The primary purpose of charter schools is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement.

(Minn. Stat. 124E.01 Subd.1)
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Friends of Education’s mission is to improve the education of children. Improving K-12 education since 1999, Friends supports programs which emphasize foundational skills and critical thinking with demonstrated evidence of increasing student achievement and post-secondary readiness.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) evaluates authorizers every five years, beginning with its first evaluation in 2015. Friends of Education has earned the MDE’s highest Exemplary rating for authorizer performance in both 2015 and 2020.
Who we are:

Founded in 1999, Friends of Education set out to impact kids’ lives by increasing student achievement. We’ve grown over time; from serving 300 students to a network of twelve schools, serving over 10,000 students. Friends of Education fulfills its mission by monitoring school academic and fiscal performance, engaging in and assisting in programs that increase student achievement, while striving for excellence in Minnesota Charter School authorizing. Friends of Education is recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for its exemplary authorizer performance.

Growing teachers and leaders:

Friends of Education engages its schools through school leader meetings, feedback surveys, and one-on-one school site visits to gauge what schools need to succeed. Friends of Education has a long-standing commitment of putting dollars back into our schools. We strongly believe that investing in school leaders and teachers with high-quality professional development will aid and assist schools in maintaining strong academic cultures. We stand at the forefront of charter school education by participating in and investing in the recently developed Southwest Minnesota State University Charter School Leadership program, to help grow careers and continue its mission to reach as many students as possible through these initiatives in the charter school movement.

Accountability:

As an authorizer of charter schools, Friends of Education believes it incurs the public’s trust in fulfilling its oversight obligations. The purpose of this report is to honor that trust by reporting, to the public, the academic and fiscal performance of Friends of Education authorized charter schools.

From Friends of Education Schools:

“They establish high expectations and hold us accountable.”

“They are very supportive. They are there to help us correct issues. They provide training, but they don’t tell us what we have to do. They do not overreach.”

“Friends gives us a lot of autonomy – we have trust.”

“The expectations around excellence are not a stretch for us.”

“Friends is one of those authorizers that puts a lot of investment back into the school. They bring in consultants to address specific issues.”

“They have high standards and support you in the attainment of those standards.”
What sets us apart ...

- Our executive director was awarded the 2020 Minnesota Charter School Leadership Award for demonstrating ongoing organizational and academic leadership, professionalism, innovation, and community engagement.

- Our liberal arts education focuses on developing exemplary and knowledgeable citizens.

- We are consistently ranked in the Top 10 Minnesota high schools for average ACT composite scores.

The mission of Eagle Ridge Academy is to provide our students with a traditional, Classical education that demands their best in academic achievement, behavior, and attitude and challenges them to attain their highest potential.
In a supportive community and through a systematic, accelerated college-preparatory education in the classical tradition, Nova Classical Academy challenges its students to develop intellect, to attain the habits of learning and mastery, and to live a virtuous life of duty and ideals.

What sets us apart ...

• We teach classical traditions in a college preparatory environment.

• We provide students with an opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. at the end of their 8th grade year to experience first-hand the many historical sites they have been studying.

• Students in 11th and 12th grade engage in a capstone experience. Past travel opportunities have included Italy and Greece.

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - All Students

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students
	novaclassical.org
1455 Victoria Way, St. Paul
The mission of Parnassus Preparatory School is to provide students with a classical education, grounded in the classical Trivium, that demands their best in intellectual achievement and character development.

What sets us apart ...

- Our school community values the classical approach to education and distinguishes itself by focusing on a classical liberal arts education.
- We believe that all students benefit from the highest standards of academic integrity and a rigorous educational program.
- We provide an environment that fosters academic excellence through the habits of discipline and thoroughness, the willingness to work hard, and the perseverance to complete difficult tasks.
St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student’s academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content rich educational program grounded in a classical tradition.

What sets us apart ...

- We don’t just prepare students for a job or college. We prepare young people for life.
- We partner with parents who are invested in their child’s future and are committed to their children not just surviving in life but thriving in life.
- We combine a classical education with our culture of character to help children not just reach their career or educational goals, but to reach their life goals.

stcroixprep.org
4260 Stagecoach Trail N., Stillwater
Aspen Academy

What sets us apart ... 

- Aspen Academy is proud to receive the 2019 National Blue Ribbon Award for exemplary academics.
- We offer small class sizes with low student-to-teacher ratios.
- Our Core Knowledge curriculum is literature rich.
- We won the STEM Innovation Award which was presented in partnership with the Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The mission of Aspen Academy is to provide students with a well-rounded, Core Knowledge based education which meets the intellectual, creative, and social needs of each child.

Enrollment - Aspen Academy

2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - All Students

2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students
Cologne Academy’s mission is to prepare students for academic success through excellence in literacy by integrating the Core Knowledge Sequence.

