

## Site for new charter school in Scott County now being sought by proponents

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Leaders of the proposed charter school for Scott County, Via Public Charter School, announced this week that land is being sought to be the site of the facility.

According to an announcement released by the Next Step School Corporation, approximately 20 acres of Agriculture-zoned property suitable for building is needed.

In Scottsburg and Scott County, new school facilities may only be constructed and operated in Agriculture-zoned areas in accordance with the Scott County Zoning Ordinance. The City of Austin has its own Zoning Ordinance and does not participate in the county-based Area Plan Commission.

Proponents of Via Public Charter School were unable to obtain the necessary zoning change for a suggested site south of State Road 56 West off Mansfield Drive at a December 10 Scottsburg City Council meeting.

In the school corporation announcement, it was explained that Scottsburg city leaders "...were not certain if the city's sewer system could handle the additional capacity that the school could add from the Mansfield Drive location. Via School leaders will continue to look for appropriate land to purchase while that issue is considered."

Other issues brought up that evening included traffic and surface water drainage.

Persons interested in selling property suitable for the school's purposes are encouraged to call 1-812-250-1718.

Next Step School Corporation signed a letter of intent to work with the Charter School Development Corporation (CSDC), which will be in charge of creating a Development Plan as well as fund construction and own the property and building. Next Step plans to lease the facility with an option to purchase at a later date.

The building project will provide local jobs during the construction phase, the news release noted. When completed, 20 employees will be on the Via Public Charter School staff.

Grades kindergarten through sixth grade will be accommodated in this first phase of an enrollment of 318 students.

Phase 2 of the charter school project will push that enrollment up to 750 students with additional staff as grades seven to 12 are added.