



Charter Schools Report
May 15, 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	↔	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	\$3,372,670	↑	Estimated 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	\$8,000	\$8,000	↔	\$4000 per semester

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

LSSU Charter Schools Office

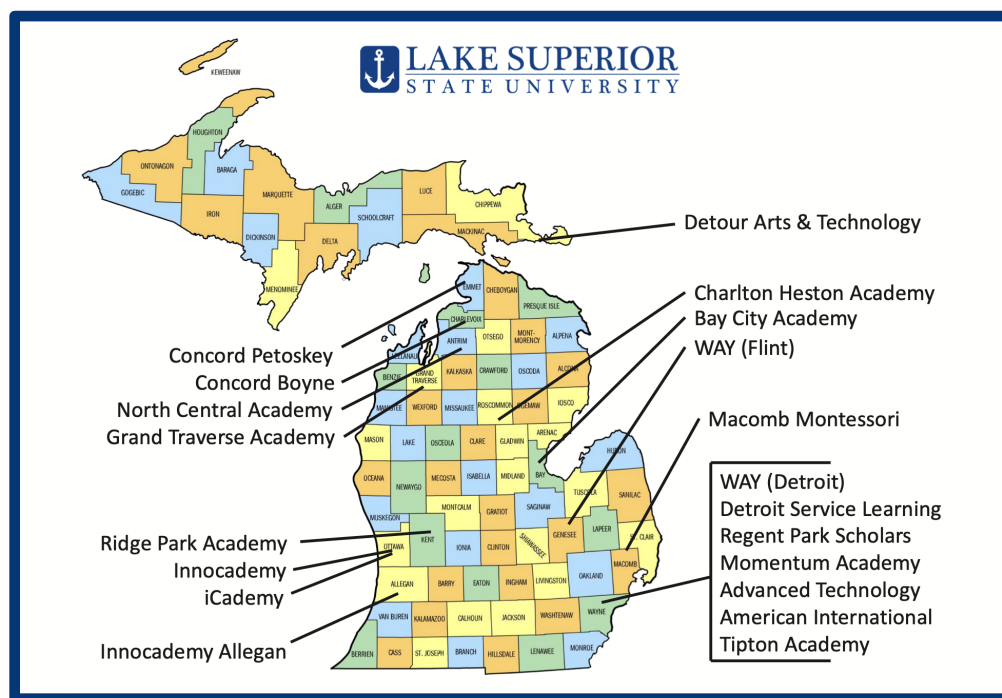
Board of Trustees School Index Report & Academy Highlights

Section I School Index & Supports

Section II Charter Schools Office Updates

Section III Academy Highlights

2026 LSSU Academy Portfolio



PK-8 Districts	PK-12 Districts	6-12 Districts
Ridge Park Innacademy Innacademy Allegan Macomb Montessori Detroit Service Learning Regent Park Momentum Tipton	Detour Arts & Technology Charlton Heston Bay City Concord Petoskey Concord Boyne Grand Traverse iCademy Advanced Technology American International	WAY Detroit WAY Flint

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.

2026 LSSU Academy Portfolio	
MDE Classification	# of Sites
Universal Support No Specific State Required Plan	15
TSI & ATS State Plan Required Basic MDE Support	5
CSI (Not Partnership)	3
CSI & Partnership District Intense MDE Support	3

No MDE Classification: Bay City Academy, Charlton Heston, Concord Boyne, Concord Petoskey, Detour Arts & Tech Academy, DSLA Oak Park, DLSA 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 academies' 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

Jenny Peterman Retirement

After first arriving at Lake Superior State University as a first-generation student in 1980, Jenny Peterman began her career through a work-study role in purchasing, the mailroom, and switchboard offices. She was offered the full time position of Special Clerk in 1983 during her junior year in college and promoted to Buyer in 1988. She was asked by the VP of Finance to fill the role of Risk Manager in 1995 and accepted the position of Director of Purchasing and Risk Management in 1997. Briefly retiring in 2009, she was asked to return as Risk Manager from 2010–2011 to support the University during a staff deployment to Iraq. Since joining the Charter Schools Office in 2012, Jenny has been a steady and trusted presence, contributing her expertise and institutional knowledge to support schools and operations across the portfolio; she will be greatly missed.

New Governance & Compliance Specialist

We are pleased to announce our newest staff member, Mandy Fitzner. Mandy is joining us from MyMichigan health and has extensive experience in the HR field. Mandy will be replacing Jenny Peterman, who recently announced her retirement. Mandy's first day at LSSU was April 20th.

