



Letter of Intent Form

New Operator Request

A “new operator” is defined as an applicant group that has not previously operated a charter school, and does not intend to contract with an Education Service Provider (ESP). New Operators in the state of Indiana may apply to Education One, LLC. The Letter of Intent Form must be submitted, prior to submitting an initial proposal to Education One. Please send all completed documentation via email to:

Lindsay Omlor
Lindsay@education1.org
 Managing Director, Education
 One, LLC.

Note: Submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) does not obligate a school to submit an initial proposal to Education One.

However, schools should be advised that the LOI is subject to Indiana’s Public Access Laws, including public records requests.

Name of Proposed Charter School
Northwest Indiana Science and Mathematics Engineering Academy (NISE)

Proposed Charter School Location			
Street Address: Vacant School Building located in the City of Gary, Indiana			
City: Gary	State: Indiana	Zip Code: 46404	School District: Gary School District

Legal Name of Group Applying for Charter/Contact Information	
Group Name: TRON AGEK’ Educational Foundation Inc.	Point of Contact Name: Augusta DeNeal, Ph.D. Director – TRIO Services Ivy Tech Community College – Lake County

Point of Contact Email: adeneal@ivytech.edu	Point of Contact Cell Phone: (219) 381-8287 Work: (219) 981-4825
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Planned Year of Opening
Year of Opening (Fall 2016 or later): 2018

**Proposed School
Information**

Proposed Grade Levels Served:
K-12

Proposed Enrollment :
600

Proposed Model (STEM, Online, etc.): STEM Engineering Charter School

Brief Description of Proposed School:

Our mission of the NISE Charter School is to teach the Indiana Standard Curriculum infused with math, science, engineering curricula and hands on practices in grades K-12. This is in response to the targeted school district's low math, reading and science Indiana assessment scores, less than ten (10) students passing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations annually and the need for STEM trained secondary and post-secondary graduates from Northwest Indiana. The proposed school's instructional design will be continuously updated using our leadership, teacher's and Education One recommendations and from proven empirical research i.e., new Indiana Stem Plan (2014), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ITT), National STEM President's Report (2015), Making Middle School Work (2014), Purdue and Indiana University Northwest STEM initiatives and research teams. We will reinforce our teaching with engineering hands on methods designed using Indiana Standards i.e., Project Lead the Way and Medibotic (robotics) software in all grades (K-12) software. Research on science performers cognitive effect shows that students that wear lab jackets while studying tend to have positive self-perceptions regarding learning (Loewus, 2012). Our students will wear lab jackets as an incentive to help us build self-esteem and motivation for learning rigorous course subjects like math, science and engineering procedures.

Our students will be educated to be critical thinkers, researchers, writers and propose and present their own solutions to local, state and national problems e.g. health, climate, construction, etc. starting in pre and middle school. Gary is a community surrounded by natural resources that can be used in our instructional designs, e.g. Lake, Dunes, etc. outside the classroom. Gary's school district does not have the curriculum flexibility to include these educational methodologies and practices.

As stated, we have researched models and data for the children we plan to serve to significantly increase their curriculum required and state mandated success rates. We see and understand their needs and student development. Also, we have witnessed educational models and data for the targeted area that work i.e., TRIO. TRIO programs are government funded (6-12 grade) that outperform the Gary Community School District on persistence, retention, graduation and college attendance rates (DOE, APR, 2017). Both serve the same populations. Additionally, most charter schools in the targeted area have outperformed other schools in the area with the highest IREAD scores in the past; but scores decreased as students persisted to higher grade levels. We know charter schools are performing in the right direction.

The management structure will be the TRON-AGEK' Educational Management, Inc. – non-for-profit. Board members that contributed to this educational plan are all high school and college graduates of the Gary Community Corporation and Indiana college institutions. Professional development for school leadership, teachers and staff will begin immediately upon charter approval.

We believe, as a community, we wait too late to motivate students regarding their educational and career opportunities; especially STEM opportunities. Research from the Gary community area shows that students become bored and in many cases 'hopeless'. Research shows that the highest percentage of drop outs from the Gary school district are in the 10th grade. Student development for the population of children we plan to serve shows, learning, motivation and school interests must start before the 6th grade (Hamilton, 2013). We believe a strategically

planned charter school that meets the vision and mission of this proposed school is the key to restoring the faith and hope in the public school system as a whole. Our assessment pass rate goal will be 70% in all state standardized areas. An individualized tutoring component like the RTI system will operate parallel with the curriculum. Every student academic weakness will be addressed and monitored for improvement. Parents will be continuously informed of student progression through technology and parent/student/teacher conferences. Students will be awarded for achievements.

Over the years, we have built a charter school STEM educational plan that will meet the community and state needs and will be demonstrated by passing standardized assessment scores the first year of operation. National and state data reflect that the city of Gary has had the lowest state assessments scores among the states for many years now.

Finally, if this charter proposal is approved, our STEM engineering school not only will contribute to the increase in state standardized scores but most importantly, our high school graduates will have earned dual college credit towards a Technical Certificate Degree and/or Associates degrees (reducing college remediation and financial aid awards), be STEM trained at high school graduation ***and*** prepared for STEM post-secondary college degrees of their choice.