

Hoosier Academies Network of Schools

Volume 2

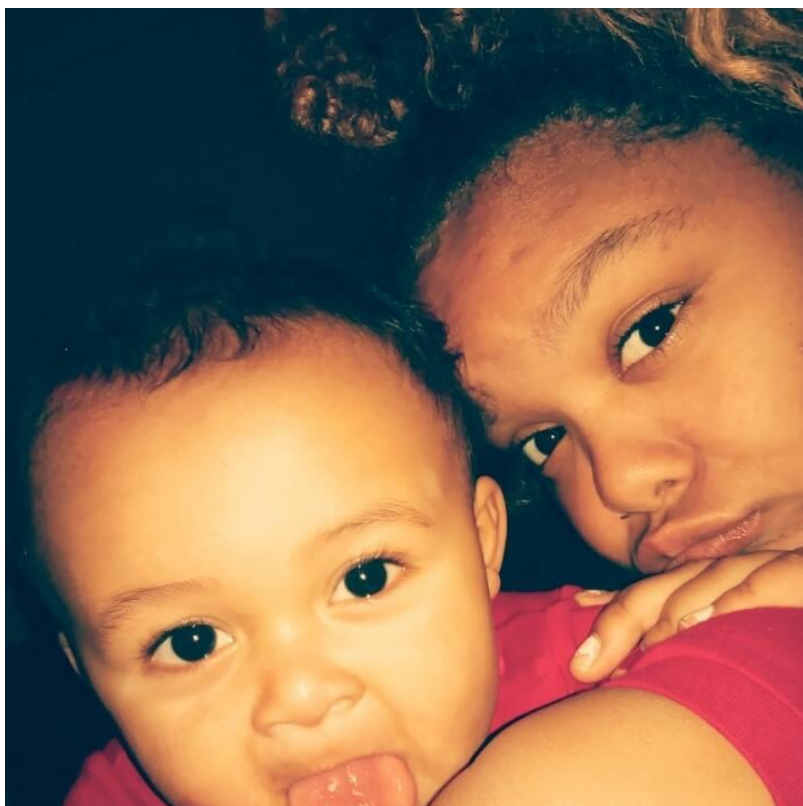


Hoosier Academies Network of Schools

Student Stories



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose to enroll myself into Hoosier Academy because at the age of 18 I finally realized how important high school was. When I was 16 I quit going to public school at 17 I was pregnant with my son I wanted to go back to school but it seemed impossible with a baby. So as soon as I turned 18 I started the process of enrolling myself back into school not only for my future but for my son as well. If it was not for Hoosier Academy and the teachers who go **ABOVE AND BEYOND** to help I would not be graduating this year or planning on going to college!



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose Hoosier Academies, because I could not concentrate fully in public school where I was not even trying to get anything done. This online program has really helped to motivate me with its many great teachers, administrators, etc... The insight program that I'm in is very helpful to students like me who are behind in some subjects, because I find it really easy to navigate through this website when I'm required to do assignments, attend live sessions, and check my grades. I've been on another online school program a few years ago, and I can easily say this one is better. Thank you for providing me a way to do my school in a peaceful environment full of friendly teachers and staff.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We decided to enroll in Hoosier Academy because our son Collin has a mental health issue. He would not go to school in our local area. Hoosier Academy was our only resort. We are completely happy with this school and want our son to continue his education there. He is doing so well at Hoosier, better than he did at the local public school. We would be lost without Hoosier Academy. He needs a virtual school to succeed!!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I want to relate to you why I chose Hoosier Academy for the rest of my son's education. We had multiple health problems related to his tonsils that caused him to miss tremendous amounts of days at his High School. Also some emotional problems regarding the early loss of his mother (age 4 1/2) meant that he also suffers from social anxiety while in large groups. So far his progress in the Academy has gone well, and we expect him to graduate soon.

Some of your students have differing reasons to attend, but without the availability of online schools, Clyde Kershaw would suffer problems that would be very difficult to overcome in finishing his education

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



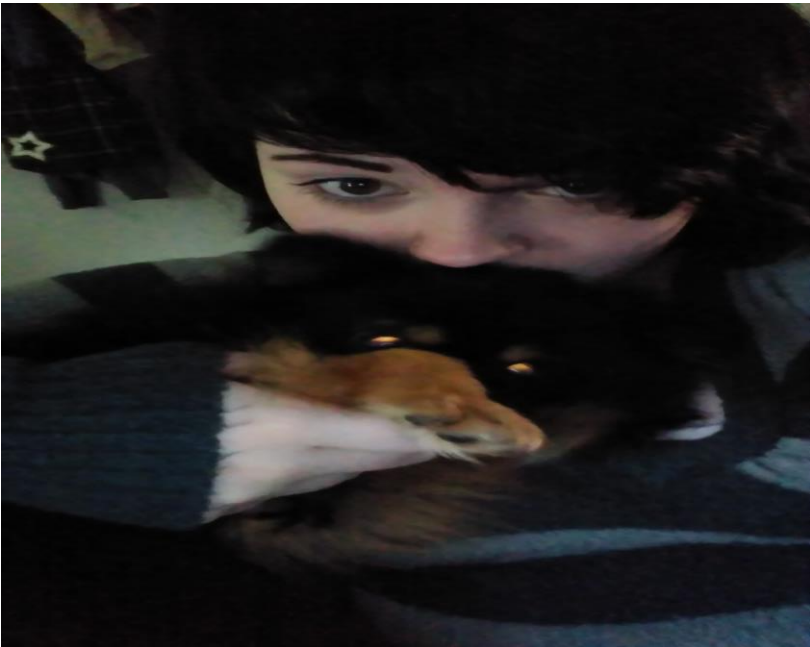
Hello my name is Christie Holstein my daughter Brooklynn Holstein has been attending Hoosier Academy since the 2nd grade because she was born with medical problems and she goes the specialist at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. she was to wear braces constantly because of Stickler Syndrome causing her to have weak joints in her feet and ankles and the school i pulled her out of told me she was not allowed to wear them due to safety hazards which is bull crap, my daughter was also born with Pierre Robin Sequence her bottom lower jaw is not fully grown out like at birth of normal babies her jaw is still slowly growing out and when she is in pain she tends to chew on her shirt and the school tried to get her for disruptive behavior, but my final straw was when her ENT pulled her out of school for the 2 weeks before Christmas break because her high fever, throwing up, double ear infection and he needed her clear for her at that time was her 3rd set of ear tubes, and the school called cps on me trying to get me for child abuse and child neglect for me taking care of my child who is very sick. since i put her in Hoosier Academy she has been on straight A's and very high testing scores the score to pass the 3rd grade was set at 446 my daughter passed with 516 score. Brooklynn loves being homeschooled and is not stressed out like she used to be in regular school she keeps herself so far ahead that she already has the November pacing guide done and continues to work hard and does 2 or 3 days of school work in one day that way if she has a dr appointment or another surgery she will not get behind..i beg please do not shut this school down it is amazing and brought out the best in my daughter all the teachers are wonderful.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



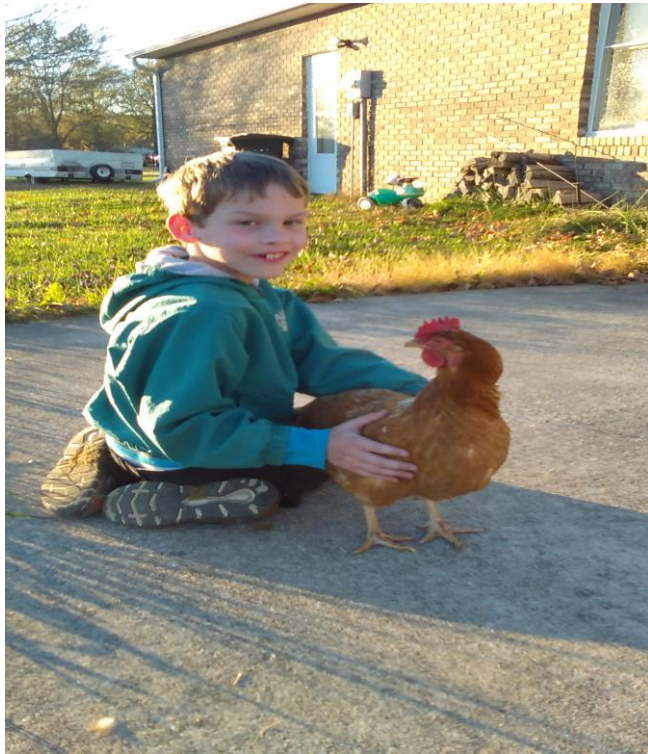
This is my son Gage. He is a very hands on person. He is wanting to be a Marine and serve our country. He is 15 and he helped build this hot rod as a intern. He knows how to weld and build engines. Gage was wanting to freedom of online classes to have time to volunteer in our community and to do his internship. He is also in a program called the Young Marines. Hoosier academy is perfect for him!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose Hoosier academy for my daughter because she wasn't doing the best in school, she hated classes, was being bullied, and just didn't want to interact with other students much. Since putting her in Hoosier Academies she has been doing a lot better. Its giving her time to work, focus on school, and actually get the education she deserves. I would hate for it to be shut down and I know she would as well. I hope that we are able to fight to keep it open and keep giving kids a great education

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is our first year in Hoosier Academies. The reasons we chose Hoosier include a flexible learning schedule and for our son to be able to take his school work anywhere there is an internet connection.

We wanted our son to be in a private school this year, but, there are none close by that meet our specifications. After making several phone calls and attempting to get him enrolled in a couple of the Christian schools here near our home town, Hoosier was the next best alternative. Our son loves to do things on the computer. So, we decided to give it a try.

So far, he has done well with what he has worked on. We are very impressed with the curriculum, and even surprised about some of the lessons in his classes. It has been a learning experience for us as his learning coaches. We are learning right along with him. The teachers seem positive and have been cheerful and encouraging. We are amazed at how tech savvy they are with the lessons.

I don't know why anyone would even think about closing this school down.

Field trips, various clubs, and many optional activities really enhance the learning experience.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Robert has always been a straight A student. Functioning in a traditional brick and mortar private school was always easy for him. When he turned 7, he started to experience migraine headaches every month or so. As he got older, they became much more frequent. Last year as a 7th grader, he started suffering 3-5 a week. This caused problems for him with attendance, falling behind in class work and missing so much school that my husband and I had to do something. A big change was going to need to take place for 8th grade, but we could not figure out what we were going to do. We were terrified at the idea of, “homeschool”, because neither of us felt like we were qualified to teach Robert. We had never researched online school for Secondary grades. We have some family friends that enrolled their two sons last year in Hoosier Academies due to severe cases of bullying in their public school. They had shared with us on more than one occasion how much they enjoyed Hoosier Academies and that their boys were removed from a very toxic environment because of this program.

We love Hoosier Academies because of the flexibility, schedule structure, online clubs and also their effort to network families. If Robert wakes up with a migraine headache, he can go back and watch his class later when he feels better. Or, if he has a subject that he did not understand during his Class Connect, then he can go back and watch it again and have a better understanding of what he may be struggling with. The teachers are very easy to reach out to and are always willing to help.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academy is a positive alternative over the traditional brick & mortar public school system. My child is ADHD, and he is not medicated due to numerous medication side effects. We had experienced several years KG through 2 yrs. of the 2nd gr. with constant complaints from our previous brick & mortar school. We were told he was disruptive in class, impulsive & hyper, and he could not complete timed assignments and was constantly fidgeting though things in his desk. This is common with the ADHD condition. He was punished regularly with being sent to sit in hallways, or to the principal office and even the school counselor where he informed her he hated coming to school! He was also denied his daily recess. My child's school days consisted of him being punished in the classroom, and even the lunchroom. This kind of negative attention made him into the class outcast. School turned into a nightmare and resulted with having no friends. He was bullied at school and on the bus. This is what he learned at school.

I have a smart & capable child being punished for his ADHD and graded with zero because of incomplete class assignments or because he was removed from the classroom. This was unacceptable, sending my child to this school felt like child abuse!

We found an alternative to this nightmare with Hoosier Academy and its virtual school. My child is thriving and enjoys school. He has enjoyed field trips & meeting friends that also attend Hoosier Academy. My child is no longer punished for his ADHD, and the lessons are designed for the child to easily understand them. He is happy, and he has school friends. He completes his lessons and he can take the time he needs on an assignment. He is doing great, and his grades are proof that he is benefiting from this schools teachings. Hoosier Academies K12 virtual school offers assistance with several opportunities for children that need it. My child will not fall through the cracks or be left behind in his education with this teaching alternative. My child is safe in our loving home environment. We have no worries of being bullied or worry over school shootings, or of teacher/bus driver sexual misconduct. These are real issue's and are happening more often in the brick & mortar schools.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I'm Jeanne Rodriguez and i wanted to tell you my story on why i have chosen Hoosier Academy. When i was a Sophomore at North Central High School i ended up pregnant. My whole pregnant i would go to school but there were times where i was really tired and felt like leaving school. I had heard of online classes but my old councilor would tell me i had to pay \$275 per semester. For me that was a lot of money just thinking about it because i had a baby on the way and i didn't have a job. I continued going until the end of sophomore year when i had my son. As soon as i had Aaron (my son) i started talking to nurses at the hospital and they provided me with information. I had spoken to a social worker who recommended this school for me. At first i thought taking online classes was going to be difficult and stressful but honestly it has made my life so much helpful! I got enrolled my junior year. I love the fact that i enrolled in Hoosier academy because i can do work at my own pace. I am more comfortable not worrying about if my answers are right or wrong and others making fun of the answers. I am more of a typical shy person so i HATED presentations at school i would be so nervous it was just crazy. Here in hoosier academy we do presentations in power points and we have the option to present in class or just to our teachers. It makes me feel much more comfortable and confident. I also like hoosier academy because i get to spend time with my son all day. I can watch him and play with him all day long. That was one of my worries in going back to school hearing all negative things about babysitters and day care i was terrified in leaving my son alone wondering if he was getting enough attention. Thanks to hoosier academy i am able to be successful continue my classes and be able to graduate on time. Every staff member is helpful! My teachers and my councilor. Whenever i have a question they are there to help and that is just amazing! I am glad programs like these exist because honestly if i hadn't heard about Hoosier Academy i think i would barely be going to school because of my son. I would prefer to be with him than attend school at 6am. It would've been so overwhelming. There are a lot of students who drop out because they think having a baby means quitting school but they are wrong!! I have recommend many of my friends and people i see on facebook to register to this school so they have time to be with their children and continue their hard work in getting their high school diploma. Hoosier Academy should continue because it is a very helpful source for a lot of people to continue their studies! Here is a picture of my son and me! I'm honestly really glad that i had the opportunity to continue my courses while being with my son. I am currently a senior about to graduate in june 2017 i am honestly so proud to say i will soon be a graduate thanks to hoosier academies!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Ashleigh was bullied, beaten, stabbed with a pencil, kneed to the ground & kicked from 1st grade through 3rd grade in a brick & mortar bldg. She was an excellent student, teachers praised her hard work, academic abilities. Still, Ashleigh was afraid to go to school, school officials denied any bullying happened, justified it as normal kid behavior, said there was nothing they could do. Her father & I hired an attorney & finally were able to get her into a private school, brick & mortar though.

Ashleigh excelled even more 4th-6th. She maintained 99-100% in each class. However, Ashleigh missed 15 or more days of school each year. She has had 11 surgeries, 7 sets of ear tubes, 2 oral surgeries, sinus reconstruction, tear duct reconstruction has had to have allergy injections weekly, 2 sets of braces, and a bite spent for time. In the 6th grade. Ashleigh had her 1st male teacher. Ashleigh has a history with a males that she was very afraid to go to school that year. The male teacher was told of Ashleigh's sensitivities. One afternoon he lost his patience with a group of boys that would not stop talking. The teacher, slammed his chair against the wall, through an eraser, & began yelling at the entire class. Among his rants were, "none of you care to learn, none of you are paying attention, none of you deserve to be in my class". Ashleigh suffered a panic attack & against his directions removed herself to the office for help.

Ashleigh was a straight A student begging her teachers for advanced work. She was teaching a 2yr old tumbling class, cheering on a Jr level 3 team, & coaching a special needs team, while paired with a down syndrome athlete all at her cheer gym. Ashleigh was missing school Fridays & some Mondays once a month to travel out of state for cheer competition. She kept 97-100% the whole year. Her cheer gym was a 2 hr drive 1 way. Practices from 5-9 pm 5 nights a week, & Sundays as well. She broke her wrist, tore tendons on her ankle requiring physical therapy. Through all these doctors appointments, cheer, missing school Ashleigh was **WORN OUT**. We live 35 minutes from school & being a private school had to get on the interstate & drive her each day. One morning dragging out of bed, black under her eyes, white as a ghost she said, "Mom I just need to sleep please, can I sleep & eat in the car." I called the school and said, "I know she has missed a lot but my daughter **NEEDS** a mental health day." I drove to school picked up all her assignments for the day, any homework give it all to me. I let Ashleigh sleep 4 hrs. When she woke up she ate a healthy breakfast / lunch then sat out in our sun room & in 2 hrs time had all the school work done!! She & I then went for a walk, she took a late afternoon nap, and then we baked. By bedtime I had a healthier girl again. Tucking her in bed she said, "I wish all school days could be like this. Why do have to sit in a hard chair, from 7:45- 3 all day doing the same work over & over because other kids don't get it? "

That is when I started searching the Internet, how to homeschooling a 7th grader. I Hoosier Academy. Ashleigh started 7th grade at Hoosier last year, she was inducted into National Junior Honor Society, kept all A' with very high percentages. She loved it. She skipped 8th grade and started her Freshman year at Hoosier Academy Virtual High school this year. She is cheering on 2 competitive teams, and coaching a tiny team. She still has many doctors appointments, still has braces, needs another set of ear tubes. However, Ashleigh has all A's is happy, rested & is learning so much at Hoosier Academy. She has opportunities to be so much more than a student. She is a mentor to young athletes and a well rounded young lady. She is a great example of the benefits of the flexibility of Hoosier Academy Virtual school and how it can allow a student to excel beyond the classroom!! She is more prepared to go to a university in today's technological world, ready to be leader in this world that so needs our youth that hold our future in their hands.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I wanted to let you know how much Hoosier Academy has meant to our family. My son, Andrew, has an ASD. He attended a traditional public school in elementary. Every year it became more and more difficult for Andrew not only academically, but socially. By fifth grade, he was unable to make it through a full day of school and had become suicidal. We removed Andrew from school to search out other options. He began Hoosier Academies in 6th grade and has **THRIVED** every year since. In Andrew's words, "I finally have a school with people like me, I finally have friends, and I finally have teachers who accept me as I am. I finally feel like I fit in somewhere. I don't know how I'd be without it!" The teachers at Hoosier Academies are angels straight from heaven. They connect with these kids who are not always the "neurotypical" child. They are able to teach to the way these children learn. The patience they show is like no other! We are so incredibly thankful for Hoosier Academies!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I was getting bullied really bad and missed a lot of school because of it! I was bullied throughout my whole life! Being in a virtual school is the best things that has happened to me. I love this school and I am doing well finally. I don't want to loose the this option. I feel like I am getting such a good education finally and I am not scared to go to school.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academy because my child was bullied in her previous school. By attending Hoosier Academy, she's had less anxiety, has been healthier, and her attendance has been at its best. She enjoys her new online learning experience. Thank you for being there for us Hoosier Academy!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is our 4th year at Hoosier Academy. Our daughter Bella spent her first 5 years at a township school and during that entire time never brought home a text book or had any homework. She always made good grades and was at the top of her class every year. We felt that she wasn't being challenged academically. The school also removed the principal in the middle of the year without any warning or explanation. The school went down hill immediately. We are blessed to have found Hoosier Academy. It proved to address both of our concerns. Bella is more than challenged with her school work and the faculty and leadership at Hoosier Academy is awesome! Thank you for all you do.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose this option with public schooling because Channing has been through a lot. He lost his 6 year old sister to a massive seizure 3 years ago, almost 4. He has a younger sister whom has been very ill her whole life and we have almost lost her 9 times. He has been through a lot in his 6 almost 7 years and going to a typical public school did not work out for him and this was the best option for Channing due to the severe separation anxiety that he has developed and does not do well away from me because of it. Without K-12 I don't know how I would do this with him

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Given the lack of high-quality education locally, we explored the possibility of homeschooling because we were willing to take whatever steps we felt were necessary to make sure our children could have the best education possible. While researching homeschooling in Indiana, we discovered the existence of virtual charter schools, and after taking a closer look at those options, we decided on Hoosier Academy Virtual Charter School. We have been so pleased with the school overall that we have enrolled Jacob in the school for the past four years and our younger son, Andrew, for the past two since he started school.

