



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: August 10, 2022
Subject: Accreditation Petition for Islamic Academy of Kendallville

This memorandum is a summary of the information provided by Islamic Academy of Kendallville in its petition for immediate performance-based accreditation. The Indiana Department of Education (Department) recommends that Islamic Academy of Kendallville be afforded immediate state performance-based accreditation.

Background & Demographic Information

Islamic Academy of Kendallville strives to establish a fortified learning community that promotes an increased level of academic achievement, leadership, and Islamic values. Through faith, knowledge and inspiration, the Islamic Academy of Kendallville builds and maintains a learning community that produces leaders.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville is in North Central Indiana and has been in operation for one (1) school year mainly serving English language learners from the Muslim community in kindergarten through grade 5. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Islamic Academy of Kendallville will expand and offer grade 6. All school operations are in person.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville was approved for immediate performance-based accreditation, effective with the 2021-2022 school year. Islamic Academy of Kendallville voluntarily surrendered its accreditation status due to findings of noncompliance during its provisional monitoring year. As such, Islamic Academy of Kendallville is reapplying for performance-based accreditation effectively immediately for the 2022-2023 school year.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville projects that it will enroll roughly 75 students in kindergarten through grade 6 during the 2022-2023 school year. Over the next five years, Islamic Academy of Kendallville intends to expand its student population to serve students in kindergarten through grade 10 and increase overall enrollment to 165 students.

Operations

Facilities: Islamic Academy of Kendallville is currently located at 831 Commerce Drive in Kendallville, Indiana. The facility has demonstrated compliance with applicable building codes, fire prevention codes, local zoning codes, and health and safety requirements. Islamic Academy of Kendallville will have a permanent location at 200 West Ohio Street in Kendallville, Indiana, which is expected to be available by July 2023.



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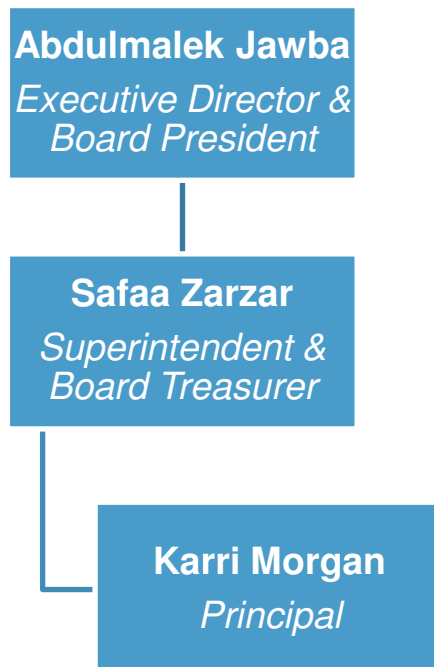
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Tuition: Tuition for Islamic Academy of Kendallville is listed as \$6,666.67 annually. Islamic Academy of Kendallville indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program to provide opportunities for low income students to attend the school, given that roughly 75 percent of school families are categorized as low income.

Data & Reporting: Islamic Academy of Kendallville uses Gradelink as its student information system to manage its data and reporting requirements. Gradelink is an Indiana Ed-Fi Data certified system. Additionally, Islamic Academy of Kendallville has a dedicated and experienced staff member to assist with reporting needs.

Staffing and Hiring: The governing board for Islamic Academy of Kendallville consists of five (5) members. The governing board promotes the vision and mission of the school by providing support to the school administration, monitoring school progress, and providing resources needed for continued improvement. Monthly meetings include school financial updates, academic affairs, staff affairs, student affairs, and parent and community affairs. The duties of the governing board include strategic planning, policy development, hiring school leadership, approving the annual budget, setting salaries, and ensuring the school is meeting its mission and goals.

The administrative structure for Islamic Academy of Kendallville is as follows:





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Safaa Zarzour serves as the Superintendent of Universal Schools in Illinois and Indiana and also holds the position of Treasurer for the governing board of Islamic Academy of Kendallville. Zarzour is an educator, attorney, and community activist. He has served as Secretary-General of the Islamic Society of North American (ISNA); Chief Operations Officer at Zakat Foundation of American; Chief Executive Officer of IQRA' International Foundation; and an adjunct law professor at Loyola Law School. Zarzour is also the Co-Founder of the ISNA Education Forum; Chairman of the Council of Islamic Schools of North America (CISNA); Vice-Chair of the Mosque Foundation; member of the Board of Advisors of the Lake Institution on Faith and Giving; elected board member of Oak Lawn Community High School; and President of the Syrian Forum USA.

Karri Morgan has served as principal of Islamic Academy of Kendallville since February 2022. Morgan has over six (6) years of experience in education. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications and journalism and a master's degree in education.

Academic Programming

Islamic Academy of Kendallville uses McGraw Hill/Wonders curriculum for English/language arts; Inspire curriculum for science and social studies; and Everyday Math curriculum for mathematics. Islamic Academy of Kendallville had a committee to review these curricula to ensure alignment with Indiana Academic Standards for core subject areas.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville differentiates instruction and provides small group and one-on-one instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville administers the NWEA assessment to all students throughout the school year to measure progress and growth. Teachers also administer diagnostic, formative, and summative classroom assessments that align with instructional units. Islamic Academy of Kendallville will also administer all state required assessments.

Islamic Academy of Kendallville incorporates art and physical education as “specials” throughout the instructional week. The school intends to add STEM, library, and computer science “specials” in the coming years.

Department Recommendation

Each petition for nonpublic school accreditation is reviewed and scored based on an established rubric where a school may earn a score between 0.0 and 4.0. The Department recommends for approval a petition receiving a final score of 3.0 or higher. Islamic Academy of Kendallville received a final score of 3.1 out of 4.0 possible points. Note that this score is a measure of the likelihood that the school has the capacity to immediately meet and comply with all applicable legal standards.



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Islamic Academy of Kendallville is in a unique position among applicants for immediate accreditation in that the school previously held performance based accreditation and voluntarily surrendered this status due to findings of noncompliance during its provisional monitoring year. As such, the Department considered a second factor of actual, demonstrated ability to successfully meet and comply with all applicable legal standards when formulating its recommendation. Islamic Academy of Kendallville did indicate through its 2022-2023 petition responses that it understands what is expected and required. In addition, since February 2022 when leadership of the Islamic Academy of Kendallville changed to Karri Morgan, compliance issues have decreased substantially.

Therefore, the Department recommends that Islamic Academy of Kendallville be afforded immediate state performance-based accreditation in a provisional status.