5 student. Indiana's Complexity Grant (Complexity Index * Complexity Amount) provides additional funding to school corporations serving proportionally more students from low-income families. It is based on the percentage of a school corporation's students receiving SNAP, TANF, or foster care services. The above calculation is an estimate based on the complexity index for the school corporation in which the proposed charter school will be located. The school's actual Complexity Grant amount will likely differ. The K-12 Distribution is calculated by multiplying Total Enrollment by the Complexity Grant + the Basic Grant.

The Adult Grant amount for adult high schools is \$6,750. The Adult Distribution is calculated by multiplying Total Enrollment by the Adult Grant.

Parent Demand

Due to COVID 19, Indy STEAM Academy has not had an opportunity to work with families using a face-to face platform as in the past. However, Indy STEAM Academy has established a partnership with Early Childhood Centers: Windsor Village East and West, Café Head Start and Eastern Star Day Early Learning, and the IUPUI STEM Early Learning program to recruit parents for kindergarten. Indy STEAM Academy has maintained contact with existing parents who will have children entering first through fifth grades. Parents expressed a desire to keep siblings together. Parents want their children to be exposed to hands-on project-based learning, enhance curiosity through science experimentation and building objects, coding, robotics, and creative expression through the arts.

Enrollment/Recruitment Efforts

Open Enrollment Period. The open enrollment period will begin September 2020 and will end May 31, 2021.

Letter of Intent to Enroll. Parents interested in enrolling their children may complete the Letter of Intent to Enroll which is designed to gauge the number of students at each grade level and to determine staffing and instructional resource needs.

Enroll Indy. Indy STEAM Academy is currently not listed on Enroll Indy, since we do not have an approved location. However, ISA desires to participate in the Enroll Indy One Match application process. Parents will have three opportunities to register their children during Round #1 (November 2020), Round #2 (February 2021), and Round #3 (April 2021) registration periods. Late registration begins in June 2021. ISA will follow-up with parents to complete the registration process, provide orientations, and school tours. Indy STEAM will be able to verify enrollment in May 2021 to determine the number of staff needed to accommodate students.

Communication and Marketing Plan

Indy STEAM Academy will implement our coordinated marketing and communication plan to engage the community in multiple ways including:

- Participation in Community/Neighborhood Associations meetings and local community organizations and events, local churches, and businesses
- Involvement with the community through events held at Avondale Meadows YMCA, CAFÉ, Boys and Girls Clubs and youth organizations.
- Due to COVID-19, ISA will continue to share information using social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube Channel) platforms. ISA has a website (www.indysteamacademy.org) that may be accessed via computer, tablet or mobile phone. Parents may contact the school via email or school phone.
- ISA will communicate using radio, television, newspapers (Indianapolis STAR, Indianapolis Recorder, and Chalkbeat), Public Broadcasts (WIFI), Indiana Business Journal, direct calling, direct mailers, street signs, and the distribution of flyers and brochures.
- ISA has established a Community Advisory Council comprised of leaders representing our community partners. Due to COVID-19, we plan to meet virtually once per quarter.
- ISA has established a Parent Advisory Council comprised of parents interested in sending their children to our academy. The parent group will meet virtually and share ideas via email.
- Once the facility opens, ISA will also provide School Tours, Registration, and Parent Orientations.

Transportation

Indy STEAM academy will contract with Miller Transportation to provide bus service to expand our reach of students beyond the two-mile radius of the Northeast location. Our buses will have two morning and afternoon runs that extend to the farthest sides of town including the West and South and students who are unable to walk within the two-mile radius. Our buses will also provide transportation for students participating in afterschool and extra-curricular activities. This support will help parents who do not have the means to transport their children to and from school as well as those who have extended work hours.

Contingency Plans

Enrollment Shortfall - Contingency Plan A: Reduce Staff and Expenditures

If enrollment targets are not met, the academy will still be able to operate with the appropriate ratio of staff to accommodate the lower number of students enrolled. The academy will reduce staff, instructional supplies, materials, textbooks, technology, furniture and equipment. However, the facility costs will remain the same since the academy will continue to operate with the existing lease and utility costs. The CSP and STEM Acceleration grants will also help to offset cost for supplies, materials, equipment, furniture will be reduced as well in the event we have a lower enrollment than projected. The charts below identify lower enrollment targets and staff.

