



## **Charter Schools Report**

**February 13, 2026**

### **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	9,162	↑	Audited Fall Enrollment Counts from 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 30 Spring	↑	3 Academies
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	\$8000	↔	\$4000 per semester

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

# LSSU Charter Schools Office

## Board of Trustees School Index Report & Academy Highlights

Section I      School Index Summary

Section II      2025 LSSU Updated Partnership List

Section III      Charter Schools Office Updates

Section IV      Academy Highlights

### School Index Summary

The Michigan School Index System is a school accountability reporting system used to identify schools for the federal school support categories defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Michigan's Approved ESSA State Plan organizes schools identified for support into three groups: TSI, ATS, & CSI. MDE's Office of Partnership Districts will provide three levels of support to districts with partnership agreements – Intensive, Essential, and Fundamental. MDE's Office of Educational Supports will provide a basic level of support to districts that have schools identified for CSI and ATS that are not in a partnership agreement. Districts with schools only identified for TSI will be assisted through universal support provided to districts by MDE and through their ISDs.

#### What is a Partnership District?

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), states must identify their lowest-performing schools for school improvement interventions. In Michigan, these schools are identified based on either a School Index score in the bottom 5% of the state or a high school graduation rate below 67% of students. Michigan's Consolidated State Plan for ESSA requires MDE to identify schools for the Partnership Model every three years. Districts that have at least one Partnership school, labeled Partnership districts, are required to create an improvement plan for schools in the district called the Partnership Agreement. Districts write and develop these Partnership Agreements in concert with their ISDs, MDE, and district partners. The Agreements include improvement goals for schools in the district, how districts plan on reaching those goals, and how districts will intervene if schools do not reach their improvement goals.

MDE Category Classifications			
Code	Support Category Title	Entrance Criteria	Duration
TSI	Targeted Support & Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School has at least one student subgroup at or below the bottom 25% for each applicable component</li> </ul>	Yearly
ATS	Additional Targeted Support	<p>School has both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more student subgroups in the bottom 25% of each applicable component</li> <li>AND one or more student subgroups in the bottom 5% overall</li> </ol>	6 years
CSI	Comprehensive Support & Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has an overall index value in the bottom 5%</li> <li>OR School has a 4-year graduation rate of 67% or less</li> <li>OR School was in a CSI cohort and did not exit CSI</li> <li>OR School was in an ATS cohort and did not exit ATS</li> </ul>	3 years

### How Partnership with MDE Supports Classified Schools

- MDE develops partnership agreements with the goal of improving achievement levels at the lowest-performing schools in Michigan.
- With multiple partners at the table (ISD/RESA, Academy Admin, MDE Partnership Rep, and Charter School Rep, in addition to others), districts identify a plan of support and interventions that will improve student outcomes while prioritizing academic outcomes.
- This partnership allows MDE and the local ISD/RESA to provide financial support to fund the plan of support and interventions.
- Partnership meetings are held monthly and focus on accountability and support.
- The Office of Partnership Districts (OPD) is dedicated to providing timely and targeted, comprehensive research-based support to the state's lowest-performing schools and districts. Through increased collaboration, the purpose of the partnership is to reduce barriers and identify appropriate resources to help expedite the district's academic achievement for all students.

### How the LSSU Charter Schools Office Supports Schools

#### Universal Support: All Schools

- LSSU CSO provides targeted support that is aligned with academic, special education, and whole-child priorities to strengthen PSA effectiveness.
- Support focuses on improving instruction, ensuring quality special education, and meeting all learners' needs, emphasizing growth over compliance.
- Efforts are guided by annual data to deliver high-quality professional learning in instructional leadership, special education, and whole-child development.
- Annual professional learning builds leadership capacity and improves academic, special education, and student well-being outcomes.
- Additional supports include site visits, leadership conferences, and individualized coaching as needed.

### Targeted Support: TSI, ATS, & CSI Schools

- In addition to standard support, LSSU CSO offers targeted help to Partner Districts and Targeted Support Schools to accelerate academic progress and promote equitable outcomes.
- Support focuses on building capacity, not evaluation.
- Additional supports include CSO participation in partnership meetings, individualized coaching, and funding for partnership implementation.
- School support awards provide funding for partnership academies to fulfill their partnership agreements. The LSSU Charter School Office used such an award to help fund DSLA administrators' participation in the National Charter School Institute's LEAD# program.