What sets us apart...

- We received the 2020 Minnesota School of Character Award.
- Our focus is on Individual student achievement and character development.
- We encourage parent involvement and provide small class sizes.
- Character Development is weaved throughout each day in the way we treat ourselves, each other, and the school.

**Enrollment - Cologne Academy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>FY21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - All Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science

K-8

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science will awaken a passion for learning through an enriched and individualized approach to education. Students, parents, and teachers will work together to ensure positive character development and build a strong foundation for higher education.

What sets us apart ...

• We use a year-round academic schedule.
• Our schedule allows us to incorporate two intersessions annually which focus on art and science.
• Our curriculum is based on the Core Knowledge program.
• DaVinci Academy is proud to receive the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Award for exemplary academics.

Enrollment - DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - All Students

Math

Reading

90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

DaVinci
Anoka
Statewide

68%
64%
55%
65%
65%
59%

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students

Math

Reading

90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

DaVinci
Anoka
Statewide

55%
46%
34%
51%
49%
40%

davincicharterschool.org
532 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE, Ham Lake
Hennepin Schools’ primary mission is to provide all of its students with the knowledge, skills, and character to graduate from high school, and the confidence to continue on and successfully complete their post-secondary education.

**What sets us apart ...**

- We offer a rigorous curriculum, an extended school day, and Saturday and Summer School options.
- We are committed to equity, and we believe all students can achieve great things.
- We are a student-centered scholarly learning environment.

![Enrollment - Hennepin Schools](image)

![2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - All Students](image)

![2019 State Assessments Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students](image)

hennepinschools.org
Elementary Campus:
2123 Clinton Ave. S., Minneapolis

Middle Campus:
3109 East 50th St., Minneapolis
The New Millennium Academy community prepares learners for life, engages them in high academic achievement, and fosters cultural pride and identity.

What sets us apart ...

- We prepare learners to be engaged with the Hmong language and culture by fostering cultural pride and identity in all aspects of learning and growth.
- We provide access to WIDA webinar series for our English language learner families.
- We were awarded a Minnesota Department of Education Innovation Research Zone grant for partnership programs with Community School of Excellence and Prairie Seeds Academy.

Enrollment - New Millennium Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>FY21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>483</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - All Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Millennium</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbinsdale</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Center</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Millennium</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbinsdale</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Center</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seven Hills Preparatory Academy engages students in a rigorous Classical education designed to prepare each one for strong citizenship and life-long learning.

What sets us apart ...

• With campuses in both Bloomington and Richfield, we come together as one community from two locations.
• We instill a life-long passion for knowledge, promote a spirit of inquiry and intellectual curiosity, and focus on cultivating strong citizenship through academic excellence.
• We received the FY2020 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Innovation Award for Improving Learning Opportunities for Students.

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - All Students

2019 State Assessments
Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students

sevenhillspreparatoryacademy.org
Bloomington Campus:
8600 Bloomington Ave. S., Bloomington
Richfield Campus:
1401 West 76th St., Richfield
Yinghua Academy

What sets us apart ...

• When we opened in 2006 Yinghua was the first public charter Chinese immersion school in the U.S., and the first Chinese immersion school in the Midwest.

• Yinghua continues to be a national leader, offering an international perspective and outstanding results.

• Today, Yinghua is the only full immersion Mandarin Chinese K-8 school in Minneapolis.

The mission of Yinghua Academy is to prepare our students to be engaged and productive global citizens by providing a research-based educational program that includes a rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture, and a nurturing and supportive school environment.

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At Clarkfield Area Charter School, we believe that all PreK-6 students have a purpose and learn in a unique way. Our mission is to develop a love of learning by finding and teaching to the students’ individual learning styles and expanding their knowledge through community-based learning.

**What sets us apart ...**

- We provide small class sizes with a very low student-to-teacher ratio.
- Our focus is on Individual student achievement.
- We involve the community to promote academic success with community-based learning.
- We have a tremendous amount of support from our community and families for our early childhood program.

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**2019 State Assessments**

**Comparative Proficiency - All Students**

- Math: Clarkfield 38%, Yellow Medicine 55%, Statewide 54%
- Reading: Clarkfield 84%, Yellow Medicine 59%, Statewide 59%

**Comparative Proficiency - FRL Students**

- Math: Clarkfield 24%, Yellow Medicine 34%, Statewide 36%
- Reading: Clarkfield 81%, Yellow Medicine 40%, Statewide 40%

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clarkfieldareacharter.org
301 - 13th St., Clarkfield
Friends of Education authorizes three of the top four high schools in the state, according to the U.S. News and World Report 2021 best high school rankings:

- 2 – Nova Classical Academy
  (#186 in national rankings)
- 3 – Eagle Ridge Academy
  (#202 in national rankings)
- 4 – Parnassus Preparatory School
  (#338 in national rankings)
- 67 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
  (#3,975 in national rankings)
School Awards and Accolades

2020 Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award
The School Finance Award is awarded annually by the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of School Finance, to recognize schools for meeting statutory deadlines for submission of audited fiscal financial data and reporting criteria. All Friends of Education schools received the state finance award.

