



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: May 22, 2024
Subject: Accreditation Petition for DAST Academy

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in its petition for performance-based accreditation and the final recommendation from the Indiana Department of Education (Department) regarding the accreditation of DAST Academy.

Background & Demographic Information

DAST Academy will be a new virtual school for the 24-25 school year. Their administrative office is in Indianapolis, Indiana. They plan to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade. DAST Academy is affiliated with the DAST Foundation.

DAST Academy is an “eternally significant educational environment where students learn to love and serve others with Godly wisdom”.

DAST Academy plans to enroll 16 students in their first year of accreditation. They anticipate enrolling another 9-11 students each year after. The school plans to expand and add a grade every year through eighth grade and has a goal of 53 students by its fifth year of accreditation.

Operations

Facilities: DAST Academy’s administrative office is located at 9511 Angola Ct. #320, Indianapolis, IN. DAST Academy also operates at another location in Placerville, California.

Tuition: Annual tuition per student totals \$10,000. DAST Academy also charges \$240 per student for application fees and a \$25 registration fee. DAST Academy indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Staffing: Tammy Smith is DAST Academy’s founding superintendent. Ms. Smith has over 35 years of experience in the education field, serving as a teacher and administrator. She was given the title of Master Principal and mentored several other Principals. She currently is in a consulting role working with site administrator in implementing effective systems to monitor and improve student achievement. Her record of increasing student performance by monitoring students and providing targeted instruction has proven successful over the years.

David Sexauer is the Head of School. Mr. Sexauer is a US Army veteran, former and a current head of school. He has affected school turnaround in dire financial circumstances. He holds a BA in History and Religion from Azusa Pacific University, and has completed coursework at APU, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently enrolled as a student at Northwestern California University School of Law. As a tech startup leader, he began exploring



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government funding opportunities in the private school space and has now helped multiple private schools to access funds from several different grant programs. He brings his experience as a private school leader, entrepreneur, and catalyst to fulfilling the mission of DAST Academy.

Academic Programming

Students at DAST Academy will study Latin, math, spelling, grammar, composition, social studies, science, geography, classical, Christian, Greek and literature. DAST Academy uses the Memoria Press Classical Core Curriculum which is a complete classical Christian curriculum that emphasizes the traditional liberal arts of language and mathematics and the cultural heritage of the Christian West. The curriculum's study of the cultures of Athens and Rome, as well as Biblical and Church history, is designed to provide a basis for a proper understanding of European and American history. DAST Academy Plans to follow the Indiana Academic Standards.

Students are assessed using formative and benchmark assessments. They plan to administer the required Indiana state assessments.

Department Recommendation

DAST Academy has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, DAST Academy has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance-based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting DAST Academy provisional state performance-based accreditation as a non-public school in Indiana.