



Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Authorizer Annual Report

Enter responses where prompt. Enter an “x” in underlined space before “Yes” or “No” responses. Only provide information for one school in each table row. Add additional rows to tables, as needed.

Authorizer Information

Name of Authorizing Organization: Friends of Education

Mailing Address: 1405 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441

Name and Title of Primary Authorizer Contact: Elizabeth Topoluk, Executive Director

Telephone of Primary Authorizer Contact: 952-745-2717

Email Address of Primary Authorizer Contact: beth.e.topoluk@huntington.com

Authorizer Summary:

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.

History

Friends of Education started in 1999, under the name “Saving Children Through Education.” Saving Children Through Education assisted an under-performing grade school in North Minneapolis to implement a content-rich educational program and teacher professional development, which resulted in a significant increase in academic performance. Saving Children Through Education changed its name and decided to expand its reach, while maintaining its stated mission to improve the education of children, and authorize quality charter schools. Friends of Education is not a religious organization, nor does it promote any religious activity or teaching.

Mission

Friends of Education’s mission directs all its activities: its Charter School Mission is to improve the education of children through quality authorization of charter schools. Friends of Education authorizes elementary charter schools which implement a content-rich curriculum promoting critical thinking and middle and high schools which prepare students for post-secondary success.

In the 2020-2021 school year, Friends of Education authorized 12 charter schools serving 10,329 students. During the 2020-2021 school year:

- The U.S. Department of Education named one Friends of Education school as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School in recognition of the school’s overall excellence in academic performance, resulting in a total of four Friends schools which have National Blue Ribbon recognition;
- Six Friends of Education schools are among the top 10 of the best charter elementary, middle, and high schools in Minnesota according to Niche.com which lists the best charter schools in Minnesota based on a rigorous analysis of key statistics and review from students and parents;
- Three of the four Friends of Education high schools ranked among the top five Minnesota public high schools for average ACT composite scores;
- Eight Friends of Education schools earned the High-Quality Charter School designation from the Minnesota Department of Education; and
- All 12 Friends of Education schools earned the Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award.

Authorizer Processes

New Charter School Applications in FY 2021 (B.1)

Did your organization review any new charter school applications?

Yes

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

N/A

If yes, complete the table below for each application.

Name of Charter School Applicant	Authorizer Approval or Disapproval	Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Approval or Disapproval	If Disapproved, Reason(s) for Disapproval	Application Withdrawn by Applicant
Raage Ugaas Academy	Disapproval	N/A	Application Incomplete	Applicant withdrew application at same time as disapproval issued.

New Charter School Openings in FY 2021 (B.2)

Did your organization engage in ready-to-open activities?

Yes

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

Friends of Education had no new schools opening in FY2021.

If yes, complete the table below for each charter school scheduled to open.

Name of Charter School Projected to Begin Serving Students in FY 2021	Projected Opening Date	Did this School Open as Planned?	If No, Provide Reason(s) and Revised Projected Opening Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School Expansion Applications (to add primary enrollment sites or grades, including instructional prekindergarten or preschool programs) in FY 2021 (B.2)

Did your organization review any site and/or grade expansion applications (including instructional prekindergarten or preschool programs)?

Yes (NOTE: Application submitted and review commenced in FY2021; authorizer and MDE approval occurred in FY22.)

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

N/A

If yes, complete the table below for each application.

Name of Charter School	Proposed Additional Grades to be Served (including prekindergarten and/or preschool) and/or Location of New Site	Authorizer Approval or Disapproval	MDE Approval or Disapproval	If Disapproved, Reason(s) for Disapproval	Application Withdrawn by Applicant
Cologne Academy	Additional site: Cologne, MN	Approval – FY22	Approval – FY22	N/A	N/A

Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening Requests in FY 2021 (B.2)

Did your organization review any requests for official early childhood health and developmental screening recognition?

Yes

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

Friends of Education did not receive any early childhood health and developmental screening requests in FY2021.

If yes, complete the table below for each request.

Name of Charter School	Authorizer Approval or Disapproval	MDE Approval or Disapproval	If Disapproved, Reason(s) for Disapproval	Application Withdrawn by Applicant
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School Change in Authorizer Requests in FY 2021 (B.2)

Did your organization review any change in authorizer requests?