### LSSU Updated School Index Fall 2025

In the Fall of 2025, the MDE Office of Partnership Districts released an updated partnership list.

We are pleased to announce that Detroit Service Learning's Oak Park Academy has been removed from the MDE partnership list.

Charlton Heston is no longer identified as Targeted for Support and Improvement.

Both of these schools have no MDE Classification, requiring no specific state-required plan, and will receive universal support.

We are also pleased to announce that no new schools from our portfolio have been identified for additional support.

2025 LSSU Academy Portfolio		
No MDE Classification No Specific State Required Plan Universal Support	TSI, ATS, & CSI State Plan Required Basic MDE Support	CSI & Partnership District Intense MDE Support
	ATS	
	5 Sites	
15 Sites	CSI (Not Partnership)	3 Sites
	3 Sites	

CSI (Partnership Note): WAY Detroit & WAY Flint are Alternative Schools; iCademy was a data documentation error.

**No MDE Classification:** Bay City Academy, Charlton Heston, Concord Boyne, Concord Petoskey, Detour Arts & Tech Academy, DSLA Oak Park, DSLA Redford, Grand Traverse Academy, Innocademy

Allegan, Innocademy Zeeland, North Central Academy, Regent Park, Ridge Park, Tipton PK-3, WAY Chicago Campus

**ATS:** AIA Upper Elementary, ATA, DSLA Main Campus, Momentum, Tipton 4-8

**CSI:** iCademy, WAY Flint, WAY Detroit

**CSI & Partnership:** AIA Lower Elementary, AIA Middle/High School, Macomb Montessori

## Charter Schools Office Updates

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 its students and the broader community. Below is some of the great work happening to help fulfill this mission.

### LSSU Charter Schools Office Highlights

#### [#1 Virtual K-12 Charter Academy in Michigan](#)

We are pleased to announce that iCademy, an LSSU authorized charter school, was recognized this past Fall as the Best Public K-12 in Michigan, Best Online High School in Michigan, and Best Charter K-12 School in Michigan by Niche.

#### [Concord Boyne Board Member](#)

Jennifer MacKenzie, a member of the Concord Academy Boyne Board of Directors, exemplifies a full-circle commitment to the school community. She is a Concord Boyne alumna, a Lake Superior State University alumna, and the parent of two current Concord Boyne students, and now serves the Academy in her capacity as a Board member.

#### [Ontario Hall Move](#)

We are pleased to announce that our new location is Ontario Hall. We're excited to have a space that comfortably accommodates all of our staff. Please feel free to stop by and visit us at your convenience.

#### [Concurrent Enrollment Spring 2026](#)

PSYC 259, Psychopathology, is currently underway, with students engaged in learning under the instruction of Dr. Russell Searight. All charter school students who completed PSYC 155 in the fall have re-enrolled in PSYC 259. Students enrolled in this course will be welcomed to campus mid-semester.

#### [Charter Connections Coordinator](#)

We are pleased to announce that Melissa St. John will be joining the Charter Schools Office to fill the new role of Charter Connections Coordinator. This position will focus on coordinating events, bridging connections, and fostering shared educational opportunities to strengthen partnerships, attendance, and student success between the University and our partner schools.

## LSSU Authorized Academy Highlights

### Southwest Region

Field Supervisor: Joe Thienes

#### iCademy

Zeeland, MI, Ottawa County

#### *District Snapshot*

K-12 Cyber District: 227 students

Location Classification: Mid-Size Suburban

40.5% Economically Disadvantaged

23.8% Minority Population

#### *MDE Support Classifications: CSI Comprehensive Support & Improvement*

*Support Indicator:* Unimproved Proficiency

Note: iCademy was identified as a CSI school in 2016–2017 due to a reported graduation rate below 67%, later attributed to student tracking issues rather than performance. At the time, proficiency was already high (74%), with only a modest decline in math the following year (60%). The CSI (Partnership) designation is, therefore, misleading; iCademy is a high-performing school.

#### *Academic Highlights*

- 70% of cohort students met the achievement target in math compared to 63% of non-cohort students on NWEA MAP.
- 70% of cohort students met the achievement target in reading compared to 60% of non-cohort students on NWEA MAP.
- The percentage of students advanced or proficient overall (all subjects combined) was greater than the state average on the M-Step or state assessment by 9%.