One of our concerns regarding traditional schools was our experience as students. My wife and I were both highly motivated to learn and were among the most advanced students in our classes throughout school. We remember finishing our work early and having to wait on the students who were having more difficulty with the material before we could move on and the frustration we felt because we didn't feel like we were being challenged. I eventually became bored and lost interest in trying to do my best by the time I was in fourth grade and merely did what was essential. That led to bad habits that I had to work hard to overcome when I went to graduate school. This was something we did not want our children to have to deal with, and it was one of the things that drew us to Hoosier: it gives students the freedom to master the material more or less at their own pace. They can advance quickly through lessons that are easy for them and take a little more time with the lessons that provide challenges for them. Our children were eager to learn math and to read, so they were well-prepared for Kindergarten when they started school. Because of the freedom afforded by Hoosier Academy at the time, they were able to progress through that curriculum quickly and proceed on to the more-challenging first grade curriculum in their first year. As a result, they are now both working—and excelling—at the grade level that is appropriate for their ability, which is a grade level ahead of where they would be in a traditional school setting.

The freedom Hoosier gives is also balanced by the structure of the standardized K12 curriculum and regular interaction with and monitoring by the wonderful faculty and staff. Having a standard curriculum means that we know our children are learning the material they need in order to meet state education guidelines and ultimately to be prepared for college. The interactions with the teachers and other students in Class Connect sessions not only give our children exposure to other teaching methods, but also help them feel connected to the school and build similar relationships to those they would develop in a traditional brick-and-mortar setting. Jacob's Kindergarten/First Grade teacher, Ms. Jennifer Lyons, still makes a point to come talk to him and check on his progress just as if he had been sitting in her classroom all year. Andrew's teachers, Ms. Angie Baker and Ms. Kristen Bauer, sought him out at events just to talk to him. The staff has also worked with us to make sure our children receive the best education possible. Last year we had some concerns that we brought to Dr. Ernest regarding the lack of attention being paid to "advanced learners," and he was very receptive to our concerns and was willing to come sit down and talk with us in person. He also made a point to let us know that the creation of the Insight School was now freeing up resources and personnel to begin focusing on providing programming for advanced learners. Jacob has been participating in the fourth grade program since it began this year and loves it.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We had the desire to have a big part in our children's education, and decided that homeschooling was the best option. At first, we were considering different curriculums that homeschooling families typically use. Some of them were quite expensive, and most of them did not provide any accountability or assistance. While we were excited about homeschooling, we understood that we would be faced with certain challenges and difficulties. We needed an affordable curriculum, and we also desired to have accountability and help along the way. Our oldest child, Arianna, was about to start Kindergarten. When we saw an advertisement for Hoosier Academies, we decided to enroll her. We now have 3 children enrolled in Hoosier Academies. Arianna is in Third grade, April is in First grade, and Allison is in Kindergarten. We have found that Hoosier Academies has provided everything that we were looking for, and our children are receiving the type of education we wanted to provide. They all enjoy doing school at home with Mom, and they love their online classes with their teachers. Our youngest child, Kevin, is looking forward to being in Kindergarten next year. We are very thankful for Hoosier Academies.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academies because Zach was so bored in public school that he was asking when he could quit school! He was only in the third grade! He learns so fast (much faster than his peers were) and he was getting in trouble because he would finish his work and have lots of time leftover. With Hoosier Academies, he can work at his own pace (he is nearly 70% done with 5th grade at this point, on average). Once he's done with his lessons for the day, he can move on to reading his books or going on Khan Academy and working there. At this point in Zach's education, if Hoosier Academies were to close and he had to go back to public school, I feel like he would be going backwards. Hoosier Academies has challenged Zach and has made him excited about learning again.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I am so happy there was a way to keep my son in school with a teacher and I can be his learning coach along the way. My son is Landon Sosa. At his previous charter school, he was having some difficulties with his behavior. He wasn't getting the needed attention from his teacher as I would have hoped. He started out the school year excellent and as it went on his education and attitude started declining. He was always tired from waking up so early and when I picked him up he could barely stay awake for his homework and dinner. I had no time to spend with him and I had no knowing of how he was being taught. At Hoosier Academy the teachers always are there. They reply instantly to questions and they are always there when you need help. My son enjoys having class online. He is happier and much more rested. I am extremely happy I have this opportunity to help my son exceed and the time to know where he stands in school. The curriculum is nicely organized and the lessons are easy to understand and so much fun for him. I would recommend this school to anyone.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my Great Nephew Henry A. Kiggins and I am his Learning Coach. Henry started Head Start in Plymouth at 3 years old. He moved to Argos and started Kindergarten Special Ed. At 5, had to repeat kindergarten, half way through he was transferred to Culver Special Ed. At Culver he was put in Time-Out or the Isolation Closet. How is a child supposed to learn if the Teacher will not put forth the effort to find out how he learns best? Culver passed Henry to the Second grade and he could not read two letter words (is, on, of, etc.. His Mother and I decided it would be best for Henry to find an alternative.

I did a lot of research and decided to give K12 a try. I have to admit it was a little rough starting out, but once we had Henry Evaluated and the Teachers agreed to put him back in the first grade, he has began to excel in Math with the help of a number chart. He can read 4 and 5 letter words now.

I'm am also glad I chose K12 because there are very few distractions at home and Henry can concentrate on his lessons instead of people coming and going all the time.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose Hoosier Academy because my son Alexander just didn't fit in a public school. Alexander struggled every year except last year but the program that was helping him was going to be dropped. My son is a very intelligent child but his school was trying to label him as having a learning disability. Alex doesn't fit in any group. He was also bullied because of his speech. I got on my computer looking for home school options & I found this school. I talked to the staff of this school. I felt like my son would fit here. This year Alexander is getting A's & B's. Don't close this school.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My name is Ricky Carter and I am 11 years old. I am currently in the sixth grade. This is only my second year at Hoosier Academy and I love being apart of this school. My mom and I decided to join Hoosier Academy for several reasons. I was being bullied almost everyday at my other school and no one did anything about it, instead they told us that it wasn't considered bullying. I have been diagnosed with asthma and I have to use an inhaler on a regular basis. At my old school there were three different days that I had to go to the office to ask for my inhaler and the staff would not allow me to use it. When my mom picked me up from school she ended up taking me to the E.R. because I was in a full asthma attack and she couldn't get my breathing controlled. After the third time of this happening my mom started looking for other options for me. I would really love to stay in this school because I feel safer and I am more confident now that I don't have to fear going to school. Please help me achieve my goal to graduate with Hoosier Academy



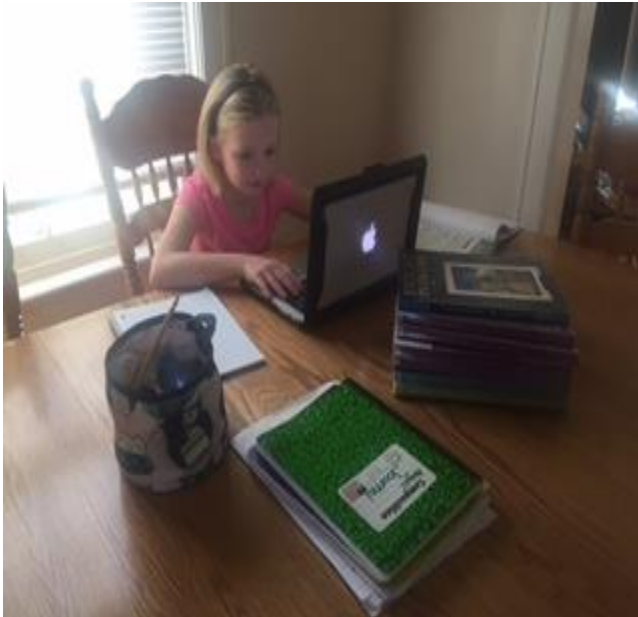
HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I enrolled Zachary into the Hoosier academy virtual school three years ago because he wasn't getting the one on one attention he needed he didn't like school and his education was suffering as a result. within the first semester his grades went from below average to average/above average he began to enjoy learning as a result. we are very happy with the program Hoosier Academy offers and look forward to seeing Zachary graduate high school from the school!



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I just want to thank you for giving my child, Abigail Carlson, the opportunity to be enrolled in the Hoosier Academy program. We have chosen to do virtual education for our children due to a transitioning situation in our family this year. This program has been a great fit for our family and has proven itself to be a well organized, challenging and stimulating curriculum for our daughter, Abby. Thank you so much.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Melissa Wilke, so she could be better prepared for her high school years. In her former public “brick & mortar” school, they neglected to follow up on putting a 504 plan into place along with not informing us when she had not been turning in homework. Following the recent raiding of our school corporation by the FBI and the fact that she was attending an overcrowded and overwhelmed public school, we decided to enroll Melissa in Hoosier Academy Virtual Middle School. Her enrollment with Hoosier Academy Virtual has allowed for breaking up her school day so she can better focus without all the distractions that come with a regular public school. This is a big plus since Melissa has ADHD. And, we don't miss her constantly forgetting her assignments in her locker, which is a non-existent problem with Hoosier Academy Virtual. Where Melissa was failing before, she is now succeeding because of Hoosier Academy Virtual Middle School.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my son Tim .He is a junior in Hoosier Academy .When Tim was in the high school he was not doing well ,but when he started Hoosier academy his grade went up .And now he make honor role every year and he his much happier.. He has very good teacher that care about his learning and are so supportive the teachers at Hoosier truly want these kid to do their best and do everything in there power to help them succeed .And anyone who things it easy is wrong .The curriculum is on target if not more then some of the other schools. Hoosier academy was a godsend and it was the best decision we made in our son education .And I hope you give all these wonderful children a change to stay in this great school



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son has ADHD, anxiety and ODD. He didn't do well in traditional public school. He has less anxiety and is adjusting slowly to Hoosier Academies. I feel it is exactly what he needs to be successful in school.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academies is important to us because, it allows Shalee to learn in a safe environment, free of bullying and the poor, distracting behaviors of others unlike in-school public education. Hoosier academies allows the child a flexible schedule and ability to work ahead and at his/her own pace. This is also a great option for children who learns better one on one. Hoosier Academies is one of the few home school programs with live classes 4 days a week offering interaction and participation. The teachers are extremely dedicated to helping each student. We would be truly devastated if Hoosier Academies closed.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I have two granddaughters the attend Hoosier Academy Virtual School. I decided to put them in virtual education because they both have special circumstances. My oldest is age 6 and she has Autism and Cerebral Palsy and she is very shy and does not talk much. So I decided to home school her to be able to better monitor her actions and how she responds to school. I am proud to say that she is opening up a lot. She answers in class and she likes her teacher a lot. My second granddaughter has ADHD and she is over active to the point that she can not sit down and we thought that she would not be able to go to a regular school for fear that they would label her as retarded and put her in class for children that they label as hard to handle. But to my surprise she is thriving very well. She has learned to sit for the 30 minutes of class and she is able to participate. So that is my story as to why this school is so important to me and my kids, because without it I would have a hard time making sure that they are being educated so as to see their potential.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



It was very important to me and my family to use a virtual school for Tariana for her first year of school, she is advanced in certain areas and becomes board in a classroom. If she had been in a classroom in my area they would still be doing the alphabet and she would be in trouble for moving around too much from boredom....however with Hoosier Academy Tariana is **READING!!!!** This is so exciting and I want this opportunity in another 5 years for my newest baby that was born this year!!!



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My daughter Brionna is 13 and in 8th grade this year. My daughter had started struggling towards the end of 7th grade. She was getting to caught up in the social aspect of who was popular, who liked her, who didn't, was she wearing the right clothes, was her hair done well enough etc etc. She had started being so worried about being popular that she stopped worrying about her work. She could do her school work and very well but stopped focusing to the point she failed her ISTEP that she had previously received above avg scores on.

The schools have what is called power school to keep track of assignment grades. This would have been useful if it was updated daily or even had a list of assignments that would be expected to be brought home but it wasn't structured that well. I could see she missed assignments but only days after and by then she already lost 50% of her credit. I completely understand this is her issue and not a result of the teachers but I also never received any feedback from the teachers. It became impossible to know whether she was lying about not having homework or if she truly didn't have any that day.

Brionna started KI2 in Aug at the start of the year. I quit my 75,000/yr perfect desk job to be home with her in hopes this program would get her refocused-on school. Best decision I've made!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academy because it seemed easier to do for Breanna instead of going to Northrop High School. She didn't like it there because it was a big school and she felt lost. The teachers are rude, also so are the students. Breanna was in a private school 6th-8th and that was not an option for High School. Hoosier Academies Virtual School was our only other choice.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



It is so important for us to go through Hoosier Academy because he loves the idea that he is still able to talk to other students and he also has a teacher other than me helping him. We choose to do virtual education because he feels safer at home than in a public school because of the way this world is today. You can't just trust anyone these days. He doesn't get bullied anymore. We also love the fact that we can take our time to do the studies and assignments it is also the best part. He is actually able to comprehend what he's learning. In public school setting, he was being forced to rush and he never knew what he was being taught this is also why Hoosier Academy is so important to us.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Rebecca Wilke would not be able to go to school if it were not for Hoosier Academy Virtual High School. She has severe PTSD from being bullied in a public “brick and mortar” school. She was going to school in abject fear until she informed us and we promptly withdrew Rebecca and enrolled her in Hoosier Academy Virtual. She has also had some health issues that has required her to go to numerous doctors appointments and the flexibility of going to Hoosier Academy Virtual has allowed her to keep up with her classes and be successful in school. At Hoosier Academy Virtual, she is excelling where before, in a regular public school, she was failing. Rebecca loves Hoosier Academy Virtual, and so do we, for allowing her to continue to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Zion is 15 and enrolled in the 10th grade at Hoosier Academy. Zion started Kindergarten at 4 years old in Highland IN. They have always been praised by teachers for their fast paced learning abilities. Elementary school and middle school went by very fast. Zion was then placed in an "accelerated" program for high school. What this essentially meant was placed in classes with kids much older than them. Zion had the courage to come out to our family at 13 years old as a transgendered person. This did not make the transition to high school easy. We got several calls from the school and our child within the first few months of school. My child was being physically and verbally abused on a daily basis. After several meetings with the principal and school counselor, we figured out that the school didn't truly understand what was happening. Luckily we found out about Hoosier Academy. It has been a life changer. My wife and I are both college graduates and expect the same for our child. We also want them to be free from hate and abuse. Hoosier Academy allows us to work with our child on their education without all the bullying

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



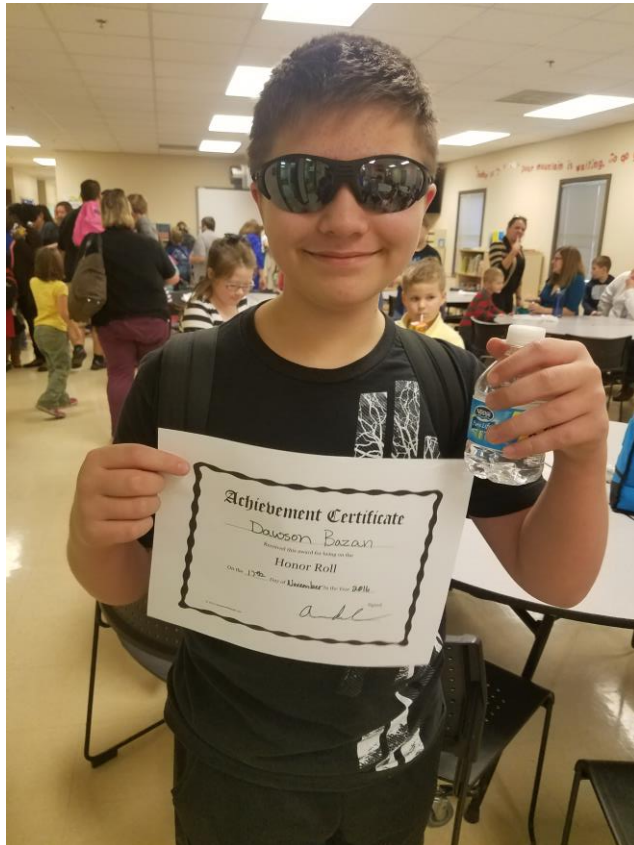
My son started in a private school where I worked as a daycare provider and after school supervisor. We could no longer afford the tuition and switched to our local public school. My son received straight As and even A+s however he was so stressed that he frequently was sent home with nausea, and stomach upset. The new "zero tolerance for horse play" rule had even the teachers stressed out. He was frustrated with the constant student discussion of sex and foul language and the disrespect shown to teachers "who were just trying to be nice". Hoosier Academy allows my son to have a quality education in a positive environment. It also allows him to participate in extracurricular such as the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program and being mentored by a local small business owner. Who even recognized him at a local event as an outstanding volunteer.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academies for few different reasons. We had tried sending our daughter Kylie to a brick and mortar school on two separate occasions, and do to her separation anxiety, we feel that she benefits more through Hoosier Academies. She can learn more easily in the comfort of our own home with less distractions, and more of a one on one learning environment. The fact that she is still able to interact with other students is definitely a plus. We are very grateful that we are able to be enrolled in Hoosier Academies and look forward to many more years to come. Thank you!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is our 4th year at Hoosier Academy. Our son Dawson was not happy in the township school that we were in. He told us in the first grade that it was a waste of his time. When we ask him why he said that the teacher talked to the class for the first 5 minutes and spent the rest of the day yelling and punishing the kids who were misbehaving. This was a little hard for us to believe that a first grader would actually think that his time was being wasted. We volunteered to help in his classroom and he was 100% correct! We knew we had to make a change. Our kids were never picked on, never the outcasts, and were always very popular. The main reason for us deciding to change schools for our son was finding a school where the teachers are in charge of their classroom. Hoosier Academy has worked out perfectly and we are very happy that we have a safe and consistent learning environment for our children. We needed teachers not babysitters and that is what we have found with Hoosier Academy.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son, Robbie, started Hoosier Academy in the third grade. We made the switch from traditional public school because it failed my son. Traditional public school failed to challenge Robbie in areas where he excelled and overwhelmed him in areas where he needed help. There was no flexibility. There was no consideration of his unique gifts and needs. There was no room for who he is as a person. Traditional public school managed to turn a little boy who was excited about school and learning into a child who dreaded going to school and was so stressed that he developed a physical tick.