Yes

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

Friends of Education received no requests in FY2021 from existing charter schools to transfer to Friends of Education.

If yes, complete the table below for each request.

Name of Charter School	Authorizer Charter School Requested to Transfer From	Authorizer Approval or Disapproval	MDE Approval or Disapproval	If Disapproved, Reason(s) for Disapproval	Application Withdrawn by Applicant
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter Contract Renewals in FY 2021 (B.9)

Did your organization engage in charter renewal activities in FY 2021?

Yes

No

If no, please provide an explanation:

N/A

If yes, complete the table below for each school.

Name of Charter School	Was Contract Renewed?	If Yes, Term of Contract Renewal	If No, Reason(s) for Nonrenewal
Aspen Academy	Yes	07/01/2021-06/30/2026	N/A
Eagle Ridge Academy	Yes	07/01/2021-06/30/2026	N/A

Additional Authorizer Activities

Authorizing Leadership and Staff Skill Development (A.5)

Describe how your organization built the knowledge and skill base of its authorizing leadership and staff through professional development over the past year.

Friends of Education makes available to its staff professional development in three core areas: authorizer practices, school operations, and student achievement. Friends of Education provides professional development in each of these areas to: 1) inform and enhance its core authorizing practices; 2) better understand school operational requirements, which Friends believes leads to more effective oversight; and 3) fundamentally, the primary purpose of charter schools is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement; accordingly, Friends of Education believes that it, as an authorizer, needs to continually better understand and recognize those key components which drive student achievement.

As part of the staff evaluation process discussed in A.9, Friends of Education solicits staff input regarding professional development needs. In addition, Friends of Education solicits school input regarding development needs. These combined identified needs result in scheduled professional development. In addition, Friends of Education identifies areas which prudently dictate ongoing training, such as information security, human capital management, organizational procedures, and legal developments and, consequently, requires repeated staff training in these areas.

Staff Development

In the 2020-2021 school year, staff and/or leadership participated in the following training and conferences:

Professional Development	When	Friends of Education Personnel Attending		Area Addressed			Purpose
		Staff	Leadership	Authorizer Practices / Oversight	School Operations	Student Achievement	
Amy Mace: Covid Policies & Guidance	7/23/20	✓	✓	✓	✓		Training and guidance presented by local expert to inform oversight and school practices and protocols relative to COVID-19
MACSA Anti-Racist Training	8/21/20	✓	✓	✓	✓		Anti-racist training to expose the rationales and effects of white silence in discussions of race and to inform oversight and school practices to mitigate these effects

Professional Development	When	Friends of Education Personnel Attending		Area Addressed			Purpose
		Staff	Leadership	Authorizer Practices / Oversight	School Operations	Student Achievement	
SMSU Charter School Leadership Program Presentation	10/10/20	✓	✓	✓	✓		Training in charter school leadership to inform oversight and school practices relative to charter contracts, charter school applications, and the monitoring of a charter school's ongoing viability
Information Security	11/1/2020	✓	✓	✓	✓		To obtain developments and reinforce training in data security to inform oversight and school practices
HIPAA Privacy & Security Compliance	12/1/2020	✓	✓	✓	✓		To obtain developments and reinforce training in HIPAA national standards established to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information and to inform oversight and school practices
Harassment Prevention	12/16/2020	✓	✓	✓	✓		Training to obtain information related to assuring that each learning and working environment is free from harassment and to inform oversight and school practices

Professional Development	When	Friends of Education Personnel Attending		Area Addressed			Purpose
		Staff	Leadership	Authorizer Practices / Oversight	School Operations	Student Achievement	
Using Identification of Demographic Information	12/16/2020	✓	✓	✓	✓		Training to increase an awareness that there can be incongruities between how we see ourselves and how others perceive us and to use this heightened awareness and sensitivity to inform oversight and school practices
EdAllies 2021 Legislative Session	1/15/2021		✓	✓	✓		Training to introduce the 2021 educational policies that EdAllies will focus on and relate them to oversight and school practices
Racism and the Economy Focus on Education - Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	1/21/2021		✓	✓	✓		Training to focus on the impact of structural racism in our education system and the economy and relate those impacts to inform oversight and school practices
Okun: White Supremacy Culture	2/25/2021	✓	✓	✓	✓		A group reading and discussion related to white supremacy and social change and used to inform oversight and school practices

