



Charter Schools Report

November 21, 2025

Agenda Item #1: Charter Schools Dashboards

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this information is to provide key statistics related to Charter Schools.

Background:

N/A

Suggested Action/Motion:

None

President's Recommendation:

N/A

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Current Status/Trend	Notes
LSSU Authorized Academies	21	21	19	19	19	↔	26 total sites
LSSU Authorized Academies Enrollment	9,248	9,048	8,828	8,950	9,100	↑	Estimated Fall Enrollment Counts in mid-October
Academy Compliance Percentages (Epicenter Database On time/Accurate)	89/97	89/97	90/97	96/98	--	↔	Over 2,300 documents submitted
Authorizer Accreditation (Cognia) Assurance and Verifications	Accredited	----	----	Valid to 2028	Valid to 2028	↔	A&V completed by MDE and MCCSA
LSSU 3% Oversight Revenue in 3% Fund	\$2,575,224	\$2,712,556	\$2,986,075	\$3,149,576	--	↑	3% Revenue for FY26
Transfer to General Fund from 3% Fund	\$950,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,400,000	↑	Projected Budget Transfer to GF for FY26
Ending Fund Balance in 3% Funds	\$963,637	\$576,021	\$1,146,616	\$1,619,772	---	↑	Projected Fund Balance
Charter School Office Expenditures	\$1,091,685	\$1,271,357	\$1,126,695	\$1,427,343	\$1,450,000	↑	Projected Budgeted Expenditures with Camps Transfer
Outreach/Camps Participation Numbers	613	701	1,430	1,446	--	↑	Camps, CFRE, Shows, Outreach
Former Charter School Students attending LSSU	26	12	5	11	11	--	
Dual /Concurrent Enrollment students from Charters taking LSSU classes	81	114	73	76	47 Fall	--	3 Academies Charter only class PY155
Professional Development Offerings to Academy Boards on quality Governance and Oversight	12 Webinars	10 Webinars	5 Webinars 5 On Demand 5 Face to Face	9 Webinars 5 On Demand 5 Face to Face	9 Webinars 7 On Demand 3 Face to Face	↑	Partnering with MCCSA on Webinar Series Regional PD
Professional Development Offerings to Academy Staff	25+ Sessions	25+ Sessions	25+ Sessions	25+ Sessions	25+ Sessions	↔	Administration retreat in July PD Catalog
Chartering Laker Scholarship	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8000	\$4000	--	Fall Amount

* The Charter Schools Office has 2 reauthorizations for the 25-26 school year.

Charter Schools Office and Academy Highlights

The mission of the LSSU Charter Schools Office is *to ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies, resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life, whether it be attending college or entering the workforce.* We are proud of our academy's commitment to their students and the broader community. Below is some of the great work happening to help fulfill this mission.

LSSU Charter Schools Office Highlights

GLSW Charter School Visit

The Charter Schools Office hosted more than 100 students, chaperones, and parents from our academies on October 23-24. Participants took part in a variety of campus activities, many visiting campus, and even crossing the Mackinac Bridge, for the first time.

Students experienced campus life firsthand during their stay in Osborn Hall and learned about preparing for college financially through presentations from Admissions and Financial Aid, as well as an interactive financial literacy activity led by our partners at Limestone Credit Union.

Academic programming was showcased through departmental visits, classroom interactions with professors, and guided campus tours. Students also enjoyed a glimpse of campus social life through events such as Battle of the Bands, Bedlam in the Cooper, Treasure Trek, activities in the Student Activity Center and Norris Center, and attendance at a Laker Hockey game.

Hosting this event during Great Lake State Week provided even more opportunities to highlight LSSU including the Arts Center Birthday Celebration, EMS Simulation Showcase, CFRE Open House, and Robotics Lab tours.

Feedback from students, chaperones, and parents was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to building on the success of this inaugural event. We extend our sincere thanks to all our university partners, with special appreciation to Kristin Graham and her team for their outstanding support.

2025-26 Targeted Professional Learning for Academy Leaders and Staff

Professional learning for the 2025–26 school year is underway, focusing on the use and interpretation of NWEA reports, updates in special education legislation, and instructional support for novice staff. To date, forty-three participants from our charter academy leadership teams have attended these sessions, providing positive feedback on the learning opportunities offered.

Monthly Leadership Meetings

Charter academy leaders are required to attend monthly leadership meetings to receive updates from the Charter Schools Office and relevant state and federal agencies. Attendance has been strong, with 55 leaders participating in the first two meetings of the year. In November, we will launch our first *Lunch and Learn*—a voluntary extension of the monthly meeting featuring presentations and peer collaboration. The first session will be led by Shanina Draughn, principal of Macomb Montessori in Detroit, who was recently selected for the 2026 Detroit Surge Academy Fellowship, a program that develops and empowers emerging education leaders of color in the Detroit area.

Charter Guarantee Letter

Although the Charter Guarantee is not a new initiative, this year our office, in partnership with Admissions, sent Charter Guarantee Letters to seniors in LSSU authorized academies announcing their guaranteed admission to Lake Superior State University for Fall 2026, along with eligibility for the Charter Grant, Catalyst Awards, and Charter School Presidential Scholarship. These awards, which can be combined with other financial aid, make a Laker education more accessible and affordable for students from our charter academies, many of whom come from underserved communities. Charter Guarantee posters will also be displayed in each school to promote this opportunity. We are optimistic that this renewed promotional effort, combined with the GLSW Charter School Event, will encourage more students to consider LSSU as their first choice for postsecondary education.