Julie Buchholtz Releases *Mama's Song*

Julie Buchholtz of the Lake Superior State University Charter Schools Office recently published her second children's book *Mama's Song* (February 15, 2026, Sleeping Bear Press). She has also been invited to present on culturally responsive teaching at the Michigan Reading Association conference, sharing insights that support inclusive learning environments in Michigan schools.

2025-26 Professional Development Update

160 participants from 17 academies engaged in LSSU CSO professional learning focused on data use, instructional leadership, special education, safety, and leader networking. Participants could earn up to 70 SCECHs (State Continuing Education Clock Hours), and sessions received strong ratings (4.7–5.0) for relevance, impact, and application.

Michigan Council of Authorizers Spring Retreat

The Lake Superior State University Charter Schools Office partnered with Ferris State University, Northern Michigan University, and Oakland University to host a spring mini-retreat for small charter authorizers on March 11, 2026, in Petoskey. The retreat focused on sharing best practices in charter oversight and preparing for upcoming accreditation processes.

Charter Academy Spring Visits to LSSU

Students from Momentum Academy recently visited the Lake Superior State University campus for a day of campus engagement and activities. Additional academy visits are scheduled for late spring, including Ridge Park Academy, Innocademy, and InnoZeeland Academy. Students traveled to campus by charter bus and participated in planned experiences designed to introduce them to college life. Thank you to our university partners across campus whose collaboration helped make these visits a success.

Charter Day at the Capital

Representatives from Lake Superior State University Charter Schools Office and several LSSU-authorized academies participated in Charter Day at the Capitol on April 22, 2026. Hosted by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, the event brings together charter school leaders, educators, and students from across Michigan to connect with legislators and highlight the impact of public school academies.

Academy Highlights

Northern Michigan Region
Field Supervisor: Lynn Methner

Bay City Academy Bay City, Bay County

District Snapshot

PK-12 District: 363 students
Location Classification: Small City
87% Economically Disadvantaged
35% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: No MDE Classification

Academic Highlights

- Student performance on NWEA MAP Reading showed notable growth, with the percentage of students meeting their Fall-to-Spring growth goal increasing by 18% from the 2024–25 school year to the 2025–26 school year.
- Bay City Academy's graduation rate is 88%, exceeding the state average of 84% by 4 percentage points and surpassing the 76% average of like schools by 12 percentage points.
- Student progress on state assessments demonstrates positive academic trends, with 54% of Bay City Academy students meeting progress benchmarks, compared to 42% among like schools.

Additional Highlights

- Bay City Academy Theater students have had an incredible year. During the One-Act Theater Competition, Bay City Academy proudly placed 4th in the state of Michigan. Students performed *The Drowsy Chaperone* (22 students) and *Little Women: The Musical* (12 students). Our students worked incredibly hard to prepare these performances and represented Bay City Academy with dedication, creativity, and pride as they competed against schools from across the state led by the fabulous and talented Ms. Messbarger.
- Bay City Academy Athletics is excited to share that we have accepted an invitation to join the Big Thumb Conference for the 2026–27 school year. This is an exciting step forward for our school and our student-athletes. As part of this new chapter, Bay City Academy has established its own standalone sports teams, creating even more opportunities for our students to compete, grow, and represent BCA. This fall will be the first time since 1973 that a new football team is added to Bay County.
- BCA/NCA District News—We are debt free. On October 31, 2025 we paid off our \$500,000 debt on our Farragut Campus at Bay City Academy. Over the course of the last 7 years we have gone from a negative (-70%) fund balance to a positive (+35%) fund balance with zero debt. We have also had 8 straight years of enrollment growth between North Central Academy and Bay City Academy. This growth also means our space has been limited therefore we have leased 2 separate offices in downtown Bay City for district personnel.

Detour Arts & Technology Academy
Detour, MI, Chippewa County

Academy Snapshot

PK-8 District: 80 Students
Location Classification: Remote Rural
60% Economically Disadvantaged
24% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: No MDE Classification

Academic Highlights

- Student progress on state assessments indicates solid academic growth, with 46% of students demonstrating progress, compared to 24% among like schools and 35% at the state level.
- Based on Fall 2025 to Winter 2026 NWEA MAP results, the school demonstrated performance above typical state benchmarks, with Math growth at the 70th percentile and achievement at the 56th percentile, and Reading growth at the 71st percentile and achievement at the 55th percentile.

Additional Highlights

- Successful implementation of TRAILS social emotional program.
- Implementation of an attendance t-shirt challenge for students. Average monthly attendance has been 94% since the beginning of the year.
- Successfully implemented a new reading curriculum through PLC's with a literacy coach.
- Created a classroom walkthrough tool around high impact teaching strategies.