Professional Development	When	Friends of Education Personnel Attending		Area Addressed			Purpose
		Staff	Leadership	Authorizer Practices / Oversight	School Operations	Student Achievement	
NACSA: NWEA on using Data in a less than normal year	4/15/2021	✓				✓	Training presented by national experts to highlight the impact COVID-19 has had and will have upon standardized testing data and to inform student achievement
COVID-19 Health and Safety	4/19/2021	✓	✓		✓		Training to inform school practices as to how we best can protect staff and others from the transmission of COVID-19
Early Childhood Summit – MDE	5/4/2021 and 5/6/2021	✓			✓	✓	Training presented by local and national experts to highlight the importance of early childhood learning, particularly for children with special needs and children of the global majority, and how to use this information when addressing school practices and student achievement

Board Development

The Friends of Education board of directors also regularly participates in professional development as follows:

- New Board members receive comprehensive on-boarding which includes general industry information, history of Friends of Education, Friends of Education authorizing procedures, conflicts of interest policies, and personal one-on-one review with Friends of Education staff of the information. Previously-seated Board members receive conflict of interest information at each board meeting and conflicts of interest training annually.
- The Board reviews the status of its strategic initiatives at each Board meeting.

Authorizer Self-Evaluation (A.9)

Describe how your organization self-evaluated its internal ability (capacity, infrastructure, and practices) to oversee the portfolio of charter schools over the past year.

What Gets Measured Gets Better

For FY2021, Friends of Education had two organizational goals (each with three specific measurements) related to school academic performance; the Friends of Education Board of Directors regularly monitors school performance and requires reporting regarding school performance at its board meetings. Measurement of goal achievement has been nuanced by the assessment difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, all the Friends of Education schools have navigated these unprecedented circumstances, and 9 of 12 schools maintained outstanding assessment performance when compared to their resident districts and 10 of 12 schools when compared to the state overall.

Friends of Education evaluated its internal staffing vis-à-vis portfolio size; both were within plan, resulting in no changes. Also, each Friends of Education staff was formally evaluated in FY2021. Friends of Education requires, as the first part of its evaluation process, completion of a self-evaluation. The self-evaluation then receives supervisory feedback and goals, and improvement areas are identified for the coming year. Friends of Education leadership also met with staff regularly to review priorities, assess work product, and review procedures and initiatives. With respect to procedure review, Friends of Education evaluated its new charter school application process and implemented the following: (1) a Letter of Intent for new charter school applicants, in order to increase efficiency by securing in advance adequate numbers of experienced external reviewers, (2) include a checklist of application components, for new charter school applicants (in response to incomplete application received in FY2021), and (3) an on-line application portal for new charter school applicants, to minimize burden on new charter school applicants by eliminating paper and increase efficiency for external reviewers by providing access review through an online system.

Infrastructure

Through June of 2021, Friends of Education's infrastructure (technology, facility, etc.) was generously donated by TCF Financial Corporation as a part of its corporate giving program. As a multi-billion dollar national bank holding company, TCF was subject to federal system standards (e.g., multi-layer security protocols, comprehensive plan to recover from an operational disruption such as a cybersecurity incident or a natural disaster). Because Friends of Education's systems were provided by TCF, those federal standards were also used by Friends of Education. In June of 2021, TCF was acquired by

Huntington Bancshares. Huntington is a multi-billion dollar national bank holding company and subject to the same system standards as TCF. Huntington has continued its infrastructure support of Friends of Education and, consequently, Friends continues to enjoy state-of-the art business continuity (a/k/a disaster recovery), privacy and data systems security, and evaluation/upgrade protocols. In addition, staff regularly participates in training exercises related to privacy and data systems security.