Hoosier Academy has been a 180 degree turn for us. Robbie enjoys school again. He loves learning again. Hoosier Academy has been able to support and challenge Robbie in all the right ways. The curriculum is well-designed and engaging. The teachers are fantastic – their passion for the school and the children comes through in every interaction. Where the traditional public school rarely communicated with us, we have found that the teachers and administration at Hoosier Academy have been responsive to our every concern.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son is autistic. He is very smart, at the same time, he is challenging for outsiders to handle. In traditional school, he is bullied by other children who are not raised with diversity. Teachers have "set him aside" because he slows down their lesson plans. I had enough of his tears and additional anxiety my son was going through. I chose Hoosier Academy because of the slow approach and high standards for education. Even though my son is behind, it is no fault to the school. The lessons that my son is trying to understand, well, we weren't ready for. I didn't realize till we started Hoosier Academy how far behind my son is. We are struggling to catch up but eventually we will. Diego Alex is a very happy to be learning again. He enjoys waking up each day knowing there is no bullies in his classroom.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



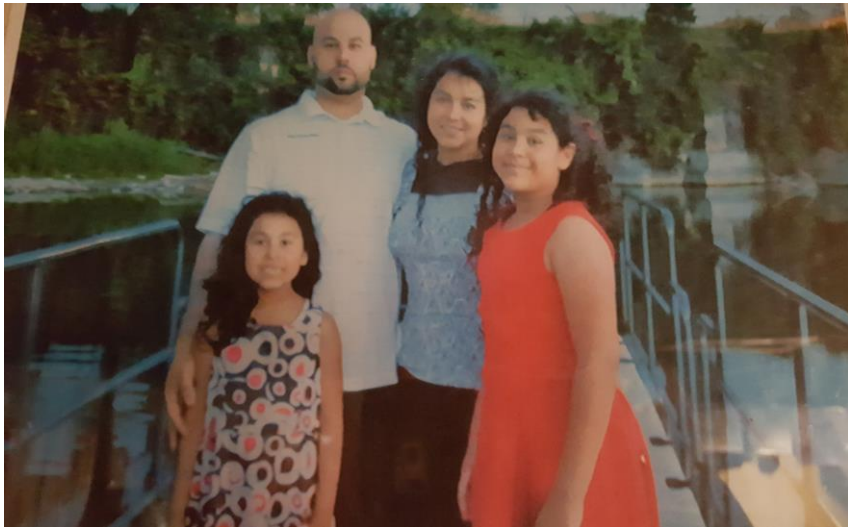
I chose Hoosier Academies because in the area we reside the schools are horrible, constantly closing and have teachers that don't take the time to care or help the children. Another big reason is because some teachers are molesting children and other student are doing things they should not be let alone even knowing about it. School is supposed to be safe for children but now days it's not and I feel better with my children being home where I know it's safe and they are not being introduced to things they shouldn't be plus they get more one on one time which is especially important since I have one that has ADHD

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Patrick joined Hoosier Academy in 6th grade .He was doing wonderfully well in his local public school namely Mill Creek East when the superintendent announced that they did not want our little town to be part of the school system.This meant my son and daughter would have to go 15 miles to school instead of a 7 min drive not only that if they went by bus they would be first on the bus and last off. Namely they would be approximately 1 and half hrs. on the bus going to school and the same coming back to my husband and i that was not acceptable.We looked for other options and i managed to get my son into another school corporation, unfortunately i was charged an ungodly amount each year to attend. I understood when he went there he would be in one elementary school for 3 years , unfortunately we found out as we were out with the district we had to take what school gave us .So from 3rd grade through 5th grade he ended up going to three different schools. again unacceptable.; So that is why i finally decided to try online school. My son simply loves it, he has responsibility which i think he wouldn't have at a regular high school . Most importantly with all the bullying, peer pressure that goes on at most schools i am so glad he does it all from home. Hope this helps keep the school open.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Family Ramos, believers in (Bible KJV) believe that we as parents are responsible to educate and care for our children, is different to send them to a local school we tried with Halana kinder, first, second year she came back full of ideas and Full of emotions! She did not pay attention did not understand things in class and little time to ask or ask for help. (Many influences and competition). We work together to teach and help our daughters and (Hoosier Academy Virtual School) is a great help and motivation for the student and for us as parents. Personally improved communication, personality, security and more

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

Our story is about kids that learn different to have a chance to receive a diploma instead of a certificate of completion. The Public school system refuses to let my son who has these big dreams to allow him to get a diploma so he can play in the N.B.A someday or even get a good job. It is a bunch of bull, that people don't want children to be homeschooled. It is a way children with disabilities can succeed in life. Everyday the world is becoming more and more dangerous. Shootings at schools bullying etc.. If we the parents become our child's coach we will be able to be with our children more. Have more input of our beliefs and desires into their lives. We sure wouldn't have to be concerned about shooting, bullying, or even school closing or late busses. Some children learn better in the evening versus in the morning

I believe we as parents deserve the right to teach our children in our homes. In our situation my child learns better in a home schooled environment. In public school systems there is constant disorder, bully's , and beliefs differ in the public school setting than our beliefs at home. We should have a right as much as the next person to our religious freedom but that has been taken away in the public school system. Our children are taught ways in the public school system that hinders our religious beliefs and values. Homeschooling parents have the freedom to continue to teach their kids public school curriculum at home without the constant outside influences from everyday life and stressors that children may experience in public schools. I highly advised keeping home schooling a option for our children.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose to put my daughter in Hoosier Academy because I felt it was more productive and a better learning environment than our local public school. There she was surrounded by drug users and fighting everyday. She begged for the past year to do online schooling as to avoid the daily drama in her high school. She is a totally different kid now that she is in Hoosier Academy. She can focus on learning instead of the unhealthy environment she was in.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



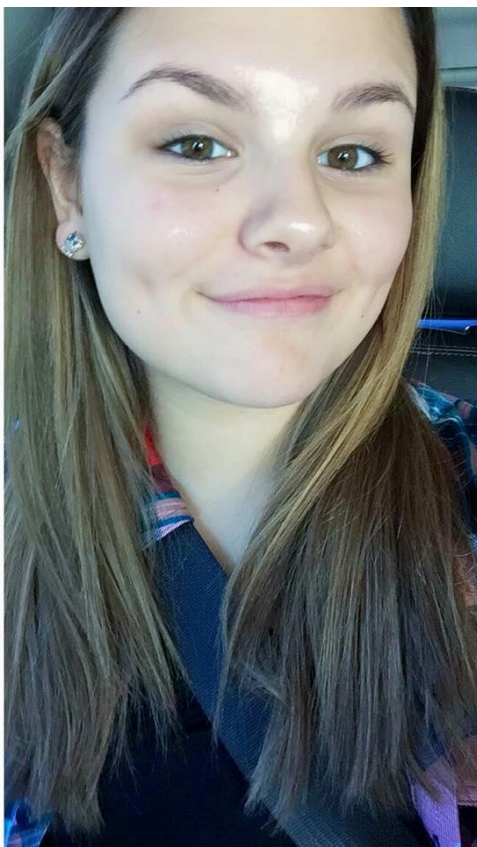
We chose Hoosier academy for our daughter because she was bullied at school but we have kept her enrolled because her health is poor and she can keep up with her school work even if she needs to do it in bed. We are so grateful there we have a choice in education.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We knew we were going to homeschool Avery for kindergarten no matter what but chose Hoosier Academy because we liked that it had a curriculum that we agreed with. I knew he wouldn't do well at this time in traditional school setting and I wanted to support him being himself. He taught himself to read using online programs so I knew he could succeed but he's not one to sit still like a classroom would require. He also has an incredible imagination and I feared that could be stifled by a school or peers. I want control over what he learns but I appreciate the guidance that Hoosier Academy offers. We'll take the direction they give but also like the freedom of being able to further study something that interests him more or take a day off to go to a museum on days that work with his Dad's crazy work schedule. We've taken advantage of other things they offer also like a field trip to Fair Oaks farm, and he loves the 4 clubs he's in that he attends online. Just homeschooling with my own curriculum wouldn't offer him that experience of interaction with other kids. We hope Hoosier Academy will be around in the future because we see ourselves continuing in this form of schooling.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My husband and I chose Hoosier Academy for our daughter, Jordan, for several reasons. Jordan had a rough year her freshman year. She was almost in tears thinking about having to return there for school this year. The administration doesn't necessarily encourage bullying but they also don't do anything about it. Who you are determines the consequences a student receives. Besides that, we wanted Jordan to have a broader band of classes to not only choose from but also challenge her. She is coming from a very small rural school with very little funding so the options are slim and continue to dwindle. Another reason was because upon doing research of Hoosier Academy we found that this school offers college courses/credits. She is continuously thinking about her future and really like this part of Hoosier Academy. It would be pretty cool for her to be on her way to obtaining a degree if not already have one upon graduating high school. We wanted to get away from the brick and mortar school and what it entails. Busy work, less one-on-one student time, work at her own pace, being challenged, the students, etc., all the while getting a great education. I am proud to say that my daughter is very self driven and has outstanding grades with Hoosier Academy, including an A all semester in Geometry. The last time she had an A in math was in 7th grade. The instructors are great and make it a point to see their students succeed! We are proud to have a Hoosier Academy student!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I want to say, in my situation it's very crucial that my children go to this school. We live in a very quiet neighborhood, but the school system in this area is really really bad, so when I found this school, it was a life saver. And not only that my youngest had problems with being distracted by other students, this way she has no one to blame, she can stay focus. My oldest daughter grades and study habits has changed for the better, **WE ABSOLUTELY NEED THIS SCHOOL!!!! PLEASE DON'T CLOSE IT!!!!**

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academy mainly out of frustration. My husband and I were upset and frustrated by how our son, Ethan was being treated by our brick and mortar school district. He was accused of things he did not do. They also ridiculed him about his attention span and learning difficulties. We had homeschooled once before for a short while, but felt out of our depth and alone. So, we put him back in school. But three years ago, we were done with it all. We were sick of our son being stressed out and sick of him being mistreated. So, we investigated homeschooling once again. Homeschooling is our final decision. We wanted a virtual school with learning and tutoring support. We are very satisfied with our choice. Please keep Hoosier Academy available for parents and their students.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son has had difficulties in public school since he was in kindergarten. He has been suspended well over 10 days every year and that is not including the days he has been sent home early because of behavior problems. I have had him in a self-contained classroom most of the time and still had no luck keeping him in school. The last brick and mortar school he attended was a charter school. They had my son sitting in the hall all day. He was not allowed to be in the classroom. He was punished for saluting people in the hallway or giving them a thumbs up. His academics have suffered throughout the years because of his behavior and the fact that schools/teachers are not prepared to deal with a child with such problems. He needs a lot of one on one help (which I can give him at home) that is not available at school because of the high number of children that each teacher is responsible for. I feel that since being home schooled he is doing better academically (which has improved his self confidence) and also I have seen none of the behaviors that had him suspended so many times from school. Please, do not take this opportunity to have an education away from my son. He doesn't do well in a brick and mortar school and I fear he will not graduate if I cannot educate him at home. Through the virtual school, I have a good set curriculum, and teachers that can help me when I reach out. I honestly feel like this is the best, maybe the only, way my son will be able to receive an education.

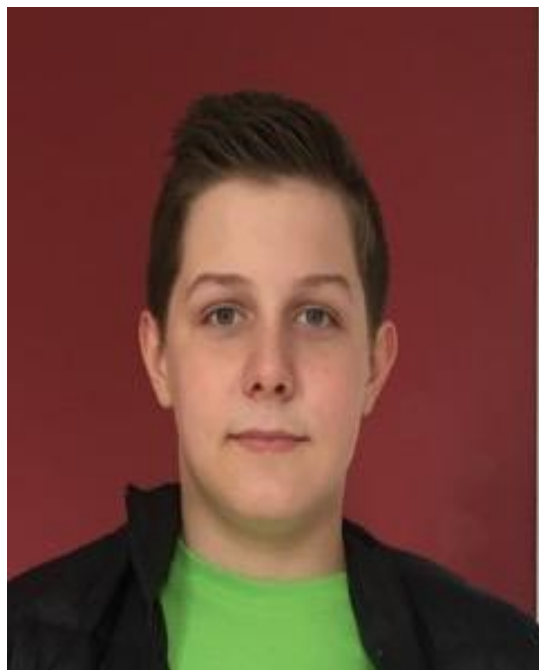
HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My daughter Kayla was in Sunman Dearborn schools until fifth grade, it was then when she started coming home each day worrying all of the time because our school was going to merge into the middle school which it used to be they would do intermediate until sixth grade then go to middle school...which is really like a high school where we live. Her teachers didn't seem to care much anymore about the classes and were very rude and hard on the kids and she just didn't feel like she belonged there anymore. Some of the kids were taking drugs and used very inappropriate language all of the time. It felt like a struggle each day to get her to go to school and it was very disheartening to have to put her on the bus.

She had some friends who home schooled and started talking to her about it and then I started researching it. With the way the world is changing so much, it just seemed like a better option for her. My other kids were able to walk through the day and put blinders on with the drugs and talk that went on at the schools, where Kay has a hard time seeing all that goes on and hearing all of the things that happen, so home school has definitely been a wonderful thing for her!! I am grateful to have this program!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Our story to change schools was due to my son not fitting the peg of traditional brick and mortar schools. He had a lot of anxiety that came out as bad behavior and the school was unable to help him. Instead of finding a positive work environment, more anxiety was created and my son was label “a bad” kid and therefore was treated like a criminal. He had a good heart and brilliant mind but the educators were overwhelmed with their student load and refused to work with me.

I found Hoosier Academy through a friend who is an educator in a traditional brick and mortar special needs preschool. What we discovered in our first year at the Hoosier Academy was that my son could participate in the classroom, his IEP was followed, and that he was able to “cope” with an abbreviated school week. Within a few years he no longer needed an IEP. He is involved in the National Junior Honor Society, is a third degree black belt in Tai Kwon Do, is involved in two other martial arts disciplines, plays guitar, and is an actor in a local theater group. He has friends and likes himself, which I do not believe would be the case if we didn’t have an option like Hoosier Academy.

There is so much more I could say about our positive experience with Hoosier Academy and am thankful that we found them.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Our daughter Seleena is a twin who was born at 28 weeks. We believe her early delivery is the cause of her lack of maturity/control for her age. She began going to public schools at the age of 5.

Since entry at the Kindergarten level, she has demonstrated a strong ability to learn; however, lacks in the ability to be respectful to herself, peers and adults and control herself.

Her bad behavior and decision making causes her to be unable to participate in extracurricular activities such as softball or basketball team. These are experiences one should be able to enjoy as a child.

The constant lecturing and mentoring was tiring. So I began doing some research and came across Hoosier Academies ! A tuition free virtual public school! I thought this would be a great idea for Seleena and our family as we have 2 other girls as well.

Due to the behavior issues at school, we spent a lot of time lecturing and mentoring her and left little to no time for our other 2 daughters due to our work schedules.

We are new to Hoosier Academies and very thankful for this program. Seleena is very happy too. Once she is settled and successfully completing the program, we will explore the extracurricular activities she is interested in



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academy is crucial to my family. Two years ago we discovered that our daughter had a rare and chronic illness. She would attend traditional school for a week and be out for two due to her decreased immune system. After months of this the guidance counselor had suggested that we consider other educational options and provided us with a list of alternative schools. If I'm honest, in no way did I want my child to attend these alternative schools with kids with severe behavioral and emotional problems. After hearing our concerns a friend recommended Hoosier Academy. It has proven to be a life saver. The education is bar none. My freshman high schooler has at times helped her older siblings, who attend brick and mortar school, with their homework as the curriculum is advanced and challenging. It has also given me an opportunity to invest in my child learning, while caring for her health issues in a way that would otherwise not be possible.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



The reason we chose HAVS is to save my daughter's life and I mean that in the literal sense of the word. My daughter has a rare chromosome disorder and mitochondrial disease and all the ugliness that comes along with those two diagnoses.

We were attending a public charter school for Kindergarten and started First grade there. Due to my daughter's illness, she has a high absentee rate. In Kindergarten, the public charter school, called Child Protective Services and made a referral. Despite all of our documentation, CPS delayed in closing the case. They never filed on us they chose not to act. We had repeated visits, requests for more and more documentation, all of which delayed care to my daughter. She subsequently ended up in Riley Hospital gravely ill. We spend 2 1/2 weeks in Riley Hospital not sure if she was coming home or not.

After my daughter came home, we had a hard conversation with the school and their position was, "we did our job, you prove us wrong in making the referral". We felt very defeated as there was absolutely no concern for the family or my daughter's well being. My daughter's behavior just crashed. She was having lots of issues. We finished the kindergarten year at the public charter. We prayed about, got lots of counseling and advice and we agree to try one more time for public charter because maybe they just didn't understand the complexity of the situation.

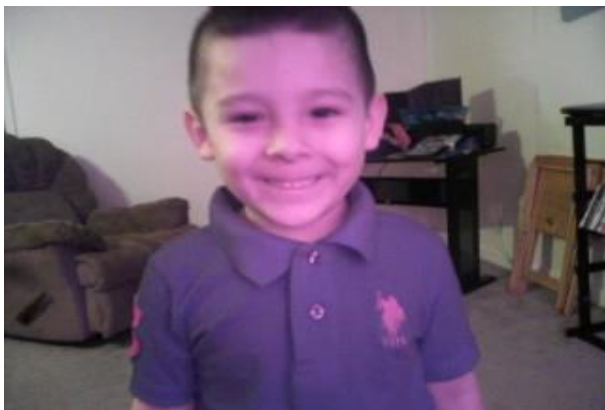
We enrolled this year for First Grade at the public charter school. My daughter last three days. On day one, she reprimanded for being wiggly. She is six years old with a pain condition. On day two, she was reprimanded for stepping out of line to see the teacher give instruction. Her disorder has stunted her growth and she is smaller than the other kids. On day three, I asked the teacher why didn't call me to help with my daughter and the things going on and her response was "I got this, don't need parents in my room". We were done. We walked out and never went back.

We enrolled at HAVS and have an entirely different kid. It took about a month for my daughter to learn to be a kid and have fun in learning. The first two months of HAVS were rough because she was in Riley receiving a lot of treatments. However, Mrs. Scott has been so helpful. I send an email and it's taken care of. There have been no reprimands for absenteeism because we are free to learn on my daughter's terms. The teacher's at Child Life at Riley are very familiar with HAVS teaching style and have no issues helping my daughter whether she is inpatient, receiving treatment and therapy or follow up. We have an amazing team with education being a beneficial part instead of a burden. We have had zero referrals to CPS because of education. That is huge burden lifted from our family.

My daughter Hannah loves being on the computer and learning. She has learned so much not just in the subjects for her grade but also in how to use a computer and the responsibility that comes with it because she was accommodated with a lap top.

I love HAVS and our First Grade team. We have a long way to go but we are further in the journey now than we have been in the last two years. Our family needs HAVS!!!! It's the only option I have left that meets all of the needs and requirements that I have to have to protect my daughter and family from the over reaches of various entities that do not understand rare and terminal illnesses and how they affect a family and how that family functions.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my son Landon Wayne Perez! Hoosier Academy is very important to us!! It is a vital part of our life, due to my son has serious medical problems. This makes him have serious immune problems and he becomes very ill easy. Hoosier Academy allows us to work around doctors and days he is ill, but still getting the school he needs. Landon is learning more then i thought he would and we are very happy with this school for our child. With out Hoosier Academy I would be faced with hard times. Landon can not go to real public school because of his health and we are low income can not afford other homeschools. They are to expensive for us.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I have been a Hoosier Academy parent for at least 6 years and I love it. I think the K12 curriculum is excellent and prepares my children well for college and the work force. My oldest son will be graduating this spring with a degree in biomedical engineering. My oldest daughter is a junior premed student. Being able to learn at home in a peaceful, nurturing environment with the support and structure of HAVS has been an important part of all 6 of my children's education. I am grateful to have such a fantastic education available as a public-school option. The public schools in my area can't compete with the depth and breadth of learning that we can accomplish at home with HAVS. All my kids have a love for learning that has been fostered by the wonderful curriculum and teachers of HAVS. They have the freedom to go deeper in a subject or get help in an area they are struggling in. I have confidence knowing HAVS meets educational standards and provides regular testing and assessments. Moreover, I have confidence because I have seen how well prepared my children are for success in higher education and entering the workforce.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



These are my five amazing children. We moved to East Chicago a little over two years ago and I enrolled my children into the local public schools, at the time they were in grades: 9th, 8th, 6th, and 1st. The experiences my children had while attending these schools were unacceptable. Fights were a daily occurrence in every school, on multiple occasions elementary school children would get into fist fights before school even started. Bullets and knives were found all over the middle and high school. Drugs were the worst of it, all from smoking into the bathrooms to kids selling and offering to anyone. Most of the teachers didn't do much of anything and didn't even care to show up half the time. I was not going to let my children be in these deplorable conditions any longer. I choose Hoosier because of the overwhelming amount of positive reviews about this school. When I first enrolled my children into Hoosier Academy I thought I was going to be very overwhelming, especially with my youngest daughter entering kindergarten the 2016-2017 school year. I was pleasantly surprised. You have some of the most amazing staff I have ever worked with. There is no question that teacher truly care about the students education. All of my children absolutely love this school and I know they are getting the education that will prepare them for their future. It would devastate this family if they closed Hoosier Academy down.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



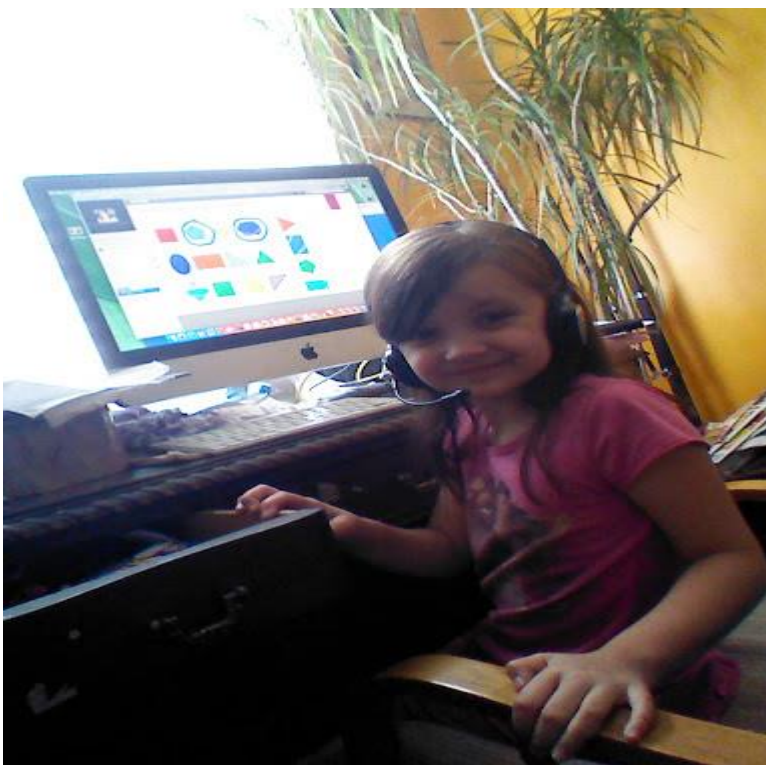
This is our 4th year with Hoosier Academy and our family loves it! We could not be more happy with our decision to leave our local brick and mortar school and join Hoosier Academy. Our oldest son has a severe, life threatening peanut allergy. Sending him to school was terrifying. We tried working with the administration to set up procedures and safety precautions for him as well as the other peanut allergy kids in the school. It worked for awhile, but not everyone followed the procedures. He was also bullied by a couple teachers. We decided we'd had enough and looked to home school him and his brother. We found Hoosier Academy and have been happy ever since. Hoosier Academy allows us to school our children from the safety of our own home while receiving a great education. No more worrying about him all day, wondering if the teachers are doing what needs done, did the other students wash their hands after eating their peanut butter sandwich for lunch, did he get excluded out of the class project because the items may have contained nuts. Everyday was a constant worry and a battle for him. He absolutely loves Hoosier Academy and he is doing great! Our two younger children are also doing great and they, too, love Hoosier Academy. This has been the perfect choice for our family.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



