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## Indiana State Board of Education Request for Freeway School Accreditation

**Board Date: September 16, 2015**

School: MTI School of Knowledge School#: C628  
Administrator: Mr. Safaa Zarzour  
Address: 2846 Coldsprings Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46222  
Grade Span: PK-12  
Public/Private: Non-Public  
Targeted Population: Indianapolis Area Islamic Families Seeking a Faith Based Education.

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The following executive summary has been compiled by the Indiana Department of Education's Office of School Accreditation. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Identity:

MTI serves a unique and diverse immigrant community with strong roots in their culture with a set of values that helps guide them to place emphasis on education and character development. More than 95% of the population are low income and qualify for the Free and Reduced lunch program. Children from the immigrant families are either first or second generation, with all of them classified in the ESL category. The level of proficiency in English varies from not being able to speak or read the language at all to moderately proficient levels. Countries from around the world are represented in the school including Jordan, Palestine, Pakistan, India, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Senegal, Somalia, Malaysia, Singapore, Guinea and the United States.



The student enrollment is steadily increasing to reflect the growth in the community as well as the awareness and understanding that MTI provides a quality education that is value based and sensitive to the diverse cultures represented at the school.

#### Curriculum:

MTI follows the Indiana Academic Standards, offering students options for the Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma. MTI offers students the opportunity to earn dual credit through IUPUI's SPAN program and beginning in 2015-2016 will have opportunities for dual credit with IVY Tech. The school has been approved by the College Board to offer three AP courses.

#### Testing History:

MTI had issues with ethical administration of the ISTEP+ exam several years ago. The school replaced those staff members involved and now contract with an outside agency to provide administration of state assessments.

#### Staffing:

The school has a totally new administrative staff. Each is a licensed educator. The school has hired additional teachers, providing licensed educators in grades K-5. The school's board of trustees has instituted a new policy that new teachers hired will be licensed educators.

#### Waiver Requests:

None requested

#### Issues:

MTI has experienced dramatic personnel changes in the last 18 months as well as ethical issues related to testing. Anyone involved in the testing issues has been removed. The school has restructured with assistance from national Islamic education leaders. The changes include a totally new oversight board, all new administrators, and significant new staff.

#### Recommendations:

After review by IDOE and SBOE staff, the staffs jointly recommend two year accreditation for MTI School of Knowledge.