Academy Highlights

WAY (Widening Advancements for Youth) Academy Detroit
Detroit, MI, Wayne County

Academy Snapshot

Alternative Middle/High School District: 200 students
Location Classification: Large City
96.9% Economically Disadvantaged
95.9% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications:

WAY Verner Campus: No Classification
WAY Chicago Campus: Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) (Graduation Rates)

Academic Highlights

- Committed to Multilingual Learners
Approximately 65% of the student population are ESL/ELL students. WAY Academy Detroit is proud to have two bilingual support staff members dedicated to bridging learning gaps and expanding educational opportunities for all language learners.
- Accelerated Alternative Education
As an alternative education program, WAY Academy Detroit empowers students to work at their own pace while meeting high academic expectations. Over the past three years, most students have graduated within three years or less, demonstrating the program's success in fostering motivation, independence, and achievement.
- *Additional Highlights* - Expanding Learning Opportunities
WAY Academy Detroit continues to enhance learning opportunities through innovative supplemental programs that engage students across multiple content areas. These initiatives foster creativity, academic growth, and real-world connections for all learners.

Featured programs include:

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Supplemental Science Programming
M.I.L.E.S. (Music in Literacy Equals Success)
ESL Program (in partnership with DHDC)
Kreative w/Kris (Graphic Arts)

Regent Park Scholars Academy
Detroit, MI, Wayne County

Academy Snapshot

K-12 District: 732 students
Location Classification: Large City
97% Economically Disadvantaged
99.6% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: No Support Classification

Academic Highlights

Overall Growth Index 74
88% students met ELA growth targets
71% students met Math growth targets

Additional Highlights

- Regent Park participates in a character education program called Moral Focus that provides monthly teachings on core virtues and leadership skills, helping students make positive choices and develop into respectful, responsible leaders.
- As part of Safety Week, Regent Park K–2 students welcomed Lieutenant Mulford and local firefighters, sharing thank-you cards to show appreciation for their service.
- Regent Park students participated in National Chemistry Week

Macomb Montessori
Warren, MI, Macomb County

District Snapshot

K-6 District: 255 students
Location Classification: Mid-Size City
94.4% Economically Disadvantaged
97.6% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)
Growth Plan Highlight: All students met proficiency targets in Math and ELA

Academic Highlights: Academic Growth from 2021 to present

Overall Growth Index Improved from 17 to 64 in three years
34% to 77% students met ELA growth targets
0% to 52% students met Math growth targets

Additional Highlights

- Shanina Draugh was selected to Participate in the 2026 Detroit Surge Academy Fellowship.
- Parent University is a program at Macomb Montessori designed to support and empower families by providing workshops that help them become active partners in their child's education.
- Staff Participated in the Annual Montessori Model Conference in October



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Agenda Item #2: Charter Schools Board Member Appointments

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to appoint or reappoint members of the Board of Directors of public school academies.

Background:

The process for appointment and reappointment of members of the Board of Directors of public school academies includes the following steps:

1. The applications of individuals for appointment to the Board of Directors are considered by the Board of Directors who nominate individuals by Board vote for open positions;
2. Background checks are conducted by the Charter Schools Office (CSO);
3. Interviews by CSO staff members are conducted with applicants for appointment; applicants for reappointment are not interviewed; and
4. Applicants are recommended to the Board of Trustees for appointment by the CSO and University President.

The following individuals have been nominated by the Board of Directors, background checks have been completed, and the candidates for appointment have been interviewed or will be interviewed before they are sworn in and U.S. citizenship has been verified.

Those individuals with an * received an approved exigent appointment from the LSSU Board of Trustees President.

Concord Academy Boyne:

Jennifer Mackenzie* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Tipton Academy:

Virgil Young* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Approval of the appointment of the nominees to the respective Board of Directors for the terms listed.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



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Agenda Item #3: The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw Contract Authorization and Initial Board of Directors

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve the issuance of a charter contract and to conditionally appoint an initial Board of Directors to The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw to operate as a Public School Academy.

Background:

The Board of Directors of The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw has requested the authorization of a charter contract. The Charter Schools Office staff has reviewed its application and has prepared a charter contract with an **effective date of July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2031**.

Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends the authorization of The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw charter contract **effective July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2031**.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the authorization of The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw charter contract **effective July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2031**.



Charter Schools Report

November 21, 2025

Agenda Item #4: The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw Board Member Appointments

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to conditionally appoint the initial members of the Board of Directors of The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw.

Background:

Applications have been received for appointments to the Board of Directors of The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw. The applicants were recommended by the applicant for The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw charter contract, reviewed by the Charter Schools Office and interviewed by the staff. Background checks have been completed on these individuals and U.S. citizenship has been verified.

Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw:

Ellen LaForest nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Neal Niemiec nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Debra Hartman nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Brandon Kathman nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Andrew Lintz nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2026.

Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends the conditional appointment of the nominees to The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw Board of Directors for the terms listed.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the conditional appointment of the nominees to The Gaming and Technology Academy of Saginaw Board of Directors for the terms listed.