The reason I left my old school is I was rapped in the school and the schools response was to accuse of wrong doing and my parents the sent D.C.S three agents to our house i had to go see two physiologists and one doctor.Their case against my family fell through because there was nothing there the police detective dropped the case as soon as D.C.S picked it up.The school the whole time we asked one thing only of it and it was a transfer to one of the other South Bend Middle Schools of which there are three. In the begin the principle told us we will do it right away when it was reported there after the principle refused to speak to me or my family again no school official would talk to us after that.Went to school city was told to work through our current school we decided the best course was home private school and nothing bad has happened since. Now Amber Dooley's feelings on above said matter are as follows, I only told the public school about the one boy that was hitting me because i was scared although there was some additional boys that participated and I'm still scared. One of the boys still harasses me when he sees me in public wherever I'm at including the store and the library. I do enjoy home school as i feel safe and i feel perfectly challenged and also that the course are also easy. It is at the point were my parents would love to move so i don't have to go to South Bend Public School.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academy Virtual school has been the best option for my child. We are a low-income family. The local school received very bad ratings. I wasn't convinced my child would get the education she deserves at that school, however, being a low-income family with only one vehicle, I didn't have a way to provide transportation to a better school of my choice. Hoosier Academy Virtual school has allowed my child to receive a quality education. I also like that she gets to spend time with her family. My husband has work hours that would make him completely unavailable to her if she attended the local school. She would only get to see her father on weekends. Attending Hoosier Academy means that my daughter doesn't miss out on quality time with her father. It also means that I can participate in my child's education so I can see that she is learning. I don't have to worry about older children bullying her. I like Hoosier Academy so much that I plan to enroll my other child next year

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my 7 year old son, Nolan. He is a second grader, and we have been part of the Hoosier Academy family since he began kindergarten. We chose HA primarily because our local school district is, quite honestly, awful. As social workers, my husband and I have spent years working with families in our community, and part of our work includes helping parents work with schools as needed. We have seen so many instances of overworked, under-equipped staff, dangerously behaved students, drugs being found in the schools, bullying...I could go on and on. As a stay-at-home working mom who is highly educated, I wanted a school option for my son that would provide him with rigorous academic standards while allowing us the flexibility to teach him the way that fits best. HA is a great fit for our family.

Nolan is able to do his work at home, at his own pace, in his own way. However, he and I have the support of a fabulous teaching staff and well-prepared lessons. I don't have to choose curriculum and plan lessons, hoping I'm doing what is best for him. He has a qualified teacher to do those things. He has a qualified teacher to check on his progress during online classroom sessions. I have a qualified teacher available to answer my questions, help me brainstorm additional ways to teach a tricky idea, or point me toward extra materials. We have now had 3 teachers through HA. Each and every one of them has impressed me. I have always felt that my son is getting the best education we could give him, and I have always felt supported as a learning coach. I could not have better things to say about the teachers we have had experience with.

The added bonus of HA has come as I learned more about my son and his particular learning style. His kindergarten year, he was a typical 5 year old little boy, full of energy. He frequently did his lessons while bouncing on an exercise ball, standing on his head, walking circles around the dining room table, etc. We took breaks in between lessons where he would often run outside to swing or climb for a few moments. We practiced math facts with a jump-rope or sidewalk chalk, wrote sight words in sand trays, and were able to take the time to try out his extra hypotheses in science experiments. Other children who started kindergarten the same year would come to my house after school and literally wilt on the couch. They were exhausted. They complained about having to sit all day. And they still faced up to an hour of homework. Ugh! (And they weren't doing any science, social studies, or history!)

As Nolan has grown, he has less fidgets and is able to sit and focus for longer periods of time. However, he still enjoys being able to do his lessons in non-traditional ways and get sidetracked when an idea really grabs his attention. It is fun to watch him enjoy learning, and I'm so thankful that I have been able to allow him to learn his way. If he were in a traditional classroom, I fear we would have had a much different, negative experience with school. I am so thankful for Hoosier Academy and its fabulous staff. It has been a perfect fit for this family!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Johnny has been a student at Hoosier Academy Virtual for 8 years now. Before switching to Hoosier Academy Virtual School, Johnny was a student at Frankton Elementary School. Johnny was in the high abilities program at Frankton, which at first was really good, but then became a joke. The high ability program was supposed to include the top 10% of each grade. When it first started, that is how it was, but parents starting to complain because their kids were not in it and before the year was over there were half the class in it. The kids would sing, talk, laugh, and it was doing nothing for my son. In fact, Johnny hated it when they picked up all the kids. Johnny has always been a great student, he wants to learn and make something of himself, Frankton, was not going to be the place where he was going to be able to do that.

I started looking at other school, and I had decided to teach him myself at home when I came across Hoosier Academy Virtual School. It was the first year for the school and they were going to take only 140 students and it was for kids in fifth grade and below. We decided to enroll, and we were lucky enough for him to be accepted into the school. Hoosier Academy was a God Send to Johnny and my family.

Johnny is able to work ahead in his subject, he has great teachers who are always available to help him if he needed it and he was able to learn without all the distractions of the other kids. Johnny's dad and I both have major health problems. His dad has had two brain tumors, three open surgeries, 9 stents, two balloons and he goes in and out of A Fib, meaning he has to have his heart shocked to get it back into rhythm. I also have had four stents put in my heart. We spend a lot of time at doctors and in hospitals. When John or I are in the hospital, we all stay there. This means if Johnny were in a regular public school, he would have missed so much and his grades probably would have suffered.

Johnny has a 4.0 GPA. He has never made a B in his life. His first grade teacher still talks about him being the smartest child she ever had in her 30 years of teaching. She tells me every time I see her that she believes the best decision we ever made was putting Johnny in Hoosier Academy Virtual School. She said when you have a kid that wants to learn and really gives 150% to his school work, a regular brick and mortar school is not for that child. With the teachers having to spend so much time working with kids that do not get it in the first place, the kids that do get it are the ones to suffer.

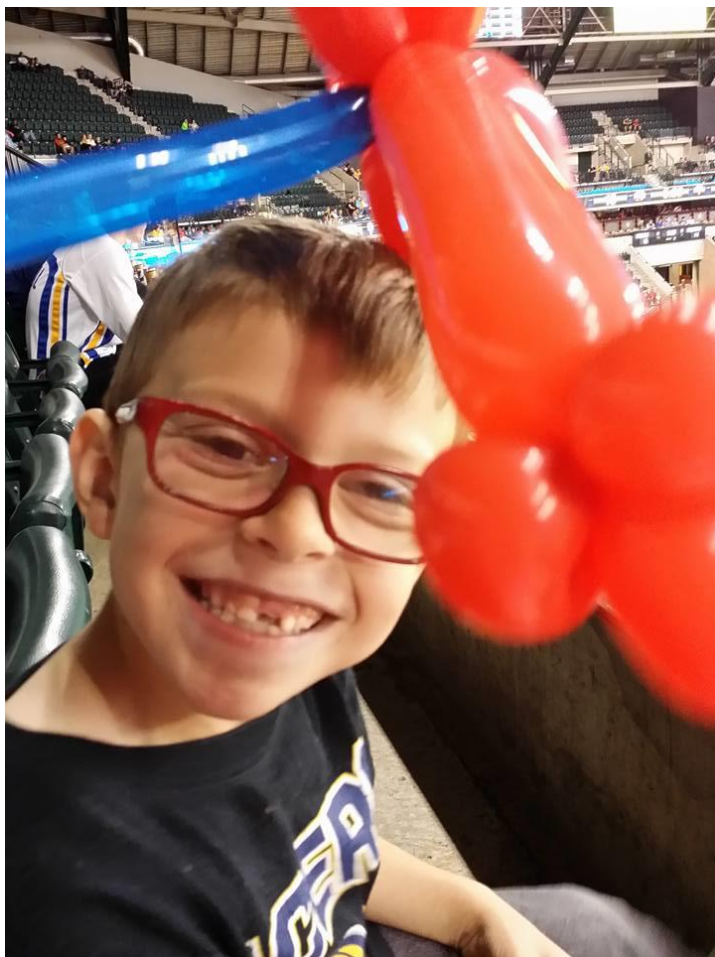
HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my son Jacob. He is a Senior at Hoosier Academy. I can not express how important this school is to my son. Jacob has auditory dyslexic and traditional teaching methods do not work for him. He had awesome teachers in a private school for K-8 that helped him and gave him individual attention, but when we looked for a High School to give him the same we came up short. This was until we heard about Hoosier Academy. He briefly attended a public high school for half of a semester and it was a complete disaster and it put him behind. Hoosier Academy was able to catch him back up and even pull him ahead. All I know is that this school has given my son the confidence in himself to succeed and be proud of who he has become.

Thank you so much Hoosier Academy!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Our Grandson, Brennan Lynn, struggled throughout Kindergarten and First Grade in public school at Warren and Decatur townships. These township schools are great schools and I have many friends who work within these systems; but, it did not work for him. We were being called on a daily basis to come pick up the boy who was having huge meltdowns in class. He is smart and sweet; but he is severely adhd and high functioning autistic. This school was a Godsend. He is doing well in his studies and the small class sizes are perfect for him. Thank you Hoosier K12!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I would like to share how great Hoosier Academy is all of the staff and teachers go way above to ensure my son understands his education studies and process in all of his classes. Without this program my son has been bullied by other students in other schools and he is afraid to back to school. The Hoosier Academy allows my son to attend school and receive an outstanding education. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. The kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. Bullied students can be mental scarred for life. This would be a very sad if they closed Hoosier Academy, I am sure other family's have other stories but for me and my son we have been blessed for this program.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I have lived in Hammond, IN. almost my entire life. In fear for their safety my son Jacob started carrying a knife to school. On his way to school one day he dropped it and a girl had seen it and reported it. Jacob was expelled. That left Nickolas alone at Gavit. Nickolas got into many fights giving him quite a reputation. Jacob and I would walk up to the school to meet his brother so that he wasn't walking alone. It got so bad that we had to move from our home of 10 years. We are still however in Gavit school district. Now the walk is even longer. I do not drive due to medical reasons. This is why I decided to put them in K12. Hoosier Virtual Academies is the only K12 public school in our area. The boys get the full education that they would at Gavit except I don't have to worry about the violence. I have more time with them and I am more apart of their education. We were on a waitlist to get into Hoosier V.A. and I think it was worth the wait. Both my boys have worked extremely hard to catch up class work, attendance, and assessments, just to learn and be a part of the Hoosier V.A. experience. To have it close down would take hope away from people and kids like us. Jacob was talking about quitting school and getting a GED. I however care about their education and didn't and still don't want that for them. If we didn't have the option Hoosier Virtual Academy this year my kids were looking at not being able to attend school at all. Jacob and Nick are now doing their freshman year together and will do all of high school together as long as they have a school to go to.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I just want to say that Hoosier Academies has helped our family in many ways. I'm very thankful for all the teachers and staff they're always nice and understanding. The teachers are always ready to help, even in times of need like when we needed assistance with food and diapers, they helped us a lot. I can't imagine my kids going back to regular school, it would be a set back for them, since there's a lot of bullying in schools. Also, I love to be able to spend time with my children and learn with them. I have three children attending Hoosier academies and one more coming in 2017, and I hope that Hoosier academies is still there for them. We love Hoosier academies and we proudly recommend it to everyone!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Jaxen did attend Switzerland County Elementary School for his kindergarten and 1st grade years. During those two years I swear it broke my heart every day that I had to literally drag my child to school kicking and screaming it got so bad that I had to have his grandfather come help me get him in the car! If anyone that has a child could relate! Now let me explain why he hated SCES school so much! In kindergarten I had to go to the school numerous times through out the year because another boy was kicking, pushing, or stealing his toys! I also heard his teacher mocking another child in the classroom that was crying! Her exact words " WA WA WA shut up I am so sick of hearing you wine get over it!" I myself will never forget the look on her face when she realized I was standing in the back of the classroom! Let me ask you would you trust this teacher with your child? This lady is suppose to be teaching these kids the proper way to behave! Not to mention some of the teachers are absent at least one or two days a week! Let me move on to first grade now! Jaxen came home 2 different times in the first grade stinking soaked pants one time was because he had to use the bathroom outside at recess and he couldn't find a teacher to ask to use restroom and he didn't want to just go cause he was scared to get in trouble! Another time was because the teacher refused to let him go! When he came home that day I was so angry Jaxen had never ever had an accident not even while potty training! I was at that school the next morning by the time I left Jaxen was the only kid in the classroom that was allowed to go to restroom anytime without asking! I can only imagine how my child felt setting in class all day with wet stinky pants worrying if other kids know or would he get in trouble from someone for having accident! What finally put me over the edge was at the end of the year I get a letter saying Jaxen can't read fast enough they want to retain him. His teacher told me all year he's doing great no worries! Jaxen made good grades just maybe 5 words slower then he should have been! So I decided enough is enough I am tired of forcing my child to go there everyday! I am serious when I say forcing i t got so bad they wouldn't allow me to walk him to class I had to take him to office and the secretary of the school drug him the rest of the way to class and he fought her to kicking and screaming mommy no please mommy no! I left that school everyday crying the entire way to work! I thought about it and saw the commercial for K12 and thought why not I cannot handle anymore! I decided to leave my job and stay home and make sure my child is getting the education he needs and deserves! I did decide that Jaxen should be retained to first grade and I think that was a great decision! I know for fact Jaxen is learning more at K12 then they teach at SCES! He's more advanced then a fourth grader there! One reason is because K12 teaches subjects that his old school doesn't! I know this because I went to school there and my niece is in third grade there now! Jaxen finally loves school now! He's so excited in the mornings he runs straight to the computer to see what he's going to learn about that day! He loves the Science experiments he never got to do those in his other school! I babysit 2 little girls they are in kindergarten and fourth grade now that I don't work anymore and they always want Jaxen to wait and do his science class when they are here because they don't do stuff like that at SCES! They all beg their moms to let them attend K12 but unfortunately they can't because they have to work! I just want to explain to the Board of Education I don't know what we would do without K12! My son does not have any learning disabilities or illnesses he's a very well behaved and kind hearted child! Jaxen's very soft spoken and always worries about hurting other people's feelings! I believe this is why he had such a hard time at SCES! I can honestly say since Jaxen has begun his new journey at K12 he's happy, he laughs and smiles more, he's not angry anymore! For me why I stay with K12 it's for the happiness and well being of my child! So please for the parents that set with their children for up to 8hrs a day and 5 days a week to make sure our children get the education they deserve and the attention they should get on a one to one to make sure they understand the work! You all went to school and you know when there are 25-30 kids in a classroom not all kids are getting what they should out of school! I know when I was in school I heard this time after time teacher after teacher " I have all ready explained it 1 or 2 times you should know how to do it by now I will not show you again!" If anyone disagrees with that statement they are lying! So please consider what you are doing to the children that work their butts off at K12! I promise this you will break my sons heart and he's all ready started worrying! If he asks me about K12 closing he can't do it without crying! I could go on and on and know I probably have left things out I wanted to say! I do want to add one more thing every single teacher Jaxen has had at K12 have been truly wonderful! We may not see each other in person but they are always there!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my son Landon Redd, he's 6 years old and by far the sweetest, funniest, and smartest kid I know. My family and I had always thought something about him was different aside from most kids, we just could never figure out what made him different, until it was suggested to me that he may have a learning disability. In late 2015 he started getting ABA therapy, it definitely seemed to be working for him and I as well as my parents noticed and still do, a significant change in him. Since going he's improved so much, yet we still didn't have a diagnosis professionally from a Psychologist until mid 2016. He was later diagnosed with a mild case of Autism. As he got older I had to start thinking of what I would do for school for him, would I chose homeschooling or public school? I got a sick feeling in my stomach anytime I thought about sending him to a public school, especially with how children are these days, they are so much more cruel and I can only begin to imagine what a traumatic experience it would be for him. I truly didn't feel sending him to a public school would be in his best interest, that's how I got in contact with K12 Online. I felt as if this was our best option and that Landon would be treated fairly, and also get the education I wanted him to have. So far he's doing great at Hoosier Academies, I notice constant improvement in him all the time.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academy has been a blessing for our family. Our daughter, Michelle Cox, started going to Hoosier during her 8th grade year due to having severe anxiety. She struggled in the traditional school setting which made it hard for her to learn and complete her work. After researching, we chose for her to attend Hoosier Academy so she could get the education she deserved without the high levels of stress traditional school was causing her. This has been a blessing for not only her but the entire family. Her sophomore year she decided to try and go back to traditional school and within two weeks, knew it was not for her. I think she did it to confirm what she already knew that online schooling is what is best for her. Not every child can succeed at a traditional school setting. It is nice that there are places like Hoosier Academy that can help children learn in an environment that they are comfortable with. Without Hoosier Academy, I am not even sure if my daughter would be on the right track. We are very happy to have this opportunity to do what we think is best for our daughter and her future. Thanks

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

We chose Hoosier Academy for the safety of our children. I feel like the brick and mortar schools have a lot of bullying which leads to depressing and an increased suicide and drop out rate among teens. I feel that choice is important and not every child learns the same. The homeschool program through Hoosier academy has helped my children to grow to be strong, confident young people and my whole family would be so sad to see this go.

I'm 7 months pregnant have been doing Hoosier Academy all year and its really helped if i had to go to public school i would be so stressed and with being a high risk pregnancy all ready the stress would not help it at all. But doing Hoosier Academy has helped, i can do all my work when ever and I'm usually a head in class a week before stuff in my classes are due. Having choice in education is a very important thing we really need it because there are girls like me that it helps out a whole a lot!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I would like to let you know exactly how much Hoosier Academy means to my family.

We have been able to watch Mason grow from not even being able to write his name (the first day he wrote it, it looked like Moo..into the 3rd day it was Mason- to a confident 1st grader. During the class connect sessions he eagerly waits to participate. I believe in this school and I know it is helping to transform many lives in our local community.

Our community always needs alternatives because choices are a good thing. In Muncie we have an alternative school called Y.O.C. and it is for kid's that get in trouble but there is still a choice for them. I feel that the kid's that want to homeschool should also have that choice and not have to get it in a bad way.

So please include these concerns when deciding the future for our students in this great virtual school.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My mom chose Hoosier Academies because it is a virtual school and because it makes school fun and simple.