- Aspen Academy
- Clarkfield Charter School
- Cologne Academy
- DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science
- Eagle Ridge Academy
- Hennepin Elementary School
- New Millennium Academy
- Nova Classical Academy
- Parnassus Preparatory School
- St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- Seven Hills Preparatory Academy
- Yinghua Academy

2020 High Quality Charter School
The Minnesota Department of Education designates High-Quality Charter Schools based on six measures of academic performance (proficiency in math, reading, and science; growth in math and reading; and graduation rate) and financial and compliance benchmarks.

- Aspen Academy
- Cologne Academy
- DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science
- Eagle Ridge Academy
- Hennepin Schools
- Nova Classical Academy
- Seven Hills Preparatory Academy
- Yinghua Academy

ACT Results
Friends of Education high schools achieved four of the top fifteen highest average composite ACT scores in the state for 2020. There are more than 300 high schools in the State of Minnesota.

- 2 – Nova Classical Academy
- 4 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- 7 – Eagle Ridge Academy
- 15 – Parnassus Preparatory School

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- 2 – Nova Classical Academy
- 4 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- 7 – Eagle Ridge Academy
- 15 – Parnassus Preparatory School
Friends Schools spend on average 63% of traditional district cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friends Schools</th>
<th>Friends School per Student Cost</th>
<th>Traditional District in which Charter is Located</th>
<th>Traditional District per Student Cost</th>
<th>Friends School per Student Cost as % of District Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>10,958</td>
<td>Prior Lake Savage</td>
<td>22,438</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkfield</td>
<td>15,391</td>
<td>Yellow Medicine</td>
<td>16,925</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>13,602</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>13,507</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DaVinci</td>
<td>12,189</td>
<td>Anoka</td>
<td>16,196</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Ridge</td>
<td>10,769</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>22,745</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin</td>
<td>19,752</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>23,104</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMA</td>
<td>14,481</td>
<td>Robbinsdale</td>
<td>19,347</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova</td>
<td>11,110</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>20,541</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parnassus</td>
<td>10,512</td>
<td>Osseo Maple Grove</td>
<td>17,916</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Hills</td>
<td>11,608</td>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>20,025</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Hills</td>
<td>11,608</td>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>33,134</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Croix Prep</td>
<td>11,585</td>
<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>15,431</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yinghua</td>
<td>11,723</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>23,104</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Friends Student</td>
<td>12,715</td>
<td>Average Cost per Traditional District Student</td>
<td>20,339</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Donors

614 Company
Bader Development LLC
Barry Winslow
Bentson Foundation
Bieber Family Foundation
Bigos Management
Brian Call
Broadridge Financial Solutions
C2 IT Solutions
Cargill, Inc.
Chris Chapman
Christine Cameron
Citigroup
Cohen Dovitz Makowka LLC
Cohen Jutla Dovitz Makowka
Compuware
Cooper Family Foundation
CPI Card Group
D3 Banking
Darin Opperman
David & Laurel Kuplic
Deutsche Bank
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Earl Stratton
Edward Flaherty
Elan Financial
Elizabeth Topoluk
Emil Ekiyor
Entrust Datacard
Equifax
First Bankcard
First National Bank
First National Bank of Omaha
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Kaplan, Strangis & Kaplan P.A.
Kimberly Skelly
KPMG
Lariat Companies, Inc.
Lee Anderson
Linedata L & C Inc.
Louis or Francine Nanne
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Mark Troske
Mark Wrend
MasterCard
Matthew Beitzel
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Morgan Stanley
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Okta
Optiv Security Inc
Opus Development Company
Opus Holding
Palo Alto Networks
Perficient
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Plymouth Corporate Center
Protiviti Inc.
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Richard Chenitz
Richard Zona
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Robert Perrelli
Rosario Perrelli
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Sirius
Sit Investment Associates
Sit Investment Foundation
SLK America
TCF
TCF Capital Solutions
TCF Equipment Finance
TCF Inventory Finance
Ted Bigos
The Opus Group
The Toro Company
Thomas Cusick
Thomson Reuters
ThreeBridge Solutions
Timothy D. Kelly, P.A.
Tom Gottwalt
Tom Jasper
Transamerica Foundation
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US Bank
Vance Opperman
Wildamere Properties LLC
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David Kuplic
Darin Opperman
Elizabeth Topoluk