

FALL CREEK ACADEMY

2010-2011 Performance Analysis

Core Question 3: Is the school meeting its operations and access obligations?

3.1. Has the school satisfactorily completed all of its organizational and governance obligations?	
STANDARD	School has substantially completed all of its organizational and governance obligations as specified in the Compliance and Governance Handbook, including: a) maintenance of adequate “compliance and governance binder” containing all required documents; b) completion of criminal background checks on all Board members; c) transparency of meetings and decision-making in accordance with open meetings obligations; d) maintenance of adequate Board minutes. Any concerns are minor and the school presents a credible plan to address them.

2010-11 Performance: Does Not Meet Standard

In 2010-11, Fall Creek Academy has presented significant concerns in a number organizational and governance obligations as specified in the Compliance and Governance Handbook. GEO Foundation, Inc., the school’s Education Management Organization (EMO), is responsible for maintaining the compliance binder and documents. The school’s EMO has not effectively managed its compliance responsibilities to the Mayor’s Office although slightly improved from previous years.

In the fall of 2010, the EMO retained a Business Manager and Director of Data Compliance to bring the compliance binder up-to-date and perform required reporting in a more efficient manner. Since this time, FCA has somewhat improved upon its organizational and governance obligations but still falls behind deadline submitting required documentation to both the Mayor’s Office and to other regulatory bodies.

Board meeting minutes have not consistently been sent to the Mayor’s Office in a timely manner. The minutes of board meetings are inconsistent as they do not always reflect discussions of a diverse range of school issues, include adequate detail regarding discussions, deliberations, and decisions nor do they always provide details of public comment noted during meetings. In addition, evidence that national criminal background checks of all board members have been conducted has not been provided to the Mayor’s Office. Based on their performance in the 2010-11 academic year, FCA does not meet the Mayor’s Office standard for this indicator.

3.2. Is the school’s physical plant safe and conducive to learning?	
STANDARD	Significant health and safety code requirements are being met AND the facility generally provides a safe environment that is conducive to learning, based on conditions such as: a design well-suited to meet the curricular and social needs of its students,

	faculty, and community members; a size appropriate for the enrollment and student-teacher ratios in each class; good maintenance and security; well-maintained equipment and furniture that match the educational needs of the students; and accessibility to all students.
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2010-11 Performance: Meets Standard

In 2010-11, Fall Creek Academy facility met all health and safety code requirements and provided a safe environment conducive to learning. The facility’s design, size, maintenance, security, equipment and furniture are all adequate to meet the school’s needs. The school is accessible to all including people with physical disabilities. The Mayor’s Office monitoring of Fall Creek Academy’s compliance with health and safety code requirements has not revealed any significant concerns related to these obligations. Accordingly, the school meets the Mayor’s Office standard for this indicator.

3.3. Has the school established and implemented a fair and appropriate pupil enrollment process?	
STANDARD	The school’s enrollment process complies with applicable law; there are minimal documented parent complaints suggesting that it is not being implemented fairly or appropriately; AND the school has engaged in outreach to students throughout the community.

2010-11 Performance: Meets Standard

In 2010-11, Fall Creek Academy’s admission and enrollment practices met the requirements of Indiana’s charter school law. The Mayor’s Office received no complaints from parents regarding the school’s enrollment practices. The Mayor’s Office received copies of Fall Creek Academy’s enrollment policies and marketing plans. The school has implemented a lottery system and gives preference to siblings of current students, as allowed for by law. Based on the 2010-11 academic year, the school meets the Mayor’s Office standard for this indicator.

3.4. Is the school properly maintaining special education files for its special needs students?	
STANDARD	The school is fulfilling its legal obligations regarding special-needs students, as indicated by conditions such as the following: individualized education plans are up-to-date, student evaluations or re-evaluations have occurred within the appropriate timeframe, files contain the relevant required information, such as, file log sheet, parent consent form, documentation of case conference notification to parents and other conference participants and signatures of attendees at case conferences.

Not Evaluated. The school was not evaluated for this indicator in 2010-11.

3.5. Is the school fulfilling its legal obligations related to access and services to English as a Second Language (ESL) students?	
STANDARD	The school is fulfilling its legal obligations regarding ESL students, as indicated by conditions such as the following: appropriate staff have a clear understanding of

	current legislation, research and effective practices relating to the provision of ESL services; relationships with students, parents, and external providers that are well-managed and comply with law and regulation.
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Not Applicable. This sub-question was not examined in 2010-11 because the school did not serve a significant number of ESL students.