I always tell everyone how awesome Hoosier is. Hoosier let's me focus on more important things than school. Thank you Hoosier for helping me through with my school and more.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My children, Isaiah and Lydia, used to attend the local public school but since Isaiah is on the autism spectrum and has ADHD, he was constantly being disruptive in the classroom. The teachers tried their best to work with him, but nothing seemed to help him keep focused. My husband and I decided to try homeschooling through Hoosier Academies. The options of being able to work in a distraction free environment and take breaks when necessary have proven invaluable. The virtual teachers have been very cooperative in helping Isaiah to do his best. Isaiah and Lydia have been attending Hoosier Academies for three years now, and I hope to be able to continue educating them in this method. We also enjoy the field trips and being able to meet other students in our area.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Brooklyn is a 1st grader at Hoosier Virtual Academy. We chose Hoosier Academy for Brooklyn for a few reasons. The main reason is her very very emotional personality. Brooklyn has the biggest heart I have seen in a child. When she was in a standard school with children she felt as if she was a failure at 5 years old. If she didn't do as well as other students she had emotional breakdowns and panic attacks, yes at 5 years old. She never wants to disappoint anyone and if she said or did the wrong thing she was unable to stop the tears. She wasn't good at being molded into what those teachers needed her to be. She is her own free spirit. She is highly intelligent but tends to show in different ways than what they forced her to do. We have been grateful to have this school as a option for her. No child should have to suffer stress and panic attacks in kindergarten or first grade. She has been doing extremely well since and not a breakdown or stressed out moment since we've been at Hoosier Virtual Academy. This is exactly what she needed.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my son James. James is a 7th grader at Hoosier Virtual Academy. We chose HVA for James for many reasons. The main one being James is not a social person. He doesn't do well around other kids and doesn't enjoy a "regular school environment". James likes to keep to himself and do things at his own pace. He's not into making friends, he's more interested in learning. James was bullied since the beginning of his school education. Hoosier Virtual Academy has let James exceed without bullies, without excuses of not to go, without the depression and sadness I seen making him attend a standard school. We are truley grateful and happy to have this as a choice for our son, when nothing else worked. And to see that this works and is exactly what he needed.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Hoosier Academy has taken our Lucas to extreme levels of learning that no brick and mortar school could ever do. With highly quality materials from K12 and the teacher and administrative support, there is no other choice for us for the quality of education he is receiving. He is showing so much advancements in all areas that Hoosier Academy offers him. Please let's keep such a wonderful school system going and going so much into the future. Thank You Hoosier Academy from our hearts!!!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



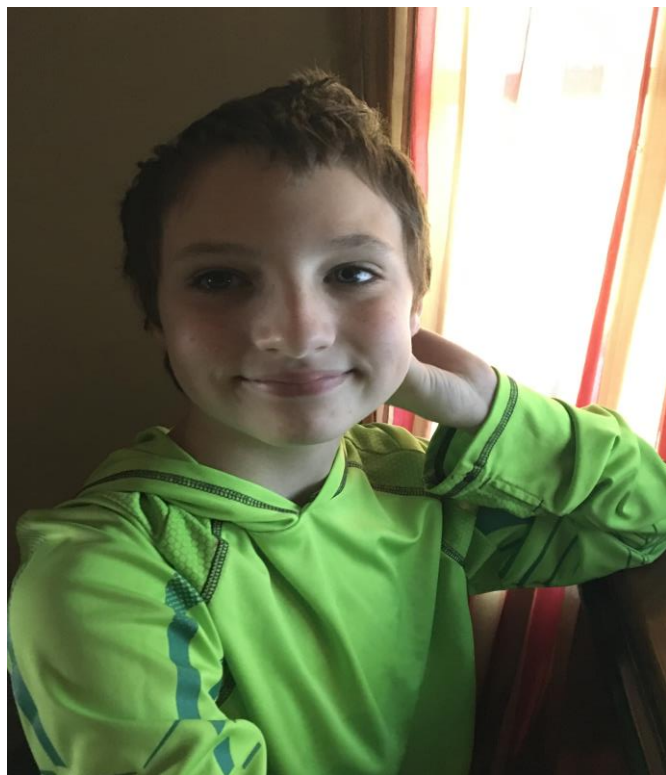
We have been with Hoosier Academy for 4 years. I chose Hoosier Academy for my children because of the flexibility and hands on learning they get. My daughter has ADHD and can learn better when she can take her time and concentrate on the subject. My son has anemia and when his iron gets low he gets weak, with Hoosier Academy when that happens he can take a break and refuel then get back to work. If they was in a B&M school they would not have those opportunities, that is why we love Hoosier Academy!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my daughter Alexis. Alexis is a freshman. We chose Hoosier Academy for Alexis for several reasons. Alexis had been in a school with not so nice kids. This made her struggle and stress daily about other students instead of her school work. She has excelled tremendously at Hoosier Academy. We are grateful to have the opportunity to let her exceed her expectations without anyone holding her back. We are truly amazed with this school

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I chose Hoosier academy school for my 10 year old son Nicolas because in our small town of Elwood the school board has chosen to consolidate our schools and with such large classes our child felt left behind in his education not enough one on one time was spent with him for him to feel he was getting the lessons they where teaching and the bully problem in our system was not being addressed to our satisfaction now I can spend all the time with him needed to made sure he receives the quality education he deserves

Thank you for your time

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

My child has severe anxiety and bi-polar disorder. Hoosier Academy provides us the option of quality education and preventing stress on her life.

Why our family needs Hoosier academy is because of a lot of reasons. For one our children and my husband and I love it! We feel safer with our kids home with us knowing what is going on with them each and every day and who they are around. Not worrying about threats. Not worrying about who my child is going to be around or if my children are going to be bullied (which has happened before).The school really does nothing about any complaints. I can say what my child does not some other person. I say when my child can go to the bathroom and not make them hold it. I say when my child can eat etc. When my son was sick for almost a month he had to miss a lot of school. I had dr notes but still received letters from the school stating that I will get in trouble more less if he had to miss more school but yet they don't want our children at school if they have had a fever or if they haven't been vomit free for 24 hrs but can't get a note from my dr for that. I say the rules not the school. There is just so many benefits for homeschooling my children. Homeschooling is the best thing for our family and our kids are very happy with it and do not want to go back to school. I have seen a huge change with them. They love being home.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My name is Lacey Willis and my daughters name is Audrey Willis. She is in 2nd grade this year and this is our 2nd year of being at Hoosier Academy. We absolutely love it! I can be a stay at home mom to all 3 of my children and teach them at home without having to worry about what is going on at a public school with my children. There are to many shootings, bombs, stabbings, bad influences and examples in public schools nowadays. It's not the same as it was when I was in school. There are to many children per teacher and its impossible for them to watch over each child and give them the necessary attention they need to excel in each grade. It also gives us the freedom having school outside or on the road. They can observe nature for science, go on field trips for science and history, cook in the kitchen for math, etc.. Thank you for your time!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son, Max, had a rough start to public school from the very start of it all. In preschool, he was pushed down the stairs by a fellow classmate, just because that classmate thought it would be funny to do. Nothing was done about this by either the teacher or the other kid's parents. Once Max entered Kindergarten, the struggle continued. There seemed to be a huge BOOM of some of the worst behaved kids I had ever seen in my life, ALL IN MAX'S CLASS!!!! I was a substitute teacher and was in his classroom on several occasions. My heart broke for my kid. He is a smart kid, a rule follower, a good hearted kid. He was stuck in this class full of rowdy, bratty, disrespectful kids who could care less about listening or learning. The saddest part of this story is that I wasn't able to stay home at the time, and my poor kid had to endure year after year of the same thing. His classmates didn't improve, they only got worse. There was only maybe a handful who actually grew up a bit and changed their ways. For the most part though, they stayed the same. Then, we hit the middle school years. Both of my oldest kids, both smart, kind, sweet kids, just like Max, had problems in our public middle school, whereas they had NEVER had problems before then. My oldest son had problems with a certain teacher who taught math then and called me to tell me that my son, who was able to do math in his head and get the correct answer (he didn't get that from me haha, math hates me), MUST DO THINGS HER WAY OR SHE WOULD FAIL HIM. Wow. My daughter had problems with mean girls, that also just so happened to be the upperclass of our town, and she got punished while they went scott-free. Then, Max had problems with the same teacher my oldest son did. She was no longer teaching math, but she was still the biggest bully of a teacher I have ever seen. She gave 70% of Max's entire 7th grade class a D based on reasoning of HER choosing and told them they HAD ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF BRINGING THEIR GRADE UP. So, what was my A and B kid supposed to do with that??? I saw the light in him go out. It had been dimmed for almost his entire school career, but now, it was completely gone. I spoke with the school and they had been letting this teacher get away with her antics FOR YEARS. They weren't going to do anything about the situation. So, we had the talk again about online homeschooling with K12. I had Max write down why he wanted to do online homeschooling with K12. I already knew the answer, but I wanted to make sure that he understood. He did. We immediately set it all into motion and he started Hoosier Academies 3 weeks into his 7th grade school year, which was last year. It was a huge struggle. I found out just how much the public school DID NOT TEACH HIM THINGS I FELT HE SHOULD KNOW. He did not know how to look things up in the Index, for example. He could barely write his name in cursive. I had seen how things were being "taught" in our school system during my time as a substitute teacher. Teachers would turn on a Smart Board and click click click, that was that. I had students in the classes I would sub in falling behind and they were content with the fact that their teacher was letting them stay behind. I often kept kids in during one recess so that I could work with them, and show them how to do things the way I was taught in my elementary school years, back when there were actual books and one on one teaching, not just computers. They would get it and the smile on their face would say it all. I often hated leaving the class I subbed in because I knew that many of the kids I tried to help catch up, would be allowed to fall back behind by their teachers. I have to hope though that maybe I inspired them to stay ahead because now they knew they could do it. I had to do pretty much the same thing with my own son. I had to restore his faith in learning and the school system, not the public school system, but our new school system, online learning. I absolutely LOVED the books he got for his classes. I was like, YES, this is old school, this is how I learned. I am thankful for those books because he got a chance to see how learning can really be done, and to learn the things the public school had clearly failed on teaching him, basic things, necessary things. Our first year with Hoosier Academies was a big learning curve for both of us. I had teaching experience with my substituting and with teaching preschool, but my degree is not in teaching, it is in Psychology. Thankfully, I was always a good student and I remember my teachers and how they taught me. I implemented this often. We worked through each struggle that popped up and it was pure joy to see his light return. By the end of the school year, he had good grades, he was very talkative and social, he had grown about a foot, and I found out that he got my husband's poor organizational skills haha Onto our second year with Hoosier Academies, we were excited for our new year. We had gotten a plan together for how to conquer the organizational issues and we were ready to rock it!!! Then, we met the new platform and realized that parts of our plan were going to need to be altered a bit. No big deal, it was an easy fix. The new platform is awesome (once ya figure it out and know exactly what each teacher is wanting you to do/follow). He is really impressing me with his work ethic this year. We plan to continue online homeschooling with K12, Hoosier Academies until Max graduates. I pray that our state allows this option to remain in place. I know several families who have benefited from it, just as ours has. If it is taken away, I will not return my son to public school in this town. I would actually consider moving to a state that offered it before I would place him back into the public school system. I deeply hope that my son's story, as well as the stories of other Hoosier Academy students, will compel those that be, to keep this amazing system in place.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I personally chose Hoosier Academies for my daughter as she just recently was diagnosed with Autism. She thrives on the one on one extensive learning she receives from Hoosier Academies and her teachers. The staff has been immensely helpful in assisting me to find the resources Mary needs to better enhance her learning and abilities due to her autism. I do not know if we would be where we are at learning with Mary if it was not for her teachers along the way. I know personally Mary would be devastated if something were to happen to Hoosier Academies. She adores her teachers and their ability to adapt her curriculum to better help her to learn. As a parent the 1st grade teachers and Mary's Title I teacher, Mrs. Brenda Culbertson were the first to console me after finally hearing Mary's diagnosis. They told me it wasn't a life sentence - but a beginning to a new beautiful adventure. I personally owe so much to Hoosier Academies and believe it is a benefit to all whom attend.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

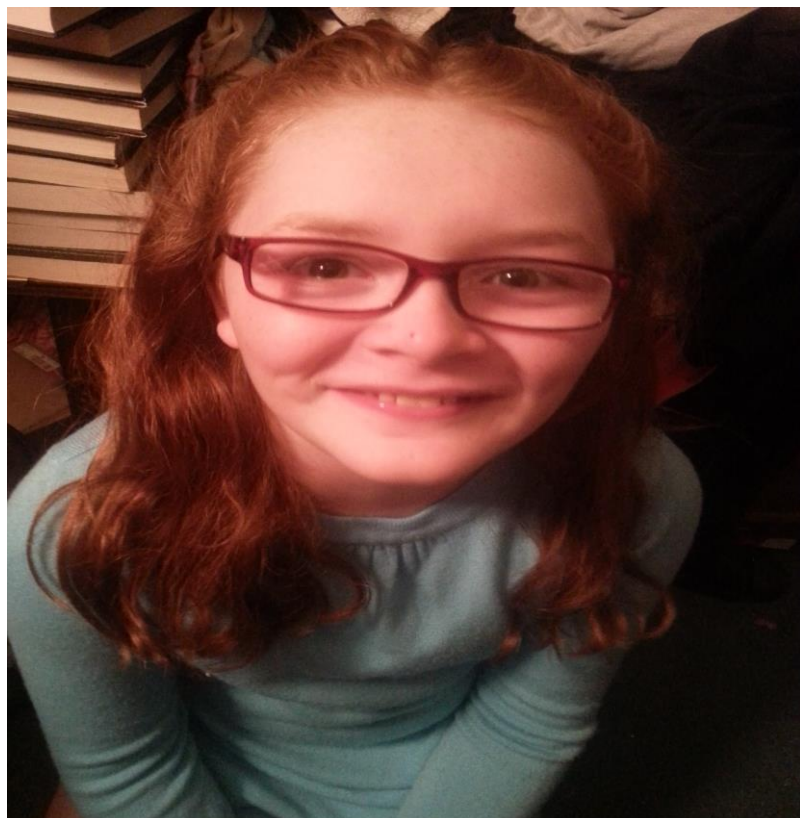


My daughter Amanda is in her third year at Hoosier Academy Virtual School. She is a junior in high school. As Amanda has gotten older it has become quite evident that she suffers from high anxiety, which includes social anxiety. Middle school in a standard public school was not a good experience for her. When the option for online school presented itself we decided it was the best fit for her.

The flexible schedule works well also because she has a job and a horse to take care of. Horses are a huge part of Amanda's life, and online school allows her to spend time doing what she absolutely loves, and what we believe, as her parents, actually NEEDS!

We believe that forcing her into the social atmosphere of a local public high school would be detrimental to her psychological and emotional state. We are very grateful that we have the option to choose how and where our daughter receives her education.

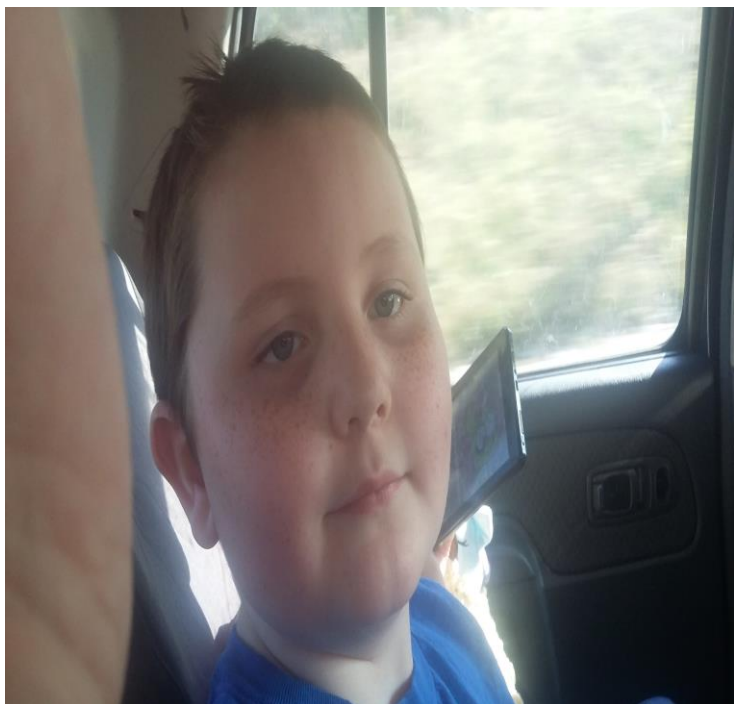
HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My daughter Madison Tuttle has been enrolled in Hoosier Academy for three years. This was the best decision I ever made for her education.

Hoosier Academy was best for her because she has a sleeping disorder, which does not allow her to get enough sleep at night and getting her up at 6am was not working, as well as our local school system was not providing her with enough work and stimulation, the local school system also was allowing her to be bullied. Madison loves Hoosier Academy because she can work at her own pace and she now enjoys doing her work. I will not put my daughter back in public school, she needs Hoosier Academy so she can continue to do well.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son went to our neighborhood school in kindergarten he was so excited to start school he knew his alphabet and everything...however once he got there he was treated so badly by the school...I was told to either medicate him I he would spend his entire school year in after school detention... (yes in kindergarten). I pulled him out and he has been attending Hoosier Academy since then and had done amazing! this school has restored my sons love for school and he is not on any medication! Hoosier Academy is very important to my family! Thank you and please for the sake of my sons future...do not close this school!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



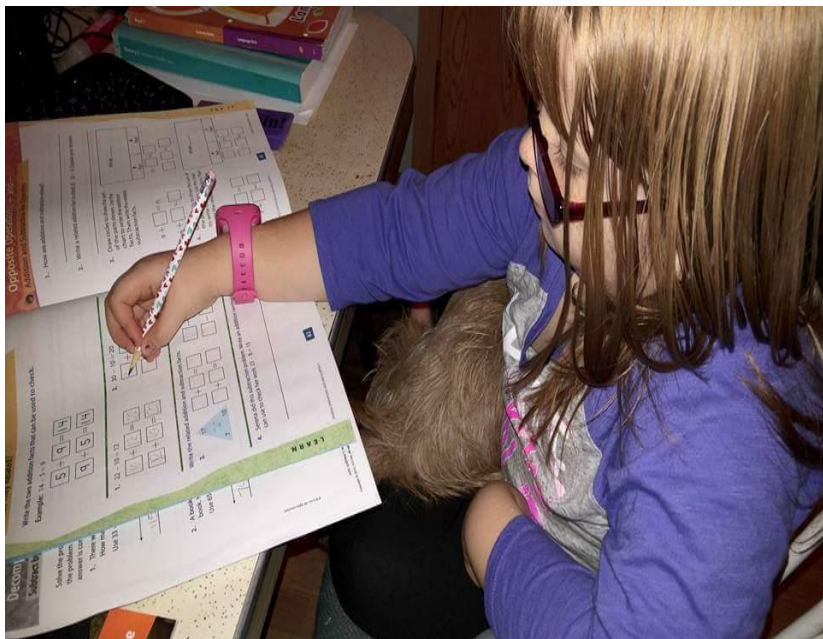
We are so happy to be a part of Hoosier Academy! I am my daughters learning coach and I can say she is doing so much better that she was in a regular public school. She was having anxiety attacks everyday before and even at school, causing her to miss days. She has not had a single anxiety attack since starting this program. She loves doing the school work at home. We also plan more fun days like museums ,zoo, or just playing at the park so she gets plenty of interaction outside of the house also. Hoosier Academy has been a total blessing for our family. We love it!!!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I love Hoosier Academies my son was bullied and abused and beaten in our neighborhood school so I put him in at Hoosier Academy. He started getting better grades i knew his weaknesses and strengths. they never told me that in public schooling. The teachers at k-12 are amazing they give one on one time with the students many chances to succeed and my son has more confidence than ever. they have school events for social just like public. I love that they care about my children's education. Public all i got was threats and they got bad grades. I think everyone should put there kids in homeschooling!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

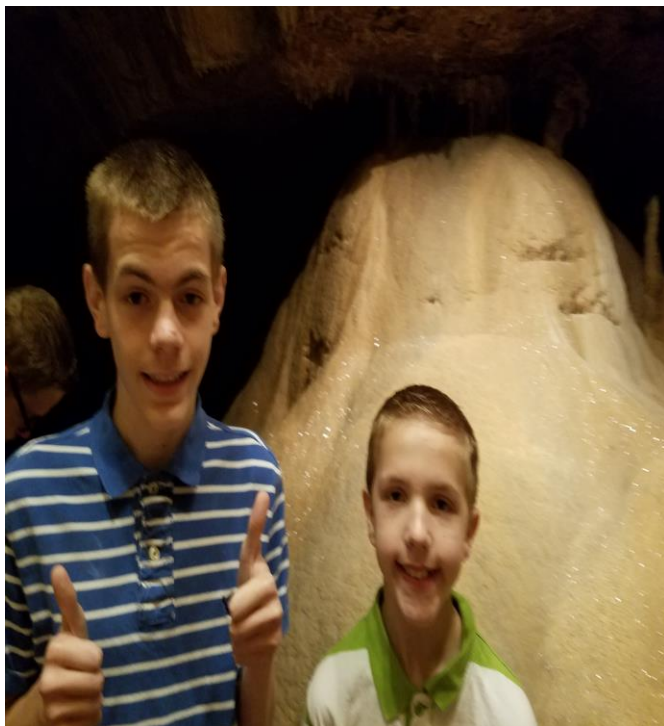


My husband and I chose Hoosier Academy for our daughter Katelynn, 7, because the brick and mortar public school she was attending at the time were not recognizing her abilities as something they needed to focus more deeply on. My daughter is a gifted student. She has been ranking above average since she was just 9 months old. However, our local school was not able to afford her higher ability options until she was much older. This was not acceptable to my husband and I. We needed a school with the ability to work more at her ability. We chose Hoosier Academy because Kate could work at her own pace. Faster or slower than the other students in her grade, at the time it was 2nd.

