



# Indiana Department of Education

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Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Office of School Accountability  
**Date:** April 5, 2023  
**Subject:** Accreditation Petition for Hillsboro Christian Academy

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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 Hillsboro Christian Academy.

## **Background & Demographic Information**

Hillsboro Christian Academy currently operates in Hillsboro, Indiana and serves students in pre-kindergarten through grade 7. The school operates strictly in-person. Hillsboro Christian Academy has been in operation since September 2021.

Hillsboro Christian Academy desires “to help parents pursuing an alternative to a secular education by offering the same subjects through a biblical worldview as God intended.”

Hillsboro Christian Academy projects that it will enroll roughly 30 students in kindergarten through grade 8 during the 2023-2024 school year. Over the next five years, the school intends to increase overall enrollment to 72 students.

## **Operations**

***Facilities:*** Hillsboro Christian Academy operates at 453 IN-341, Hillsboro, Indiana and is co-located with Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene. 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 Hillsboro Christian Academy total \$5,700. These costs include annual tuition, registration fee, curriculum, and a technology fee. Hillsboro Christian Academy indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

***Staffing:*** The administrative structure for Hillsboro Christian Academy is as follows:



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**Michael McCollum**  
*Chair of the Board*  
*Hillsboro Christian Academy*

**Valerie Vanaman**  
*Administrative Teacher*  
*Hillsboro Christian Academy*

Michael McCollum, pastor of Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene, is the Chair of the Board. In his role as Chair of the Board, he promotes the ideals of the school to the congregation of the church and the community. In addition, he conducts chapel at school to keep up the spiritual performance of the students and care for their hearts which helps their academic performance.

Valerie Vanaman, administrative teacher, acts in the place of a headmaster/principal. Ms. Vanaman promotes the school's ideals and student goals through teaching style and subject, curriculum development, and class structure. In addition, she brings the needs of students and school to parents, the church and to God.

Currently, Hillsboro Christian Academy has two teachers and two paraprofessionals.

## **Academic Programming**

Students will be instructed in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Bible, art, music, library, current events, nature study, and physical education. Hillsboro Christian Academy follows the state standards in mathematics, science, English/language arts, and social studies.

Students are assessed as to where they are academically, and the result is compared to where the student should be. Goals are set and steps are taken to get each student where they need to be.

Hillsboro Christian Academy uses a variety of different assessments to test the students including diagnostic testing, summative testing, and formal testing. These tests come in many different forms including teacher-observations, speed drills, projects, end of chapter tests, etc.

## **Department Recommendation**

Hillsboro Christian Academy has been in operation for the last two school years, with their enrollment growing at a reasonable pace. In addition, Hillsboro Christian Academy has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, Hillsboro Christian Academy has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting Hillsboro Christian Academy provisional state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.