State Standards

Friends of Education continuously uses the Minnesota Authorizer Performance Evaluation System (MAPES) measures to focus its efforts and results to maintain its exemplary rating.

Authorizer High-Quality Authorizing Dissemination (A.10)

Describe how your organization disseminated best authorizing practices and/or assisted other authorizers in high-quality authorizing over the past year.

Friends of Education disseminated quality authorizing practices as follows:

- Friends of Education regularly participated in the authorizer collaboration meetings known as the Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA). These monthly meetings provided a regular opportunity to share information and problem solve. At the request of MACSA's Executive Director, Friends of Education and Osprey Wilds jointly presented on MAPES best practices and authorizer contracts, at the MACSA April 2021 meeting.
- In addition, Minnesota authorizers routinely reach out to their colleagues to both share and request information, and Friends of Education regularly participates in both sides of these exchanges.

Charter School Support, Development and Technical Assistance (B.7)

Describe how your organization supported its portfolio of charter schools through intentional assistance and development offerings over the past year.

Friends of Education continued to provide technical assistance in two forms: 1) direct technical assistance; and 2) professional development. Technical assistance is not required and is provided at no charge. Friends of Education does monitor participation in the professional development opportunities to determine if an identified area of improvement may be addressed through offerings.

The technical assistance and professional development was made available to all schools, although in respect of school autonomy, the technical assistance and professional development is not required; as a result, not all schools participated in all offerings.

Direct Technical Assistance

During FY2021 Friends of Education provided technical assistance to its portfolio schools on a variety of topics including the following:

- The governor's executive orders as they pertained to public schools
- Mask/face coverings in public schools
- PPP loans to charter schools

Professional Development

Friends of Education provided the following specific professional development to its authorized schools during FY2021:

- July 23, 2020: COVID-19 Guidance Q & A, virtual training by outside counsel
- August 21, 26; September 4, 11, 15; and October 15 and 30, 2020 : Techniques and Principles for Remote Instruction, virtual training by the Uncommon Schools
- October 13, 2020: SMSU Charter School Leadership Program, provided tuition scholarships to Friends of Education school staff participating in the program)
- October 15, 2020: Minnesota Classical Education Conference, provided financial assistance for attendees from Friends of Education schools
- November 18, 2020: *Teaching in the Online Classroom* by Doug Lemov from the Uncommon Schools, printed material purchased and distributed to all schools
- February 22-23, 2021: National Symposium for Classical Education, provided financial assistance for attendees from Friends of Education schools

High-Quality Charter School Replication and Dissemination of Best School Practices (B.8)

Describe how your organization planned and promoted model replication and dissemination of best practices of high-quality charters schools over the past year.

Dissemination

The dissemination of best practices is an intentional piece of Friends of Education's mission to improve the education of children and occurs through the following avenues.

- Identification of Best Practices. With COVID-19 and distance learning, Friends of Education identified the Uncommon Schools in providing best practices in remote instruction.
- Dissemination of Best Practices
 - In addition to hosting specific professional development as previously noted, Friends of Education provided ongoing responses to schools regarding best practices on an as-needed basis (e.g., collecting and sharing information from all schools regarding Social Emotional Learning curriculum, providing guidance to mask/face covering policies,

response to schools applying for PPP loans). More formal gatherings of school administrators and staff were curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- School-Board Governance
 - The regularly scheduled school board best-practice sharing event was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Nonetheless, Friends of Education disseminated best practices on a school-by-school basis regarding governance matters (e.g. elections, bylaws).
- Site Visit Annual Reports
 - Friends of Education utilizes its site visit process to identify opportunities for best practice dissemination and replication in its charter schools. Specifically, the site visit form includes a compilation of best practices identified in Friends of Education charter schools, and Friends of Education rates each school on its adoption or implementation of the practices. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of Education conducted its FY2021 site visits virtually and did not rate schools on practice adoption or implementation.

High-Quality Charter School Model Replication

Friends of Education encourages the expansion and replication of its high-quality charter schools; consequently, it supported the federal grant expansion replication of three of its charter schools during prior fiscal years. During FY2021, as previously noted in this report, one school applied for a site expansion, which was approved in FY2022. Friends of Education received no additional expansion applications in FY2021.