We couldn't be more pleased with Hoosier Academy. It has allowed us to have the public school education, while being at home and the ability to focus on challenging my daughter has been wonderful. After lots of evaluation and testing, Hoosier Academy, promoted my daughter on to the 3rd grade, a year early. Our daughter has a service animal for anxiety. She is able to utilize her service animal during the school day. Our "Molly" sits on Kate's lap and helps keep her calm. This opportunity is not available at a brick and mortar school.

I am grateful for the program, and would like to see this continue. I hope that the treat of closure can realize that these types of schools are much needed and are exceptionally beneficial to children of all learning abilities

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My son is the tallest in this picture. He is autistic. David was in Damar academy from 3 yes old till he was adopted when he was 12. He was doing great in public school but due to my grandmother getting ill we had to move across the state. It had took us a whole school year to get him settled we decided Hoosier academy would be best for David so he did not have to adjust again. His program is built for him. He loves School more than ever. It is so good to see my kids excel

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



This is my adopted daughter destiny with our friend Shane from street outlaws. Destiny was in foster care from the age of 4. She was placed in 18 homes before I adopted her 2 years ago. She was bullied. I was done with calling the school going to the school due to her crying uncontrollably and having to bring her home because the staff and principal could not help her. I called Hoosier academy and 3 days later she was happier than ever. And still loves it to this day

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My daughter Cheyenne is much bigger than your average teenager she 6 foot tall and on the heavy side. Kids around her are really just not nice even though she is a beautiful girl. She was having a lot of problems with public school and her grades were showing it. It was a fight everyday to get her to go to school and I know that it was eventually going to lead to her quitting which isn't a option so I decided to try this and it was the best decision I ever made. Her grades are much, much better and she is back to the old Cheyenne again. Quite honestly Hoosier Academy is a blessing

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Why I choose Hoosier Academies is that my son suffers from Severe Anxiety Disorder and Panic Attacks. We tried the Public School System but he was not able to deal with all the commotion and the amount of people in one place, he is more or less a stay at home child, we have to make sure we only go places when we know there are not gonna be a lot of people around. So that is why Hoosier Academies was the only way for us to go for his Schooling.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Do you see that face? That is the face of a happy young lady; who happens to be my daughter. Skyler has a ton of health issues and has since she was born. During her days at public school, skyler was bullied and harassed because she has a Hispanic last name and was blonde and light completed . We chose Hoosier academics because it made skyler step out of her shell, she smiles more! She's excited to do homework, she loves chatting with her classmates! Skyler came to Hoosier Academy during her junior year, and now she's coming to an end to her senior year. She would have never come this far in public school! The Gallegos family is so thankful for Hoosier academy!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Dustin is a 11 year old fifth grader. He is adopted. As Dustin's adopted mom I noticed that he was not excited to go to school anymore. My son was bullied for being adopted. After notifying the public school about what was going on 15 times I contacted Hoosier Academy. My son is emotionally stable and very excited. He is the smaller child in this picture with hospice oldest brother on a field trip to mammoth caves

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I first enrolled Gavin at East Side as a Kindergarten student. About 3 months into the school process, I received a call from Gavin's teacher requesting a parent-teacher conference. The teacher had informed me that Gavin was ADHD and was acting out in class. When I told her my concerns as a parent and how I had not seen these behaviors for myself, she insisted that Gavin needed medication. I took my son to his pediatrician who sent out questionnaires to me and the school and determined that Gavin was not ADHD. I agreed, however; to sign Gavin into the program called Adult and Child to help Gavin in school. Gavin entered 1st grade and the issues were brought up again that Gavin was ADHD, I went back to my pediatrician who again disagreed with the school. The school continued to tell me to get a second opinion and medicate my son. After informing my pediatrician about their concerns once again, it was agreed to put Gavin on Quillivant, an ADHD medication. Gavin suffered side effects from being put on a medication he did not need. Gavin became violent, suffered a severe personality change, lost weight and had no appetite. I informed the school that I was going to take him off the medication because of these side effects and the school at that point accused me of not giving Gavin the medication because they had seen no change in his behaviors at school. I was told that I had to bring the school the medication to administer to my son by the school nurse or they would report me to the state. Being a first time mother and being unaware of what to do for my son, I agreed to allow the school to medicate my son for the remaining 3 months of the school year. When the end of the school year came, I took Gavin off of the medication immediately and scheduled a conference with the school teachers, principal and Adult and Child councilors. I voiced my concerns for my child and informed them that for the next school year, Gavin would not be taking ADHD medication and voiced that I had proved that Gavin was not suffering from ADHD. When Gavin entered 2nd grade, I was called to the school again and was informed that the school was going to test Gavin through a school "therapist" to determine what was wrong with my son. I again went directly to my pediatrician and informed my son's doctor of the school's intentions and she immediately offered a referral to Riley Children's Hospital Child Development. I was placed on a waiting list and, in the meantime, allowed the school to proceed with their testing. After the school had tested Gavin, I was called to the school for another meeting and was informed that they had determined Gavin to be on the Autism Spectrum with Asperger's syndrome. I again voiced that I did not agree with the school and began looking for other schooling options for my son. During my search for other options, including legal options, I found that the school "therapist" that evaluated my son was not licensed to evaluate any child. I contacted the school board and informed them of this and was told about the K12 program. I immediately called K12 and they informed me of Hoosier Virtual Academy and I asked to receive more information about the school and K12 and asked when I could enroll my son. Mean while, my son was sent to the office daily, seemed very unhappy at his school and was stressed out from how the school handled his situation. Finally, summer came and I had began the enrollment process with Hoosier Virtual Academy and had received a call back from Riley and scheduled a proper evaluation for my son. When Gavin began his 3rd grade year with Hoosier Virtual Academy I immediately saw a difference in my son. He was happy and excited about learning again. The most heartbreaking thing to hear from your son while working on math, is that "I know I brought home schoolwork that was about multiplication, but I don't know how to do it because I was always in the office and did not get to learn how to do it." My son is still with the Adult and Child program and his councilor tells me how different my son is : the best thing I could have done for my son. I finally have answers from Riley and now know that my son has and is uncomfortable speaking and making eye contact with new people. Hoosier Virtual Academy is the reason I have a renewed love of learning. I don't know where my son would be if programs like K12 were not available.



HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We are the Spriggs Family and we have been enrolled in Hoosier Academy for 2 years now. We moved to Indiana from California where we were enrolled in CAVA. My daughter had Scarlet Fever when she was 7 years old and my son had a bad case of strep throat when he was in kindergarten. The school only cared about the money that they got for my children being there and not my kids. We would have the school nurse coming to our home to check on our kids and tell me that if their fevers were at or under 100 to send them for a few hours then they would send them home. I had given them doctors notes and hospital notes for my children and they still pushed for them to be there. When my daughter had to have her tonsils out after a year of problems from the scarlet fever she had. She had 3 weeks off from school with the doctors note and her ENT doctor said she needed it for recovery. The school still wanted her to return for a few hours a day before she could even talk without it hurting her. We love how homeschooling can give us the time to help our kids learn and stay on track. Not every child learns the same so home schooling gives them a chance to learn it a way that works for them. I have 5 of my 7 children enrolled in Hoosier Academy. We love the school and we plan on enrolling our other children when they are ready for school.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Prior to the start of her freshman year at Noblesville High School, we made the switch and moved my daughter into Hoosier Academies Virtual High School. Abigail is an exceptionally bright student, self motivated and driven to excel... but she struggles with anxiety at times. Throughout middle school she dealt with these issues, and I continually resisted the idea of any alternative to a conventional brick and mortar school. Both of my other children have been raised in Noblesville Schools and I'm very pleased!

After the switch to Hoosier Academies the change in Abigail was dramatic... she was happier, laughing more, and had fewer (stress induced) health issues. She finished her freshman year with solid A's across the board in Honors/AP level courses. I also feel that the level of interaction, even though it may be via email, between Abi and her teachers is very good. I'm copied on all the correspondence and am impressed with the responsiveness.

Given the nature of this school, and having seen some of the other students I can understand why HA may be getting F's. I believe it may be more of a function of the students rather than the system. My daughter may be the exception (just look at the results from last year below).

Without another viable option to replace Hoosier Academies Virtual High School, how is my daughter supposed to finish high school? At this point, given the results both academically and personally/emotionally, I do not see a return to conventional brick and mortar being a success for my daughter. I fully support high standards, but for some students we need to offer alternatives that position them for success. I'd also like to point out, this is totally unsolicited.. HA made us aware of these issues, I just wanted to write you regarding my experience with the program and point out that the state needs alternative programs like this for some students.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Our son, Abrahm was adopted from Ethiopia when he was 9 months old. He has pride in his birth country and loves watching the Ethiopian athletes compete in the Olympics this year! He also enjoys learning about his birth country. Actually this has become an interest in learning about a lot of different countries and cultures. His older sister is in the Marines and just got stationed in Okinawa, Japan for 2 years so he is excitedly helping plan a trip to Japan next summer.

We have four other "children" ages 27, 25, 24, 22. Abe is the youngest, and the only one still living with mom and dad.

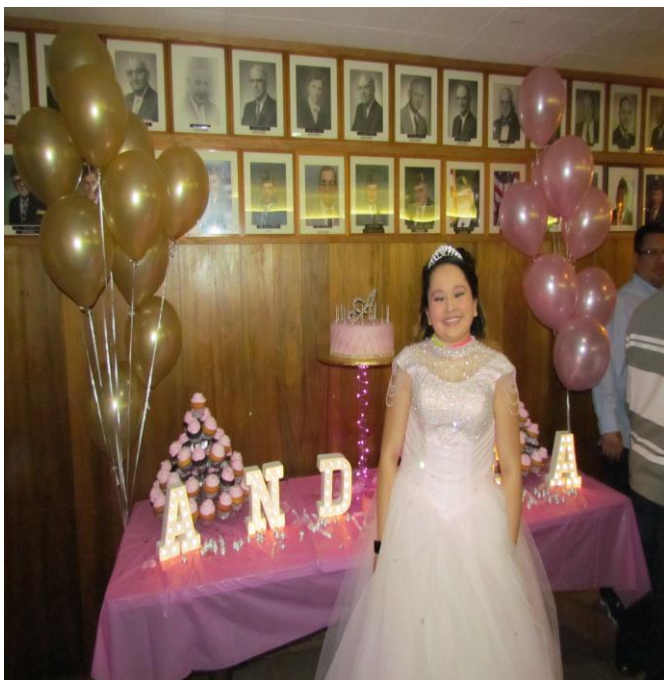
When Abe was a Kindergartener, he was read his tests and scored in the advanced range. He became a first grader at Geist Elementary School in the advanced class. It soon became extremely obvious that he was really struggling with reading and writing. He was enrolled in one year of tutoring at Kumon, one year at The Tutor Center and this last year at Learning Rx. His reading struggles have really affected his self esteem and confidence in doing school work, reading out loud, or being judged by classmates in general. Unfortunately due to his struggling so hard, he has come to really dislike school and reading all together. Last year (3rd grade) He decided to be a distraction to the classroom instead of ask questions. He is so very self conscious that he cries when I ask him to read out loud to me so that I can see if he is reading the words correctly. We have determined that Abe is so smart he can do a picture walk through a book and with only actually reading about 1/3 or 2/3rds of the content be able to guess at the story line (often times correctly).

We chose to home school this year because I feel the public school system is just pushing him along to the next grade but I want to stop while he is still young so that he learns to grasp the building blocks now, not when he is entering middle or high school. This year I would love to see his confidence built back up and help him to see what a joy reading can be!!

Abe is truly an amazing child full of heart, terrific stories and interesting ideas. He loves building lego's, playing video games, and listening to music. He completely enjoyed engineering club and chess club last year and hopes to be an engineer some day.

We are very hopeful this year will be what Abe needs to restore him to a confident, eager to learn, grade appropriate student!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Andrea is 16 and she is completely blind in her left eye due to a condition known as Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. While attending brick and mortar she was an average to below average student. During the past two years at Hoosier Academy she has excelled beyond belief. If it was not for Hoosier Academy, I strongly believe she would not have wanted to finish high school. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been able to enroll her in Hoosier Academy

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose Hoosier Academy for our son because he was getting bullied by a teacher at his public school last year and after going through the proper channels got no satisfaction or resolution. Hoosier Academy gave my son an opportunity to be challenged, work at his pace and a flexible schedule. Academics were excellent and exceeded our expectations. I couldn't be happier with the Hoosier Academy!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



I signed my son Ethan M. who is ten years old up at Hoosier online because he has been bullied at the public school he went to here in town last year to the point it was stressing him out that I wanted him to be somewhere safe where he can learn which is home because he feels safe here and he can learn at a pace that makes him comfortable along with online teachers who are successful in what they do and that is teaching Ethan. Our society needs Hoosier Academy for kids who no longer feel safe at overcrowded schools, think about your child and their children what if one of them is born with a disability and they don't feel safe being bullied at school, where would you want your child to learn ? In their environment at home where they are safe from the bullies where they can focused on learning not on how they are treated and this is why America needs Hoosier Academy online schools to keep our kids safe and give them the chance to learn otherwise they drop out and get involved in bad choices which is what Hoosier Academy keeps them away from by allowing them to learn in their safe place (home).

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



My name is Lisa Early and my son attends Hoosier Academy. We really enjoy the online school and it helps me learn with him. My son was bullied in the public school system and he hated going to school. I enrolled him in the online school and he is happier. He loves Hoosier Academy and we don't want it to be taken away from him.

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



Today my daughter told me that Hoosier Academy is unlike most other schools because there is no caste system, no cool kids and nobody bullying! Most everyone is very smart, intellectual and considerate! I THINK THAT'S PHENOMENAL!!! My daughter, Lexi, was bored at school yet there were no advanced placement opportunities available at the township or Charter school levels. Also, because of her excelling academics she was routinely bullied.

Hoosier Academy has been a safe place for my child to learn and has uniquely enabled her to excel in the areas where she is blessed but socially stay where she fits in/belongs! THANK YOU! I apologize for the delay I needed to remember why I was grateful!

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We chose online schooling for our son because his behavior while in class, out on the playground at school and not only that but he was hindering his classmate from learning not only his classmate but himself as well. Since he has taking online he looks forward to learning and it isn't a struggle getting him to participate. We did put our son on medication but even while been on medication his behavior wasn't getting any better. Learning it home he was at his own pace and he is learning. This was a God send and I pray that they want take our options or choice away from us. The kids are still learning and to be honest a lot of the work that the kids are doing I didn't learn or know about until I was in the fifth grade especially history, science, and social studies

HOOSIER ACADEMIES NETWORK OF SCHOOLS



We came to Hoosier Academy after dealing with day after day of non stop bullying. Dealing with the school was like pulling teeth concerning this issue. Our daughters grades were dropping and she was coming home everyday crying. I knew I had to do something. I researched and that's when I found K12 and Hoosier Academy. We've been with them since our daughter was in 5th grade and she's now in the 8th grade. It was the best decision we ever made for her and It has been an absolute blessing to us. Our daughter can focus more on her lessons and learning and not have to deal with being in a public setting where are kids were distracting and teachers were expecting more than what she could give. Her grades have improved considerably since leaving public school.

I feel that she is getting the education she needs and I'm able to be hands on to help her and keep up on what she's doing for each course. The teachers are very helpful, more so than any of her teachers in public school. We hope that our daughter can graduate from Hoosier Academy.

Hoosier Academies Network of Schools

Staff Stories



Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



As a school counselor with over 12 years' experience in a traditional school and now almost 2 years working at Hoosier Academy Virtual school as the Senior Virtual Counselor there are many advantages to a virtual setting for students. We serve students from all 92 counties and various settings. Just like any school we have students that are the top of their class and students that struggle academically. At Hoosier all students have the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond traditional school: having more time for volunteering, traveling, advanced internships, working and just life in general. Most families are not the "normal" or "traditional" families and Hoosier gives these families and students the opportunity to receive an outstanding public education in a non-traditional setting that best meets their needs. Not all students are meant to sit in a classroom in a brick and mortar school for 7 plus hours a day, so why not allow those students the opportunity to have success in a non-traditional setting.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I am quite new to the virtual school world, after being a teacher and principal in public and private school for 30 years. However as principal at Insight School of Indiana, I am quickly seeing the value of virtual education for students and families. It provides our students flexibility of learning from home and builds a partnership with parents to meet students where they are academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Because of Hoosier Academies, students are having a positive school experience and are setting their path for success.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Hoosier Academy Network of Schools provides an unique and

necessary opportunity for students across the entire state of Indiana. Education knows no boundaries and is meant to meet the individual needs of the children we serve. I believe that being able to provide individualized, personalized and differentiated instruction to students across our entire state truly allows me to meet the needs of each individual child. It is not only about them being a student, but also about them being an individual, with their own unique learning styles, needs, history and strengths. Providing this choice and option to students in Indiana is necessary.

I have chosen to be a part of this community of learners since our school opened their doors. The passion and drive for our students' success is shared amongst all stakeholders. The unique relationship that is built with each student and their learning coach is so powerful and ultimately creates an opportunity for each student at our school to be successful. Hoosier Academies Network of Schools is a choice that *all* students and families deserve. I choose to be a part of this incredible school because it is necessary for us to provide this choice to all students and families in our state.

During our most recent standardized testing experience, I provided various opportunities for students and families to share why they *need* Hoosier Academy Network of Schools and *this is why I know that our school is a necessary and beneficial opportunity for students across the entire state of Indiana.* .

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I believe virtual education is important to all students, especially the students who are too medically fragile to attend a public school. I teach students that have various medical issues and are not able to succeed in a public environment due to the lack of flexibility in this setting. Students are able to learn at their own pace, but still have a rigorous curriculum. I teach the students on a certificate of completion and many fall through the cracks in a public setting. Often they are relegated to larger groups which can make it difficult to individualize their instruction even with an Individualized Education Plan. We at Hoosier are able to do this and have both larger groups, small groups, or 1:1 sessions with our students depending on their needs and ability levels. I have seen growth in my students and am so proud of their successes. I know my students and their likes and dislikes. The connections are still made in this setting and students look forward to working with me and strive to impress me on a regular basis. Anything is possible in a virtual environment, including life skills class, sign language, social groups, and much more. My students are learning and growing, which is the ultimate goal of education. This is happening at Hoosier Academy. I have witnessed a middle school student who began with me unable to read anything and lacked the motivation to learn. He now loves learning and is growing at a rapid pace after working with me for a year. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work at Hoosier Academy and am proud to be an educator making a difference in the lives of so many students.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I teach in a virtual school because I believe that we are serving an under-served and forgotten population. Hoosier Academy has some students that could go to a brick and mortar school and do very well. However, we also serve MANY students that could never attend a traditional school. They have been forgotten by traditional schools. They are the students that are too ill to go to school, suffer from autism disorder, or have been bullied, just to name a few. It's fulfilling to help these types of students learn and discover the joy of learning. Many of them would never be able to graduate, if it were not for virtual education, and I am proud to be a part of helping them be successful.

Tammy Dodson

7th Grade MATH Teacher

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



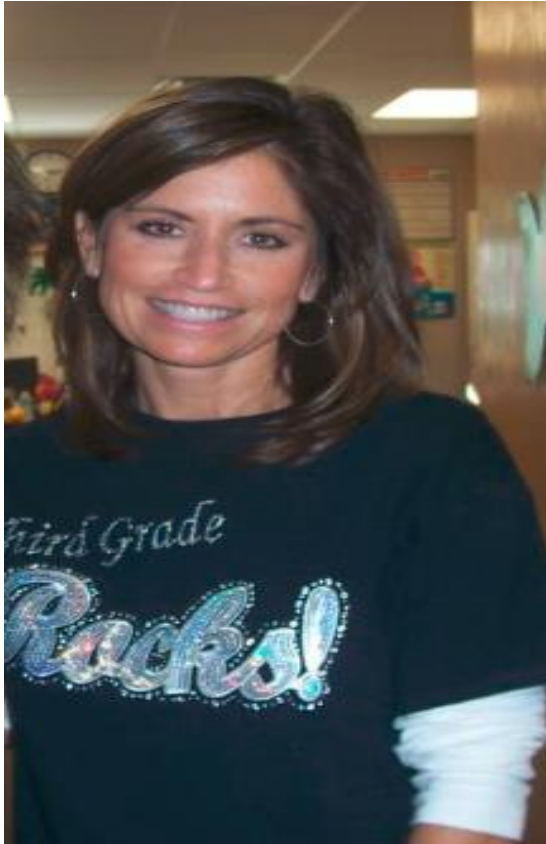
I believe virtual education is important because it allows us to provide students, across the state of Indiana, with another option for earning their high school diplomas. Brick and mortar is not going to work for every student. I have been amazed at the amount of different reasons students and families have for picking virtual education. It makes me really happy and proud that we are able to help those families whether it's for a semester or for their entire high school career.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Virtual education is an important opportunity for our students. Many of our students have not been successful in the traditional brick-and-mortar setting for a variety of reasons. Other students simply did not do well socially in that setting. The virtual setting allows students to focus on their lessons without the other distractions that are a part of other educational settings. I actually have more one-on-one interactions with students in the virtual setting than I ever did in the brick-and-mortar setting. Our students feel safer coming to teachers for help when they need it because no one else knows about it if they prefer that to be private. They can send private messages to the teacher asking for more help in the class session. I am able to see their work in real-time. Students are also able to receive grading more quickly, and I am able to provide feedback in a more efficient way that is directed towards the individual student. Students who excel are also able to have more flexibility in enriching the lessons through the online format. Virtual education offers education to individuals, and educators are able to better meet the needs of individual students in this setting.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I love working at a virtual school! I taught for 10 years in a brick and mortar school and then decided I wanted to try virtual teaching.