Grand Traverse Academy
Traverse City, MI, Grand Traverse County

Academy Snapshot

PK-12 District: 798 Students
Location Classification: Small Suburban
39% Economically Disadvantaged
11% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: No MDE Classification

Academic Highlights

- GTA students achieved the highest SAT scores among all districts in the Northwest Service Agency Region.
- NWEA MAP results exceeded typical Michigan averages, with 72% of students meeting Math targets and 74% meeting Reading targets.
- Student attendance rates remain strong, with GTA reporting a 94% average attendance rate, compared to 92% among like schools and 91% at the state level.

Additional Highlights

Instructional Improvement Initiative: Grand Traverse Academy began implementing a formative-assessment initiative on September 27, 2024, grounded in Dylan William’s work on improving student achievement through teacher learning communities and collaborative professional practice.

- Monthly Professional Learning — Teachers participate in structured monthly sessions focused on assessment for learning, using ongoing evidence of student understanding to adjust instruction and better support student growth.
- Collaborative Instructional Walkthroughs — Through “walking foci” observation rounds, 24 of 62 teachers have participated in short classroom visits, collectively observing over 50% of classrooms to examine specific instructional practices.
- Instructional Focus Areas — Walkthrough data highlighted strong use of learning intentions and led to a focus on feedback that moves learning forward, including strategies such as increased student participation, higher-order questioning, wait time, and all-student response techniques.
- Continued Monitoring and Results — A second round of walkthroughs is underway to observe another 50% of classrooms and measure growth. These efforts align with strong outcomes, including GTA earning the highest SAT average in the Northwest Education Services region this year.

North Central Academy Mancelona, MI, Antrim County

Academy Snapshot

K-12 District: 176 Students
Location Classification: Distant Rural
89% Economically Disadvantaged
6% Minority Population

MDE Support Classifications: No MDE Classification

Academic Highlights

- Student graduation outcomes reflect strong performance, with more than 95% of North Central Academy students graduating within four years, compared to 78% among like schools and the 84% state average.
- Qualified teaching staff levels at North Central Academy are notably high, with 98% of teachers certified in their assigned content areas, compared to 92% statewide and 83% among like schools.

Additional Highlights

- North Central Academy Athletics — The youth wrestling program has been very successful. One of our youth wrestlers qualified for the MYWAY State Tournament.
- North Central Academy Grandma’s Place — Another bright spot in our community has been Grandma’s Place, NCA’s free store for students and families. The program was recently honored with the National Shine Brighter Award, recognizing its incredible impact on our school community. This recognition also highlights the compassionate leadership of Crystal Williams, whose dedication to supporting NCA students, staff, and families has made Grandma’s Place an essential resource for those in need.



Charter Schools Report
May 15, 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.

American International Academy:

Peter Rome nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Natalie Evans nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Ascend Academy:

Patricia Oldham nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Barbara Russell nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Cheryl Peters* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Advanced Technology Academy:

Kenneth Williams nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Bay City Academy:

Lynne Vlk nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Amy Leel nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Charlton Heston Academy:

Veronica Bridson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Hollie Morse nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Concord Academy Petoskey:

Brittney Grzesiak nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Shawna Messing nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Detour Arts and Technology Academy:

Misty Barbeaux nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Darci Newell nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Detroit Service Learning Academy

Idowu Jegede nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Airlene Gross nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Allen Richardson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Grand Traverse Academy:

Rebekah deVries nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

iCademy:

Audra Thompkins nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Innocademy:

Nick deVries nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.
Megan Scheerhorn* nominated for an appointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Innocademy Allegan:

Leanne Geisterfer nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Macomb Montessori Academy

Jennifer Johnson nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Shana Giles nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

John Marks III nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Regent ParkScholars Charter Academy:

Jillian Stelma nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

WAY Academy Flint:

Venetta Tucker nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

Sanford Edwards nominated for reappointment with a term expiring on June 30, 2029.

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
May 15, 2026

Agenda Item #3: WAY Academy Relocation of Second Site

Information

Action

Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to amend the contract to relocate the second site from 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit 48228 to 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239 for WAY Academy.

Background:

The WAY Academy opened its first site in 2012 in Detroit, MI. The relocation of the second site will allow district accommodation for student proximity. The Board of Directors of WAY Academy has requested the relocation of the second site location from 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit, MI 48228 to 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239. This site will serve students in 6–12.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Approval of the relocation of second site from 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit, MI 48228 to 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI for WAY Academy.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of presented motion, as presented.