



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: April 4, 2024
Subject: Accreditation Petition for Genius School Inc.

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 Genius School Inc (GSI).

Background & Demographic Information

GSI plans to open in fall 2024 as a non-public school.

GSI intends to serve families within Indianapolis, particularly minority children who may have suffered from the learning loss associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. GSI's vision is to "enhance, engage, and elevate the community through unleashing the inner genius."

The projected annual enrollment for GSI is 130 students for the first two years of operation, and projects to increase enrollment by 40 students per year not to exceed 250 students by year five. GSI's current enrollment is 136 students. In order to achieve their enrollment projections, the school will actively work with students and families to ensure they understand the process for participating in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Operations

Facilities: GSI will operate at New Life Worship Center, 7860 Lafayette Road, in Indianapolis. The building is annually inspected by the Indiana Department of Health and State and Local Fire Marshal, and no findings of noncompliance have been made regarding the facility.

Tuition: Annual tuition and fees for GSI total \$9,010 per student. These costs include annual tuition, lunch, technology, and transportation. GSI indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Staffing: Shon-Quon Ely is the Head of School. Mr. Ely brings over two decades of experience in educational leadership to his role as the head of GSI. With a master's degree in education administration Mr. Ely is committed to empowering students and educators to reach their full potential. Mr. Ely leads the development and implementation of strategic initiatives aligned with GSI's mission and vision. He collaborates with stakeholders to identify areas for growth and improvement, ensuring that all efforts are focused on advancing student achievement and fostering a culture of excellence.



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Anticipated staff in the first two years of accreditation is projected to include the Head of School, assistant principal, seven teachers covering multiple subjects (Grades K-6), potentially a special education teacher, administrative assistant, business office staff (dedicated to audits, HR, and transition of assets) and a part time café staff member.

Academic Programming

Programming consists of core subjects like math, science, language arts, and social studies, as well as opportunities for enrichment through extracurricular activities. The curriculum will be online based. The curriculum will be aligned with Indiana Academic Standards. Students will also take martial arts, performing visual arts, music, financial literacy, and physical education.

GSI will use a variety of different assessments to test students including NWEA, summative, and formal testing. GSI confirmed understanding the Indiana state assessments and which grades take each assessment.

Department Recommendation

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