Year One: Enrollment for 100 Students and Staffing:

Grade	KDG	1	2	3	4	5
Students	25	15	15	15	15	15
1 Administrator, 6 Classroom Teachers, 3 Fine Arts Teachers, 1 Special Education Teacher 1 Instructional Coach, 1 Nurse, and 1 Custodian (Contract out Business Manager Services) Total Staff = 14						

Reduced Budget Summary

Revenues		Expenditures	
Basic State Aid	\$717,533.50	Personnel Expenses	\$736,623.00
State Revenues	\$153,693.75	Instructional Supplies	\$98,062.50
Federal Revenues	\$187,499.25	Support Supplies	\$28,300.00
Other: CSP Grant	\$450,000.00	Board Expenses	\$25,500.00
Other: STEM Accel Grant	\$40,000.00	Purchased & Contract Services	\$222,830.00
Other: Charter Schl Cap	\$100,000.00	Facilities Expenses	\$485,197.00
		Other Expenses	\$20,985.00
Total Revenues	\$1,648,693.50	Total Expenditures	\$1,603,693.50
Surplus	\$31,196.00		

The Facility

Indy STEAM Academy is strongly considering a state-of-the-art school building located at 4020 Sherman Drive. This facility that is in excellent condition and is “move-in-ready.” This facility will provide a safe and inviting learning environment that is free from structural and mechanical distractions. This facility will meet our initial enrollment needs while providing room to grow as we expand by 50 additional students and two classrooms each year until we reach our maximum capacity of 450 students grades K-8 and beyond. This facility will support our ability to implement the STEAM instructional model with fidelity.

This facility has the following specifications: 52,900 square feet, secured front office and reception area, office space for administrative, back office, support staff, and nurse’s office, 29 classroom spaces to accommodate grades preschool, K-8 and possibly beyond, including special needs, ELL and intervention resource rooms, coaches demonstration room, library, computer lab, science lab, and engineering lab (maker spaces), dance studio, art, music rooms. There is a full gymnasium with locker room, large cafeteria/multipurpose room with kitchen, staff lounge, teacher workrooms, staff and student restrooms, janitorial room, storage rooms, security system and internet access, server room, central air and heating, and enclosed outdoor playground space.

This facility will allow our academy to create an Early Childhood program that serves as a pipeline for kindergarten to help us maintain our enrollment targets. Classrooms will be the appropriate size per square foot, with furniture and equipment that are developmentally appropriate in size. Restrooms will have the appropriate height toilets and sinks. The lunchroom will have appropriate height tables. There will be a separate fenced outdoor playground area. ADA Accessibility: All classrooms will be wheelchair accessible. The building we are considering is one story and will not require an elevator. Ramps and handicapped parking will be available for easy access to the building. Restrooms will have an accessible toilet and sink. The cafeteria will have a table that is wheelchair accessible.

Lease Terms

Indy STEAM Academy has submitted an LOI to BMO Bank with the lease terms of agreement.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$325,000	\$350,000	\$375,000	\$400,000	\$450,000

- Indy STEAM Academy will have access the facility starting **April 1, 2021** with a lease abatement of four months through July 30, 2021. Staff interviews, parent registration and orientations, and school tours will be conducted through July 2021.
- Staff professional development will be July 19-30, 2021.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held August 2, 2021
- First Day of School will be August 3, 2021.
- The first lease payment will be not be due until September 1, 2021.
- The first year’s lease payment will increase by \$25,000 each year until we reach a cap of \$450,000. At which time, contingent upon renewal of our charter authorization, Indy STEAM Academy will consider the option to purchase the property.
- The Smartboards, and Epson projectors in classrooms will available for use at no additional costs.
- Indy STEAM Academy has requested funds for tenant improvements; however, these will be minor improvements such as signage, painting, classroom touch-ups, and bottle water fountains.



