

GEO Next Generation Academy
Location Amendment Request
February 25, 2021

- 1. What other school options exist in the proposed location for the school? Please describe all other schools – traditional public, charter and/or private – in the immediate vicinity with the same or similar grade level configuration, including the following information for each school: the distance from your proposed location, the most recent enrollment figures by grade level, and the school’s most recent letter grade as reported by IDOE.**

High Schools in the vicinity of the proposed new location at 4010 N. Sherman Drive

--The Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School serves 374 students in grades 7-12 and is located 1.6 miles away at 3960 Meadows Dr. They currently have 91 7th graders, 76 8th graders, 63 9th graders, 53 10th graders, 48 11th graders and 43 12th graders. Rated an A school.

--Cathedral High School serves 1042 students in grades 9-12 and is located 2.9 miles away at 5226 E. 56th St. and they currently have 284 9th graders, 260 10th graders, 241 11th graders, and 257 12th graders. Rated an A school.

--Thrival Indy Academy serves 41 9th grade students and located 3 miles away at 4825 N. Arlington Ave. No state grade yet.

--KIPP Legacy High School serves 261 students in grades 9-12 and is located 3.8 miles away at 2255 Ralston Ave. It currently has 134 9th graders and 127 10th graders.

- 2. The proposed new facility is approximately five (5) miles from your current location. What are your plans with respect to your current students? Will you provide transportation to the new location?**

We hosted a parent forum to discuss the new location and every parent supported the decision to move. Students have already indicated their support for the move by re-enrolling. Only 19 of our current students have expressed a need for transportation and we are exploring leasing a big yellow bus to accommodate them.

Our transportation plans will continue as planned. Specifically, we pick up students at partner schools such as Andrew J. Brown Academy, Paramount Schools, Avondale Meadows, and we will pick up from Circle City Prep.

- 3. Please complete the attached Enrollment Plan worksheet. This enrollment plan should align to the remaining years of the charter for GEO Next Generation Academy and the new facility. How does the move affect your current Enrollment Plan?**

The move supports our enrollment plans. Our current Franklin Road location was always temporary as we had a one-year renewable lease (for one additional year). The move to the N. Sherman Dr. location was precipitated by an early sale of the current location to the neighboring

school, Circle City Prep Academy. Before renewing our lease for the Franklin property for one year, school leadership looked at options and found the N. Sherman property for sale. After doing the math (mortgage vs lease), visiting with the school board, reviewing enrollment plans/goals, and discussing school relocation plans with parents and staff, school leadership decided to support GEO Foundation's offer to purchase the property and lease to the school.

4. Please explain how you have determined that the school will have sufficient demand from students and families in the new location to meet these enrollment projections?

When our current building was sold, we hosted a parent meeting to discuss potential alternative locations for GEO Next Generation High. All who attended were supportive of this new location. Since that meeting, the students have been excited, too. Most staff are already familiar with the building and location. The building's close proximity to the current location should limit the loss of any student due to location, and the school plans to continue providing shuttle services with our K-8 partner schools. We currently have 38 new students planning to enroll, according to the EnrollIndy.

5. How and to what extent have you engaged the new community with respect to the school? How does the move impact your relationship with current and future community partners, in particular Black Expo?

Our Board Chair is the President of Indiana Black Expo. She enthusiastically approved our moving to the Sherman property. We also have another member of the Black Expo Board of Directors on our Board, Jesse Moore, and he voted to support the move to the Sherman property as well. We will be closer to one existing partner school—Avondale Meadows—and the second building on the Sherman property is planned to be leased to another charter school which we hope to partner with and serve older siblings of students attending STEAM. All other partners are not at all impacted negatively by the move. We have developed quite a few partners, too. Our current list of partners include StarFish Initiative, Urban Tech Academy, FirstRobotics, Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis, IndyGo, Enroll Indy, and several school partners including Paramount, Andrew J. Brown, Arlington Middle School, Adelante, The Path School, The Oaks, and Circle City Prep.

6. Describe the new facility. Provide a detailed list of any anticipated construction or renovations to get the building ready for students. Include the number and size of classrooms, common areas, recreational space, any community facilities, and any residential facilities. Explain how the facility will meet the needs of any students who are physically challenged.

The 20-acre property has two 52,000 square foot buildings that were recently constructed/renovated specifically to serve schools. GEO Foundation has purchased both buildings. GEO Next Generation High School will lease the 4010 N. Sherman building (see attached layout). The east building, 4020 N. Sherman, will be leased to STEAM, an elementary charter school. The Next Gen building has 22 classrooms, a full sized gym complete with locker rooms, a fully equipped commercial kitchen, a teacher's breakroom and 8 administrative offices. The one-floor building is completely handicap accessible, too. We should be able to serve 528 students quite easily.

- 7. Provide a revised budget that reflects the actual annual cost of the new facility (e.g., lease, mortgage, or other debt; construction or renovation costs; operating costs; etc.) and any additional revenue streams (e.g., lease payments) to help offset those costs. We request the revised budget is completed using the current template (version 12.07.20).**

Enclosed.

- 8. Provide a detailed start-up plan for opening the new school, including the transition from the current facility to the new facility. The plan should include specific planning tasks by month and the individual or individuals responsible for each task.**

Providing closing goes well, we should close at the end of March and take possession. We will finish out the school year at the current 4002 N. Franklin property but start to transition to the 4010 N. Sherman property. Our school principal, Jeffrey Carter, and GEO's Chief Operating Officer Jeff Lozer will be primarily responsible for all opening details. New signage will be installed in May. The building has already been fully inspected by engineers and found to be in great shape needing only minor repairs. New interior touch up painting will be completed in May. Furniture will be moved from N. Franklin property in May and June.

- 9. Lastly, a copy of the signed board resolution approving the change in location.**

Draft minutes from the January board meeting attached, with a unanimous motion from the Board to seek an amendment from the ISCB requesting this location change. These minutes are expected to be approved and made official at the upcoming March 25, 2021 Board meeting.

- 10. Please address the impact of the loss of Kelli Marshall on the school and your plans to replace her.**

Kelli Marshall is a seasoned school leader with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Her leadership and academic skills were key to GEO Next Generation's decision to bring her to the team as the school's founding school principal. Once the school launched successfully, the plan was to turn the school over to a full time principal, and to that end, we began a national search back in November, and we are pleased we have already found an experienced, dynamic leader who will hit the ground running March 15.

Our new principal, Jeffrey Carter, was interviewed and recommended by Mrs. Marshall, as well as Tanya Mckinzie, our Board Chair. He also met with school leadership, teachers, and parents, and received high marks from all stakeholders. He holds degrees from Jackson State University and Southern Methodist University, has taught for KIPP New Orleans, been a Distinguished Teacher for English in Dallas School District, and an Assistant Principal in DSD. A full resume is enclosed.

Kelli's new position at Mind Trust actually strengthens Next Gen Indy as she has already promised to include Next Gen Indy staff in all professional development opportunities supported Mind Trust which includes their leadership training, curricula support and classroom strategies support.