Virtual school is very important to me because it works! School is not a one size fit all situation. The virtual school provides an education for many kids who are either too scared to go to school or too sick.

I have students with all kinds of backgrounds and situations and virtual school is the right choice for many. I have worked with students with social anxiety problems, health problems, and many who were too scared to go to school because of being bullied. Here they can relax and feel free to interact with others. They don't have to worry about their peers judging them by the clothes they wear or how they look. They love coming to class and chatting with other students. I don't know how many times parents have sent me emails saying how much their child has come out of their shell since coming to virtual school.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Virtual Education is important because it provides another option for students. Many of our families choose Hoosier Academies because they feel discouraged and unsafe at their local schools. Our school provides a safe learning environment where students can be themselves in a risk-free classroom. Our teachers do their best at meeting the needs of students via whole group, small group, and one-one class sessions. Too often, we are the “last chance” for students when the traditional system has failed them, and it is so rewarding to greet our students as they cross the stage at graduation. We positively impact the lives of so many students across the state, and their stories inspire me to continue to advocate for virtual education.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I came to Hoosier in 2009 the second year it opened. I began my journey at Hoosier in a 7th grader a self-contained classroom for two years before becoming a full time virtual middle school math teacher. I've always appreciated the chance to be able to step up in leadership roles, and I've held a variety in my time here at Hoosier. Last year, I was in the first cohort of Dr. Ernest's "Focused Leadership Academy" where I was able to co-create the "Empowered Teachers of Action." This was a series of sessions where teachers learned about the history of education in Indiana, Indiana education laws, and various advocacy groups. Teachers in this program were encouraged to have a voice and make a positive change in education. I was also able to be a national teacher ambassador for K12 schools in order to help make improvements to our programs and be a voice for the teachers of Hoosier. Dr. Ernest nominated me to be a part of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program, and I'm now on track to get my administrator's license and MBA from the University of Indianapolis. I am thankful to be a part of Hoosier, and I grateful for the fact that we can provide our families with another important choice so they can decide what effective schooling looks like for their children.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I began my journey as an educator in a traditional brick and mortar setting as a classroom teacher that worked with several different grade levels. I later worked at the district level as a Reading Specialist. I currently work for the Hoosier Academies Network of Schools as the Grants Coordinator. I work with the Title I/Interventionist Team and write and manage various other grants to acquire funding for our school. I also work directly with our School Improvement Team whose role is to lead the development of a School Improvement Plan that addresses student achievement needs, monitors the implementation of the plan, and revises it when appropriate. The team also reviews, monitors, and revises other school improvement related documents and communicates any pertinent information to stakeholders. Due to working with the School Improvement Team, I have had the opportunity to learn directly from teachers, administrators, and parents on the team why they choose our school and hear their stories. I am extremely passionate about the work that we do and believe whole-heartedly that our school needs to be a choice for families. Is our school perfect? Absolutely, not. Are other traditional brick and mortar school perfect? Absolutely, not. All schools have challenges and hurdles to overcome. Our school is a pioneer in virtual education and there are many areas that our school needs to refine and grow. We need your support and expertise to continue to refine our practices and strive for our vision of, "Success for every student in Indiana." Our school needs to continue to be a choice for families!

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I've been a part of virtual education for almost 6 years now at Hoosier Academies. I've worked with numerous families who purposefully chose this learning environment because it is the best option, sometimes only option, for their student. My past experience has been with special education, Title I, and now RTI/MTSS where students who are struggling receive that extra layer of support to make progress/gains. Also, many of our students have medical conditions need a virtual education because this opportunity helps improve their condition so it's not impacting their learning as severely. It's important to realize while virtual education continues improve that it be an option for students. Our school has a clear mission and vision to ensure every student across Indiana will succeed in our virtual environment. I believe we strive to achieve this vision each and every day when working with Hoosier Academy

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I believe virtual education is extremely important because it allows educators to reach students who may not be comfortable in a brick and mortar setting, due to bullying, medical and mental conditions, a traveling family, being a teen parent, or embarrassment of falling behind. The reasons are endless! Virtual education still gives students the opportunity to excel and develop their academic, social, and emotional skills. Students excel and develop their academic skills through live class sessions, where teachers provide instruction. Students excel and develop their social skills through engagement with staff and other students, in a one on one or class setting. Students develop their emotional skills through having support from the FAST team, academic advisors, guidance counselors, and teachers to help the students and their families get through challenging times. Virtual education also demands the parents to be more engaged and involved, which ultimately helps the students have more success.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories

My Story: I was teaching Middle School Mathematics at a local school in the Tri State Area. It was a weekly thing to bust students with drugs, weapons, or break up a fight. I had gotten numb to the fact that this happened on a regular basis and the students would just be sent back into my room. We were often told the alternative school is full and we would just have the “deal with it.” My last straw came one morning when a girl broke down in the hallway. A group of boys approached her, held a gun to her chest, and pulled the trigger. Luckily, the gun was unloaded. This girl went into extreme trauma and was unable to attend school for weeks. The group of boys were headed to my 2nd period class where I could have easily been their next victim. Luckily, several male teachers found them and were able to get the guns off the boys. The sad part of all of this, the teachers are the ones that called the parents. The administrators did not want to do anything because “it was only a bb gun.” I had nightmares for months.

Many people have this misconception that a virtual teacher has all this time on their hands. I work the same hours as I do in the brick and mortar, it just looks different. I focus on creating positive lessons and developing the IEP that is needed for each student. In the brick and mortar, I was concerned on seating charts and class control. I was vigilant for all the things going around in the classroom instead of focusing on the students learning. Parents want to know that when they send their children to school, they are safe. Our students and families want the same peace of mind that I have in my job. Many of the critics are envious and wish they could make the switch as I did.

Connors Story: Her came to us after his Freshman year failing all of his courses. In his last IEP session she stated that her son would have never graduated if it wasn't for Hoosier Academy. He is now in his Senior year and will be graduating with his class. Conner's mom commented on how he was so distracted by all the disruptions in the brick and mortar school. For a child with Autism, they cannot regain their focus and the day is ruined.

Jacks Story: Jack also has Autism and is very distractible. The kids used to make fun of him all the time. Now, he has his friends which he met through Hoosiers that are just like him.

Angelas Story: Angela came to Hoosiers and is married with a child. She had to drop out due to caring for her baby. She is able to finish school while being at home taking care of her family.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Teachers everywhere can agree that education isn't a one size fits all venture. Yet, we still try to make it one. In my time with Hoosier Academy I have had students with chronic illnesses that are now able to attend school regularly because of virtual education. I have students that were bullied so severely that they developed anxiety and began missing school. For some students, this is a temporary solution to get them back on their feet after losing a parent to cancer, or being able to be present every moment of a family member's last days. The majority of my students work tirelessly to complete their assignments and master the content. They ask questions and they have taken control of their own learning, a task that many students in a brick and mortar school never do. Closing our school would not benefit these students. The majority of these students would not return to brick and mortar schools. I have spoken with a plethora of parents who are desperate and have said that Hoosier is their last hope. Closing our school would be devastating to our families, proving once and for all that square pegs better figure out how to fit into a round hole.

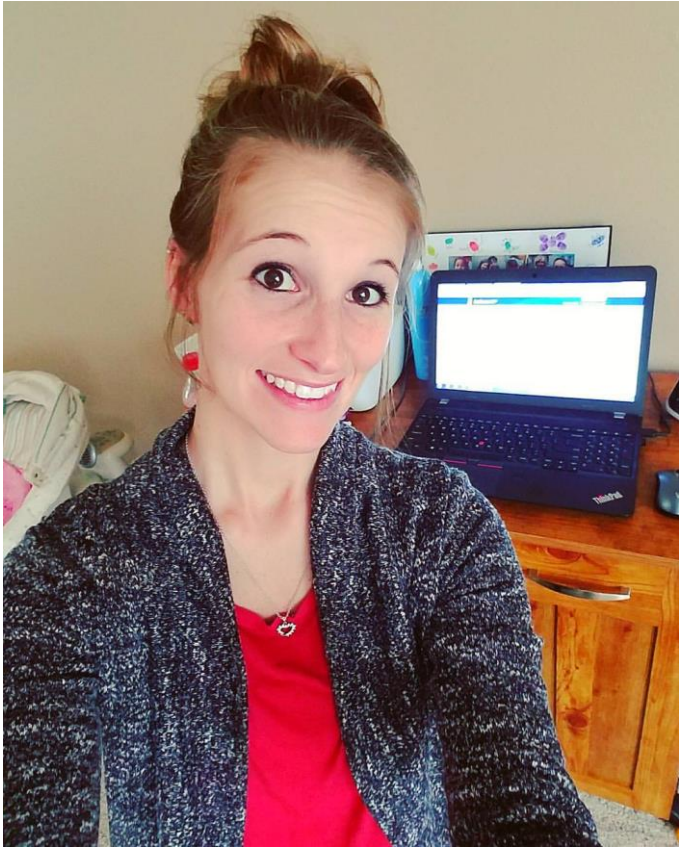
Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



With my short time with Hoosier Academies I am beyond impressed with how Hoosier Academies serves their students and the community. I have spoken to several parents/learning coaches who are thrilled with the results they have seen in their child since they joined Insight. I spoke with a parent who informed me that their child wants to be part of the guitar club and how their child enjoys their math class now. The child did not enjoy math or participated in electives when they were at the brick and motor school. In my homeroom I have had several students who have asked to be part of a book club. I was in shock to know that I have 9th and 10th graders in my class asking to be part of a book club. In my short time with Insight I have seen the students grow in their social skills and participation in classes.

At Hoosier Academies we all work as a team to make sure students thrive in their education. I have not seen such amazing team work skills until I came to Insight. The teachers truly go above and beyond for our students. The advisors and I work hard to increase communication with the parents/learning coaches and to help them get involved with their child's education as well. We continue to learn new ways to improve our classroom environments and new ways to ensure everyone is in communication with each other. I know many parents are thankful for the opportunity their child is receiving at Hoosier Academies

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Many students have different needs, contexts, and constraints. The ability to have different modes of virtual learning allows the consideration of optimizing the fit for each student's needs. For many reasons, a traditional school may not provide the opportunities a student needs to succeed. Without the option of online schools they might struggle, so it's important to have another option designed for their needs. Also the development and improvement of virtual schools can provide insights for schools seeking to use blended learning more effectively. It is also important to have options for online learning because it is a form of bestowing agency where it belongs- in the student's hands. Whether a student has medical difficulties, social anxiety, or would like to access classes that are not currently offered by the school, it is important for us as adults to pave a way for those students to access the education they deserve and desire, and to encourage that. Lastly, consider your higher performing, or "gifted" students. Online learning can provide high achieving students with an avenue to further explore their interests and engage with challenging material. They may not otherwise have that opportunity to work up to their level, leading to boredom and disengagement.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I am Vickie Brandenburg. After teaching in the brick and mortar setting for four and a half years, I made the switch to Hoosier Academy. I chose virtual education, because I feel it is a great way to reach out to the many students who are not successful in the brick and mortar classroom. There are so many reasons a student might choose virtual education. I have had the opportunity to get to know many of my students, I always like to ask them “why Hoosier” to better understand their backgrounds. Hoosier has many students who have severe medical issues which would make brick and mortar nearly impossible. Students with anxiety find Hoosier to be a much more relaxed setting than their former schools. We have students who must work to provide an extra income for their struggling families. We also have students who are parents themselves and have to provide for their children. Many students who are in athletic programs that require extensive travel find the Hoosier schedule to accommodate their education needs. The list could go on and on, but the bottom line is that we at Hoosier are filling a gap in the education of students across Indiana.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



Virtual education is important because we have many students that can't be within the confines of a brick and mortar school. We have students that have been bullied, high anxiety, and severe illness, to name a few. We can provide an education for these types of students. But more importantly, we can provide them with a safe and secure learning environment. Students are able to thrive in this type of environment because of the uniqueness of online learning. Students are able to participate without fear of being judged. We have built a system of support so that students don't fall through the cracks or get pushed through the system. From a counseling perspective, my role is unique. My day is not that of a typical brick and mortar school counselor and for this I am very grateful for. I love being able to reach my students multiple ways. I do monthly guidance lessons and hold weekly open office hours. I am able to work with students and families in a unique way. I am able to meet in person and work with families about a variety of issues. I feel that I get to be more creative in the online environment because my access to students is different from the brick and mortar experience.

Hoosier Academies Staff Stories



I currently teach special education students at Hoosier Academy who are pursuing a certificate of completion in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. I believe virtual education is extremely important! Many of my students have disabilities that leave them medically unable to attend a brick and mortar school environment. These students deserve an education just like any other child. I also teach students who are so severely shy because they were bullied and made fun of in the brick and mortar school. Here, in the virtual setting, these students are blossoming and developing relationships that they would not be able to in a “typical” school setting. The virtual setting is giving my students everything that other schools didn’t and I am so proud of their accomplishments. I stand behind my decision to teach in a virtual school daily!

Hoosier Academies Network of Schools

National Honor Society Stories



NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



Through attending a virtual school, I have been able to excel as a student. I can attend classes from the comfort of my own home, which allows me to focus entirely on my work by eliminating the many distractions found in public schooling. By doing so, I have not only been able to join the National Honor Society, but to also dual enroll at Trine University. Thanks to virtual schooling, I'm able to properly manage my time, coordinate a flexible schedule with my teachers, and pursue my own interests. Not to mention being able to take my school work wherever I go helps out a lot too. I'm not saying that students in public school can't do what I've stated, but virtual school makes doing the aforementioned tasks easier and less tedious.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



I am a 10th grader at Hoosier Academy Virtual School. This school has helped me so much since I switched from public to online school. In public school it was hard for me to learn because of other students being extremely distracting, disrupting the teachers, and just being loud. I could never get the full potential of school in a public school because my teachers could never teach due to the distractions; at Hoosier I can learn. The teachers are never disrupted, the students are respectful, and everything is just better with online school. The teachers at public schools never made school fun either; at Hoosier Academies they make classes fun and enjoyable for all students. It is as if I am sitting right next to my teacher with how they teach. My teachers are always there to help you no matter the time of day or day of the week. At public school, teachers are only accessible during school hours, and cannot help at a minutes' notice. The help I get from these teachers is also extremely helpful, and it helps me figure out my problem no matter how complex. They have so many students yet they can still help everyone with their different problem. At public school, the teachers are much more stressed even with the smaller amount of students, versus the teachers at Hoosier, and they cannot help you for a long period of time, it is limited due to the school hours. If you close Hoosier you are closing off potential for many students. Students who are in bad schools that need the extra help, students who are distracted by other students and need more silence while working, bullied students who have been physically or mentally hurt by the people in their schools, and students who are no longer motivated by school because of how they are treated at those schools. I am thankful for Hoosier Academies for all these reasons; I no longer dread school because I have my own workspace and my workspace is quiet, my grades are no longer slipping because I can learn easier, and school is enjoyable for me. Public school teachers never cared about teaching their students; at Hoosier my teachers actually care about my grades and teaching me everything I need to know for me to succeed. Hoosier academies is a great thing, and should not be closed.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



I have been with Hoosier Academies for the past five and a half years. Hoosier Academies Virtual School allows me to have a flexible schedule. Since my schedule is so flexible I have been able to help my sister's family transition out of the military. She has three children under the age of five and is currently attending college. I frequently travel to Tennessee to help them. Without Hoosier Academies, I would not be able to do this. I also am able to help my mom, who is a caretaker of my veteran dad, whenever she needs help.

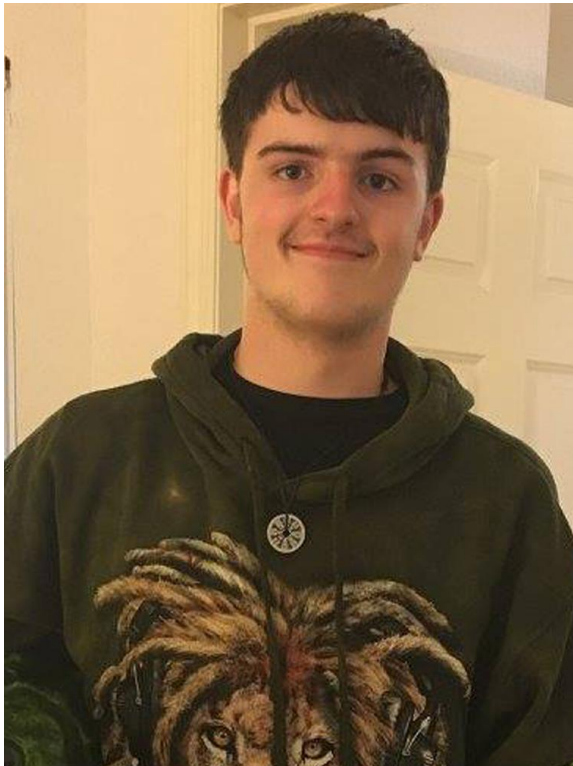
Hoosier Academies has allowed me to have a high school experience, without having to attend a brick and mortar school. I can still participate in Honors programs, like the NHS, which allows me to better my community and other communities in Indiana.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



This is my daughter Hailey. She is a sophomore at Hoosier Virtual Academy. Hailey was diagnosed with ADHD and ADD at the age of 3. She has been on stimulates and medication her whole life. Being on those types of medications her entire life has left her with odd ticks that she can't control, plus the inability to concentrate. I chose to put her in Hoosier Academy to be able to give her a chance without medication and to work at her learning pace and not someone else's. Hailey went from D's and F's in her previous school to having a honors diploma and A's and B's, without medication and her embarrassing responses as to why she has them to other students. We are grateful for this school and the choice to have all 5 of my children enrolled, each for their own separate reasons

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



I love going to school online. Virtual education has a lot of benefits. It has helped me tremendously. I have problems with comprehension from time to time and the online school allows me to access my classes anytime I need to reference anything. It is hard sometimes to keep up with the work, but again, everything is available online so it allows me great access. There are links to click on that make it more interactive as well. The teachers are pretty good at answering my questions. There are a wide variety of classes that I would not have been able to take in a public school setting. Some of my favorite classes have been photography, 3D Modelling, and Gothic Literature. There is the added bonus with the discussions as it allows you to possibly get to know and interact with other students. I also can attend and access my class anywhere as long as I have a computer and internet access. I have been attending this virtual school since my second semester in 6th grade. I am finishing up my second semester as a junior and started taking online college classes for dual credit.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



I have been with Hoosier Academy for 8 years now. I started with the online school the first day it began and there were only 140 students. My parents and I were so glad to find this school and it has been a perfect fit for us. I attended Frankton for my first four years of school. I was in the high abilities program, which was really more of a joke than classes. It started out great with the top 10% of the class, but parents complained because they thought their kids should be in there too, so by second semester 50% of the kids were in it and we were learning nothing.

My parents both have major health problems and we are at the hospital a lot. When one of them are in the hospital, we all stay and this could keep me away from school for 3 to 5 days at a time maybe longer. At Hoosier Academy, I never have to miss school. Our teachers have live class connect sessions everyday and they also record them, so if we cannot attend the live session we can watch the recording and learn everything we need to know. This is great for kids like me. I strive hard to maintain a 4.0 GPA and being able to watch the recording when I cannot attend the live session is how I am able to do it. The class connect sessions also gives us the chance to interact with other kids in the class and discuss what we are learning.

Hoosier Academy allows us to work ahead if we have mastered the previous subject or allows us to watch the recording over and over until we are able to master the subject. A traditional public school does not allow students to do that. The teacher will teach you something and you better hope you get it the first time, because they do not have time to go over and over it, again and again. They have a whole class to worry about and you either get it or you don't. That is another reason I think the class connect recording are good for so many students.