Portfolio Information

General Charter School Portfolio Data (as of June 30, 2021)

Preoperational Charter Schools in Authorizer’s Portfolio

Name of Charter School	Charter School Local Educational Agency (LEA) Number (if assigned)	Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Recipient	Grade Levels Approved to Serve	Projected Enrollment when Fully Enrolled	Proposed Location	Proposed Opening Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/a

Operational Charter Schools in Authorizer’s Portfolio

Name of Charter School	Charter School LEA Number	CSP Grant Recipient	Grade Levels Served in FY 2021	Location	Charter School’s World’s Best Workforce Report
Aspen Academy	4184	No	K-8	14825 Zinran Avenue, Savage 55378	Aspen Academy World's Best Workforce Report
Clarkfield Area Charter School	4172	No	K-6	301 – 13 th Street, Clarkfield 56223	Clarkfield Area Charter School World's Best Workforce Report
Cologne Academy	4188	No	K-8	1221 Village Pkwy., Cologne 55322	Cologne Academy World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report
DaVinci Academy	4185	No	K-8	532 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE, Ham Lake 55304	DaVinci Academy World's Best Workforce Report
Eagle Ridge Academy	4122	No	K-12	11111 Bren Road W., Minnetonka 55343	Eagle Ridge World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report
Hennepin Schools	4205	No	K-8	<u>K-5 campus:</u> 2123 Clinton Ave. S., Minneapolis 55404 <u>6-8 campus:</u> 3109 – 50 th Street E., Minneapolis 55417	Hennepin Schools World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report

Name of Charter School	Charter School LEA Number	CSP Grant Recipient	Grade Levels Served in FY 2021	Location	Charter School's World's Best Workforce Report
New Millennium Academy	4143	No	K-8	5105 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center 55429	New Millennium World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report
Nova Classical Academy	4098	No	K-12	1455 Victoria Way, St. Paul 55102	Nova Classical Academy World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report
Parnassus Preparatory School	4199	No	K-12	11201 – 96 th Ave. N., Maple Grove 55369	Parnassus Preparatory School World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report
Seven Hills Preparatory Academy	4159	Yes	K-8	<u>Bloomington campus:</u> 8600 Bloomington Ave. S., Bloomington 55425 <u>Richfield campus:</u> 1401 W. 76 th St., Richfield 55423	Seven Hills Preparatory Academy World's Best Workforce Report
St. Croix Preparatory Academy	4120	No	K-12	4260 Stagecoach Trail N., Stillwater 55082	St. Croix Preparatory Academy World's Best Workforce Report
Yinghua Academy	4140	No	K-8	1616 Buchanan St. NE, Minneapolis 55413	Yinghua Academy World's Best Workforce Report - Combined with Annual Report

MDE Officially Recognized Early Learning Programs at Charter Schools in Authorizer’s Portfolio

Name of Charter School	Officially Recognized Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening Program	Officially Recognized Instructional Preschool Program to provide early childhood education and preparation for transition to kindergarten for children ages three through five	Officially Recognized Instructional Prekindergarten Program for four-year-olds to prepare children for entry into kindergarten the following year
Clarkfield Area Charter School	No	Yes	Yes
Cologne Academy	No	No	Yes

Charter Schools with Charter Management Organization (CMO)/Education Management Organization (EMO)

Name of Charter School	Management Organization Name	Employer Identification Number (EIN)	Management Organization Address Location	Management Organization Address Mailing	Management Organization Type
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School Portfolio Activity in FY 2021

Did any charter schools leave your organization’s portfolio and transfer to another authorizer during or at the end of the year?

Yes

No

If yes, complete the table below for each applicable school.

Name of Charter School	Charter School LEA Number	New Authorizing Organization	Effective Date of Transfer
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Did your organization terminate or revoke the charter contract for any charter school before the end of the contract term?

Yes

No

If yes, complete the table below for each applicable school.

Name of Charter School	Charter School LEA Number	Reason(s) for Contract Termination	Effective Date of Contract Termination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Did any charter schools voluntarily close (i.e., closure was initiated by the school) during or at the end of the year?