#### *Additional Highlights*

- Recognized by Niche as the best online high school, charter school, and public school in Michigan.
- 100% of the Instructional Staff are Certified and Highly Qualified in their content area
- 25 iCademy high school students attended the LSSU CSO GLSW Event in October 2025
- School leader Reid Nicholson was recognized by the National School Institute for his leadership traits.
- The Academy upgraded its website and enhanced parents' abilities to directly engage in daily learning.
- High school students, for a second year in a row, will have an opportunity to participate in a Capstone Trip out of the United States.

**InnoCademy Allegan  
Fennville, MI, Allegan County**

***District Snapshot***

PK-8 District: 95 Students  
Location Classification: Distant Rural  
73% Economically Disadvantaged  
30.5% Minority Population

***MDE Support Classifications:*** No MDE Classification

***Academic Highlights***

- Growth on the NWEA MAP (norm-referenced assessment) has increased from a student conditional growth percentile of 36 in 2023-24 to 42 in 2024-25.
- 48% of cohort students met the achievement target in reading compared to 21% of non-cohort students on NWEA MAP.

***Additional Highlights***

- New school leader Mikey (Michelle) Riley has strengthened the academy's strategic plan through the engagement of the parents, staff, and board members.
- Middle school students, for the first time, will be able to participate in a Capstone field trip to Washington D.C in partnership with Innocademy.
- The school leader and board celebrate a "Mission Moment" at each board meeting by recognizing students, staff, and families.

**InnoCademy Zeeland  
Zeeland, MI, Ottawa County**

***Academy Snapshot***

PK-8 District: 267 Students  
Location Classification: Mid-Size Suburban  
48% Economically Disadvantaged  
39.7% Minority Population

***MDE Support Classifications:*** No MDE Classification

***Academic Highlights***

- 44% of cohort students met the achievement target in math compared to 28% of non-cohort students on NWEA MAP.
- 65% of cohort students met the achievement target in reading compared to 52% of non-cohort students on NWEA MAP.

***Additional Highlights***

- 100% of the Instructional Staff are Certified and Highly Qualified in their content area.
- The academy offers a two-track option for learning. Parents and students can choose a TK-8 Spanish Immersion option or a TK-8 English-speaking track.
- The academy implemented a new marketing plan, and the school leader spends one half of a day a week in the community meeting with community representatives.

Ridge Park Charter Academy  
Grand Rapids, MI, Kent County

*Academy Snapshot*

K-8 District: 507 Students

Location Classification: Small City

91% Economically Disadvantaged

89.5% Minority Population

*MDE Support Classifications:* No MDE Classification

*Academic Highlights*

- NWEA student growth is above average (52 versus 50).
- The percentage of students advanced or proficient overall (all subjects combined) was greater than the state average on the M-Step or state assessment by 24%.
- PSAT8 composite (839) above the state average (822).

*Additional Highlights*

- The academy was recognized as one of the top five out of one hundred NHA academies for daily attendance percentages.
- The board decided to add a new pre-school program to the academy beginning in 2026-27.
- Student enrollment has increased from 520 students to 570.



## Charter Schools Report

February 13, 2026

### 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.

#### Ascend Academy:

Cynthia Fadel\* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

**Concord Academy Boyne:**

Cassandra Johnson\* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.  
Thomas Trahain\* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

**Innocademy Allegan:**

Erin Wyma\* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

**Ridge Park Charter Academy:**

Matthew Robles\* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.  
Chelvana Covington\* 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.



## Charter Schools Report

February 13, 2026

### Agenda Item #3: Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy Reauthorization

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve the reauthorization of the Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy charter contract.

#### Background:

The Board of Directors of the Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy has requested the reauthorization of its 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 through June 30, 2031**.

#### Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends the reauthorization of the Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy charter contract **effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031**.

#### President's Recommendation:

Approval of the reauthorization of the Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy charter contract **effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031**.



## Charter Schools Report

February 13, 2026

### Agenda Item #4: Detroit Service Learning Academy Reauthorization Resolution

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve the reauthorization of the Detroit Service Learning Academy charter contract.

#### Background:

The Board of Directors of the Detroit Service Learning Academy has requested the reauthorization of its 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 through June 30, 2031**.

#### Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends the reauthorization of the Detroit Service Learning Academy charter contract **effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031**.

#### President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.