I can honestly say, if it were not for Hoosier Academy, I would not have a 4.0 GPA, I would have missed so much school due to my parents being in the hospital that I would never have been able to keep up. Hoosier Academy has the best teachers, and they are always there willing to help you with what ever you need.

I really hope Hoosier Academy is open for years to come. I have one more year before I graduate and I am sure as long as I am with Hoosier Academy, I will be able to graduate with my 4.0 GPA.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



I love Hoosier Academies, because it gives me a place to do school even with allergies. This school has helped me and my family to be able to give me an education. And this school has so many things you can do in it. Such as clubs and National Honor Society.

I hope we can keep Hoosier Academies open for everyone. This school I think, is the school of the future. I think it's the school of the future, because many people are starting to get computers and are getting attached to their electronics. That's why I think this school should stay.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



Hoosier Academy Virtual School has helped me in a lot of ways. By switching, it has created more opportunities for my academic future. One of the things that I had trouble with before was managing and staying ahead of my work, but with Hoosier Academy I have been doing the best I have ever done! One of my proudest feats was when I got inducted into the National Honor Society. It is such an honor to know that I was nominated for something this great. From struggling to being inducted into the NHS, Hoosier Academy has showed me exactly what I can do with my academic potential.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY STORIES



At my previous public high school I had a decent education, but after having a baby at such a young age people did not take me seriously. At Hoosier Academies, I am taken seriously and with respect. Within the few years I've been at Hoosier, I've gotten on track for an Academic Honors Diploma and was recently invited into National Honors Society, all while working and taking care of my family. I've already been accepted into Ball State, and I can honestly say without Hoosier Academy I would not be where I am right now.

Dear Members of the Indiana State Board of Education:

We, the teachers and staff of Hoosier Academies Network of Schools are writing to respectfully ask you to support the teachers, students and families of Hoosier Academies Virtual School.

We are aware the Indiana State Board of Education is reviewing Hoosier Academies Virtual School on May 10. We understand there are certain actions the State Board can take. On behalf of all our teachers and students, we strongly urge you to not take any action that would close our school.

Our school has developed a comprehensive school improvement plan. We are confident given the opportunity to implement the academic plan we will see improved outcomes. We know many students are succeeding in our school, and we are eager to build on those achievements to help all students succeed. The teachers, staff, and families of Hoosier Academy are dedicated to the goals of the improvement plan, and we ask that you give us the opportunity to execute the plan.

What cannot be captured in data is a school's culture and community. At Hoosier Academies Virtual School, we have a vibrant school community and a strong network of families. We serve many types of students with a variety of needs. There are academically gifted students, but there are also large populations of students who come to our school with serious challenges: children with special needs, medical issues, and learning disabilities. Our school has a high population of economically-disadvantaged families across the state who need this public school option because, for many of them, it is the only alternative they can access.

Every student comes to Hoosier Academies for a unique reason. Some were struggling academically at their local schools. Many – too many – were bullied in traditional schools and need a safe and secure learning environment. Our students cannot be forced to return to their assigned schools. Whatever the reason, and no matter the circumstance, it is our mission to serve every student and parent who chooses our school. We do everything we can to help them succeed.

Our school uses a unique learning model. It is not the right fit for every child, but we know many students are succeeding and thriving in our school. For these children,

Hoosier Academies Virtual School is the one public school option that is working for them, and we are the school they need and want.

We know our students and families extremely well. We have close, personal relationships with them. They have powerful and moving stories. We know their struggles, past and present. We stand with them. Along with this letter is a booklet of personal stories of many of our students. We strongly encourage you to read them. It will give you a glimpse of the lives of the students we work with every day.

We are a dedicated team of educators committed to our students and families. We are proud of our public school and work hard every day to meet the individual needs of our students. Please stand with us and support us as we continue the hard work to serve the needs of the students we care about so deeply. Please give us the opportunity to implement our school improvement plan and demonstrate progress. Most importantly, please stand with our families who chose Hoosier Academies Virtual School for their children.

Sincerely,

Rachael Borrelli
Community Coordinator
Greenwood, IN

Thomas Christenson
Virtual High School Lead Counselor
Indianapolis, IN

Ann Semon
6th Grade
Fishers, IN

Angie Baker
3rd Grade
Noblesville, IN

Nadina McFann
Board Liaison
Indianapolis, IN

Corey Berry
8th grade history
Corydon, IN

Nicole Scott
1st Grade
Brownsburg, IN

Molly May
HS Health/PE
Camby, IN

Christina Ingram
9th grade English Language Arts
Newburgh, IN

Erin Harbeson
7th-8th Grade-Mathematics
New Albany, IN

Paul Runyan
Guidance Counselor
Greenfield, IN

E.J. Swartz
HS Virtual Math Teacher
Vincennes, IN

Kelly Winters
Advisor Insight
Evansville, IN

Lisa Sills
HS Science Teacher Insight
Evansville, IN

Jordan Kelsey
HS Virtual Science Teacher
Newburgh, IN

Jill Landers
Chief Academic Leadership Fellow
Noblesville, IN

Lauri Lingelbach
Special Education Teacher, Insight
Fishers IN

Gail Frazier
1st Grade Virtual
Peru, IN

Heather Jenkins
Middle School ELA
Muncie, IN

Lacy Spears
Instructional Coach and ELA Interventionist
Noblesville, IN

Carlie Coblentz
5th Grade & 6th Grade ELA Hybrid
Noblesville, IN

Alexandra Anderson
3rd Grade Hybrid
Noblesville, IN

Berry Wells
5th Grade Virtual
Brownsburg, IN

Janon Khaja
9th grade English
Newburgh, IN

Amy Nichols
5th grade Virtual
Carmel, IN

Ken Goff
Academic Administrator
Lafayette, IN

Dominique Franklin
Virtual High School Academic Administrator
Indianapolis, IN

Dana Smith
Grants Coordinator
Brownsburg, IN

Courtnie Janikowski
High school (9-12) History- Insight Academy
Carmel, IN

Susan Pylant
High School Special Education
Evansville, IN

Jacob Goodman
High School Math Teacher
Bloomington, IN

Rachel McDaniel
Third grade
Fishers, IN

Shannon Poindexter
Family Academic Support Liaison
Indianapolis, IN

Bobbi Van Howe
Enrollment Coordinator
Whitestown, IN

Teresa Sandifer
State Reporting Coordinator

Avon, IN

Lynn McCoy
6th grade Virtual
Muncie, IN

Stacey Kennon
HS English
Crown Point, IN

Carol Crawn
High School Intervention
Brownsburg, IN

Ty'rah Bell
High School Academic Advisor
Indianapolis, IN

Erica Sgroi
9th Grade Counselor
Greenwood, IN

Lora Pietz
High School English
Brownsburg, IN

Mary Graham
10th grade English teacher
Morristown, Indiana

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2nd grade
Indianapolis, IN

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Tamara Baugh
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Family Academic Support Team - Family Resource Coordinator
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K12 Inc. Response to Online Charter School Report

October 2015

K12 Inc. respects the work of CREDO, Mathematica, and CRPE. The online charter school study they issued affirmed much of what K12 has known about the demographics of students who transfer to full-time online schools. These students are generally more at-risk, more economically disadvantaged, and more likely to enter online charters after having struggled or failed in traditional schools. The study also made it clear that tens of thousands of students in online charter schools are succeeding. The study relies on older state standardized test data from before 2012.

However, the “virtual twin” methodology in the study, which attempts to compare performance of students who transferred to online charter schools to that of students in traditional schools, does not control or account for several key factors unique to typical full-time, statewide online public charter schools, including: persistence and performance over time, date of enrollment, the effect of mobility, and the reasons why children leave their local school.

Because the study does not include those important factors, it cannot accurately match or “twin” students who transfer to online charter schools with those who stay in traditional schools. They are very different students.

Nevertheless, we understand the academic challenges that face online charter schools, and we have taken vigorous actions over the past two years to meet these challenges with results not reflected in this study. We have invested millions of dollars into new academic initiatives, instructional and assessment programs, teacher hiring and training, and student support services, all for one purpose: improving students’ academic outcomes. We are making progress, as noted in our annual [Academic Report](#) and multiple [published reports](#) on individual school progress and the effectiveness of new instructional programs. State test results have recently stabilized or improved in key areas. Several K12-managed schools have improved performance and outcomes, and perform well compared to demographically similar school districts. Students are achieving significantly better results over time, demonstrating the positive impact of persistence.

Our operations have also dramatically changed over the past two years to focus on student success. We have worked with our nonprofit school partners, who set the enrollment policies, to improve outreach and enrollment processes to reach students who are likely to succeed in an online learning instructional model, and to help all parents make well-informed choices. These changes were made in careful compliance with state and federal laws that prohibit public schools from restricting access to students based on academic or socio-economic status. The result is K12 has measured its overall student

enrollment growth. Additionally, we are investing in programs to assist new students as they transition to the online school setting, and especially in resources to support students identified as at-risk.

Statewide online charter schools are very different kind of schools with distinctive characteristics. Their academic performance expectations should be put into context. They will not have the same test scores as schools in high-funded districts with favorable demographics, or self-selecting schools, or boutique charters. Many families choose online schools because they are fleeing a school or situation that wasn't working for their child, often in distress, or because of other reasons – bullying, special needs, medical issues, social or emotional challenges, safety concerns, academic problems, etc. For many families, online schools are schools of last resort, the *only* available public school alternative, thus fulfilling a critical need within the public education system.

Public policy involving online charter schools must reflect this reality. Policy recommendations, however well-intended, that create more regulations and arbitrary new mandates, or (even worse) restrict parent choice and discriminate against students based on academic history or “at-risk” status should be rejected.

We are proud of where we are today and where we are going. Our company has created new jobs and opportunities for thousands of teachers, graduated more than 15,000 students since 2007, and provided high-quality curriculum, technology, academic programs and services to more than 2,000 school districts and charter schools nationwide. We respect parent choice and believe that all children should have access to school options that meet their need. Our mission remains to provide every child an exceptional education regardless of academic, geographic, or socio-economic circumstance. We are a company of educators dedicated and committed to putting students first.



Analysis of Online Charter School Study by CREDO/Mathematica/CRPE

October 2015

Weaknesses of the academic performance analysis and survey analysis: The *Virtual Twin* matching methodology used in the report presumes that all factors that impact student performance have been identified and students are matched based on these factors. However, the virtual twin model does not include several important factors that disproportionately affect students in online charter schools. A match for these factors is necessary to ensure similar students are being accurately compared.

- 1) The virtual twin model used in the study does not control for persistence – the length of enrollment for students in virtual charter schools and how that impacts performance.
- 2) The virtual twin model does not take into account the enrollment date of students who transferred to virtual charter schools and how that impacts performance. Studies show that more than half of all online school students enroll after the start of school year.
- 3) The study does not control for nor take into account the effects of mobility. Online charter schools experience a higher rate of mobility than traditional schools.
- 4) The study does not take into account the factors for which parents choose to enroll their children into online charter schools. Students who transfer to online schools have circumstances that differ, often significantly, from their “virtual twin” who stayed in their traditional school.
- 5) The “virtual twin” matching assumes that test score distribution is similar for virtual charter schools and traditional schools’; however, online charter school students do not fall within the normal distribution.

Persistence – The study does not take into account the length of enrollment for students in online charter schools. Most of the data is from students who were enrolled in an online charter school less than two years, which the report states is much less than the average length of enrollment at traditional schools. The analysis of students who went from a traditional school to an online charter school and then returned to a traditional school includes only one year of online charter school enrollment.

Multi-year data shows that in nearly all grade levels and in both math and reading, the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency on state assessments increases with each year of enrollment in an online school.

- **In online schools using K12, students enrolled three or more years in grades 3-8 achieve higher proficiency in math (14 percentage points) and reading (19 percentage points) compared to students enrolled less than one year.**
- **School-level data shows that several K12-managed schools recently improved performance and outcomes, and perform well compared to demographically similar school districts.**
- **The CREDO report reviewed data before 2012. Since then, K12 has published three comprehensive Annual Academic Reports, along with school-by-school outcomes and a series of white papers highlighting academic results of individual schools and K12’s instructional programs. (See K12’s [2015 Annual Academic Report](#) and K12’s series of [academic white papers](#) at www.K12.com.)**

Enrollment date – The study does not take into account the enrollment date of online charter school students. Students were included in the study regardless of when they enrolled. Students who enrolled in an online charter school one week before state testing may have been matched to students who were continuously enrolled for multiple years in a traditional school. Additionally, students who change schools during the middle of a school year typically have had a negative experience that precipitates the change. A Keeping Pace report, [Accountability in the Digital Age](#) (Feb 2015), found that out of 180,000 online enrollments, 52 percent enrolled after the start of the school year and 33 percent enrolled more than four weeks after the start of the school year.

- **K12 has analyzed proficiency of students who enrolled after the start of the school year. There is a statistically significant mean difference in average normalized reading and math scores for students who enroll at the beginning of the school year versus after the start of the school year. K12 used a similar normalizing method as CREDO when conducting this analysis.**

Mobility – The study does not control for nor take into account the effects of mobility (moving from one school setting to another). Online charter schools experience a higher rate of mobility than traditional public schools as noted in the report. This higher rate of mobility has been confirmed in several state studies (MN, CO, etc.), which found that online schools experience a mobility rate twice that of traditional public schools.

There is a large body of research that addresses the effects of mobility. For instance, a report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) finds that “schools face a range of challenges in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students who change schools.” Although some of these challenges are due to the circumstances that lead to high mobility rates, such as students living in poverty, other challenges are specific to the act of changing schools. According to the GAO report, “Students who change schools often face challenges due to differences in what is taught and how it is taught. Students may arrive without records or with incomplete records, making it difficult for teachers to make placement decisions and identify special education needs.” Similarly, a meta-analysis found that “mobility was consistently associated with lower achievement and higher rates of high school dropout.” The GAO characterizes high mobility schools as those in which more than 10 percent of the student population leaves before the end of the school year. Many online charter schools experience mobility rates of 30 percent or more during the school year.

- **K12 is implementing several initiatives in its partner schools across the country to address the challenges of high mobility. For example, K12 has developed an onboarding program to help students engage in schooling and make a successful transition to the online learning model.**
- **As a company, K12 has invested millions of dollars in a focused initiative that provides schools with additional resources to foster engagement and success by delivering continuing support services to students and families throughout the school year. This initiative is based on a successful pilot program at Georgia Cyber Academy, which demonstrated that students receiving these services demonstrated significantly greater gains in scaled scores on state assessments than similar students who did not receive these services.**

Reasons for Enrolling – The study does not describe reasons why students and parents choose to enroll in online charter schools. Online charter schools are often schools of last resort for many students across the country. Given the high percentage of students who enroll mid-semester, there is usually a precipitating event that causes a student to transfer to an online school. Additionally, for tens of thousands of students, there are simply no alternative public education options other than online schools because of geographic barriers or a lack of school choice alternatives. For many families, online charter schools are the *only* public school option they have.

While these factors are supported by findings in the study, the researchers did not control for their effects. These factors are unique to online schools and demonstrate that these public schools are, indeed, *not* like traditional schools.

The study concludes that online charter school students are at risk as measured by:

- Lower than average prior state test scores

- Lower than average income
- Higher than average mobility rates

These at-risk factors should cause researchers to evaluate *why* parents are choosing a specific option and which students are succeeding in the online school model. Additionally, the report concludes that 30-40 percent of students in online charter schools actually *exceeded* academic growth estimates, which is evidence that online charter schools are a successful option for tens of thousands of students.

- **Nearly one-half of parents in K12-managed online schools say they selected the school because their child was struggling or needed to get caught up. Approximately 20 percent of parents enroll in an online school for a “temporary alternative.”**
- **Online schools are a good option for students, but they are not the right fit for all students. K12 trusts parents, because they know their children best. Our promise is to work with our school partners to provide parents all the information, tools, and resources they need to make an informed decision for their children.**
- **K12 implemented a change in its school outreach efforts for the 2015-16 school year to help parents make even better and more informed choices about online schools, and to improve the likelihood that students who choose online schools will succeed and stay enrolled. Enrollment trends in K12-managed schools over the last two years demonstrate an increased focus on measured growth.**

Normal Distribution -- The “virtual twin” matching assumes that test score distribution is similar for online charter schools and traditional schools; however, online charter school students do not fall within the normal distribution. “Normal distribution” assumes that the mean, median, and mode are the same (the most frequently occurring point in the distribution). If the median, mean, and mode do not match, then there is “skew” in the distribution and adjustments must be made before statistics can be calculated for the distribution.

The researchers could have made the matching process more appropriate by using median instead of mean scores as comparison points. Specifically, if the online charter schools enroll mostly low-achieving students and traditional schools enroll students who fall within a more normal distribution, using the “mean” for matching purposes will not produce the correctly matched “virtual twins.” Matching is supposed to make the distributions equivalent by accounting for all variables that could possibly change the distribution, thus allowing researchers to examine treatment effect. In the report, using the mean rather than the median creates distortion, since online charter schools do not fall within the normal distribution. (Consider this analogy: A small town has no millionaires and a median income of \$38,000. If a few millionaires move to the town, the mean might increase to \$150,000, but the median would remain somewhere around \$38,000.)

Instructional Time – The study estimates that online charter school teachers teach as much in one week as a traditional public school teacher teaches in one day. That is not the case in K12-managed online schools. Synchronous instruction time varies by school and by student, but overall the amount of synchronous instruction has increased over the past two years (the study did not look at data or trends after 2012-13). **Teachers in K12-managed online schools are providing far more direct instruction than the study estimates – an average of 15-20 hours a week, and, in some cases, more.**

- **K12 launched a teacher support initiative that includes training, tools, and coaching to ensure teachers are equipped with effective technologies and have time to provide meaningful instruction. Schools have been assigned dozens of instructional coaches to provide support and feedback every two weeks using a rubric developed in cooperation with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). This intensive support and the frequency of the feedback cycle exceed all professional standards and practices we are aware of.**

Staffing – The study concludes that online charter school staffing is lean compared to traditional public schools. The report does not take into account the many staff members, both instructional and non-instructional, who work to meet the wide range of academic needs of online charter school students but do not have responsibility for a specific class or grade. For

instance, intervention specialists, counselors, and family support specialists are not included in the staffing analysis. These professionals each contribute to and support student learning at K12 schools but are not included in the report's statistics.

The study affirms key facts about online schools on student demographics, funding, evaluation and assessment:

- 1) Online charter schools serve a higher percentage of low-income students than traditional schools.
- 2) Online charter schools serve a higher percentage of students who enter below proficiency.
- 3) States should move away from single count dates to determine school funding to ensure all public schools are only funded for students during the time they are enrolled in specific schools.
- 4) Online charter schools frequently conduct student assessments to measure individual growth.
- 5) Online charter schools are effectively using student growth measures to evaluate teachers.

Poverty – The study concludes that 48 percent of virtual charter school students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch compared to 39 percent in traditional schools. In the 2013-2014 school year, however, 62 percent of students in K12 schools were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (exceeding the eligibility at traditional schools by 29 percentage points).

Prior proficiency levels – The study shows that online charter schools students had lower than average proficiency levels PRIOR to enrolling in the online charter schools. Among students enrolling in online charter schools, there are one-third fewer students in the top decile compared to traditional schools, and 40 percent more in the bottom decile. In short, online charter schools significantly differ from traditional schools because, relative to the total population of students served, online schools serve a higher percentage of students who face both academic and economic challenges.

Funding models – The study recommends funding models other than count dates. K12 has consistently recommended a funding model that only permits schools to collect state funding for the specific time a student is enrolled in a school. Count date funding models are typically supported by traditional school districts. The study suggests a performance-based funding model for online charter schools. If performance-based funding is appropriate for one type of public school, it should be implemented in all public schools. Online schools receive significantly less in total funding compared to traditional schools, and are typically the lowest funded public schools in a state.

Classroom-level assessments - The study recognizes that two-thirds of the online charter schools assess students frequently, with a large percentage of virtual charter schools assessing students on a weekly basis.

- **Frequent student assessments are built into the K12 instructional model. K12 provides multiple assessments, including lesson and unit assessments, assessments in teacher-led sessions, formative assessments, and semester assessments.**

Teacher evaluations - The study says teacher evaluations in online charter schools focus on student growth, observations, and teacher accessibility to students. The authors reports that online charters are ahead of traditional public schools with respect to integration of student growth measurements into evaluations.

- **K12 worked with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching to develop an [innovative researched-based rubric](#) that serves as the basis for evaluation, coaching, and teacher development in virtual learning environments, including the network of K12 schools. K12 also works to link student growth to teachers in states that provide this data.**