Yes

No

If yes, complete the table below for each applicable school.

Name of Charter School	Charter School LEA Number	Reason(s) for Closure	Effective Date of Closure
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School Portfolio Performance

World’s Best Workforce

Describe how your organization incorporates achievement of World’s Best Workforce goals in its ongoing oversight and evaluation of charter schools.

Friends of Education incorporates achievement of World’s Best Workforce goals in its ongoing oversight and evaluation as follows:

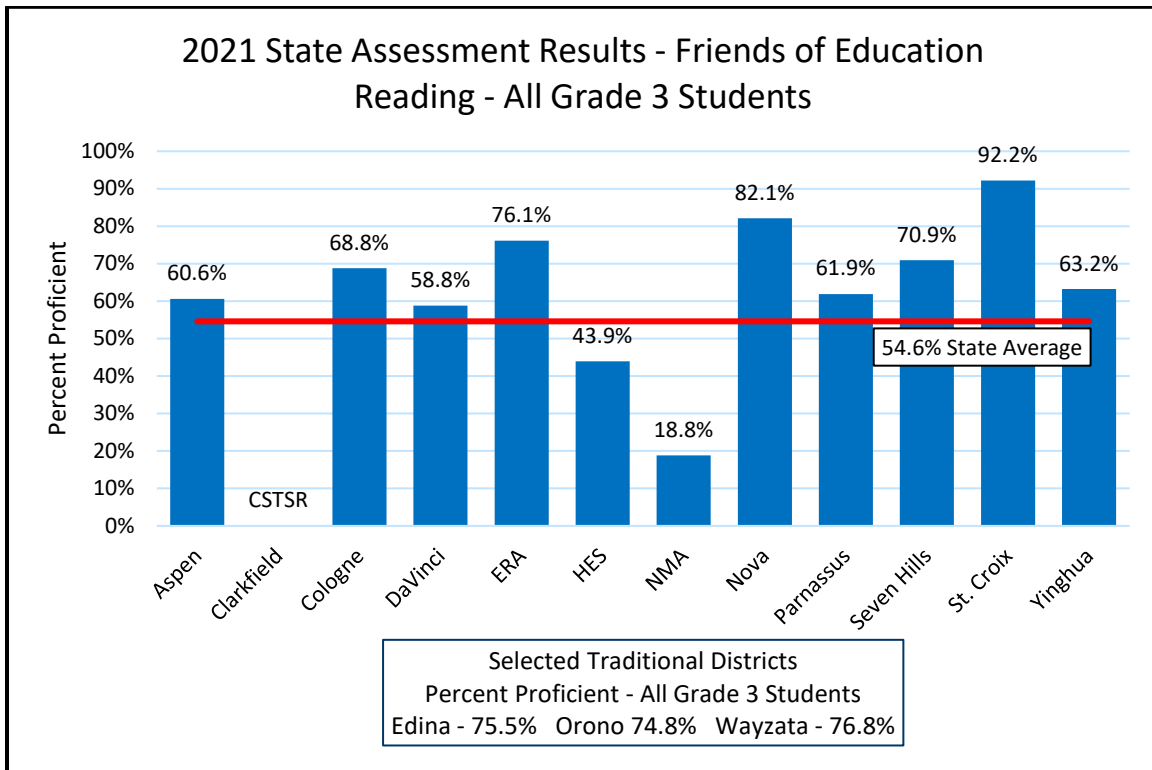
- Friends of Education annually evaluates each school’s World’s best Workforce report (whether combined with its annual report or published separately) to determine if each statutory measure has been addressed and provides detailed feedback to each school regarding its findings; and

- Friends of Education negotiates charter contract goals with its authorized schools which incorporate the World’s Best Workforce goals. All charter contract goals are carefully evaluated during the charter contract renewal process.

With respect to separate analysis of attainment of the World’s Best Workforce goals and as examples:

World’s Best Workforce Goal: All Third Graders Can Read at Grade Level

As demonstrated in the following chart, most Friends of Education schools (9 of 11, or 82%) demonstrate significantly higher percentages than the state average for students reading at grade level.

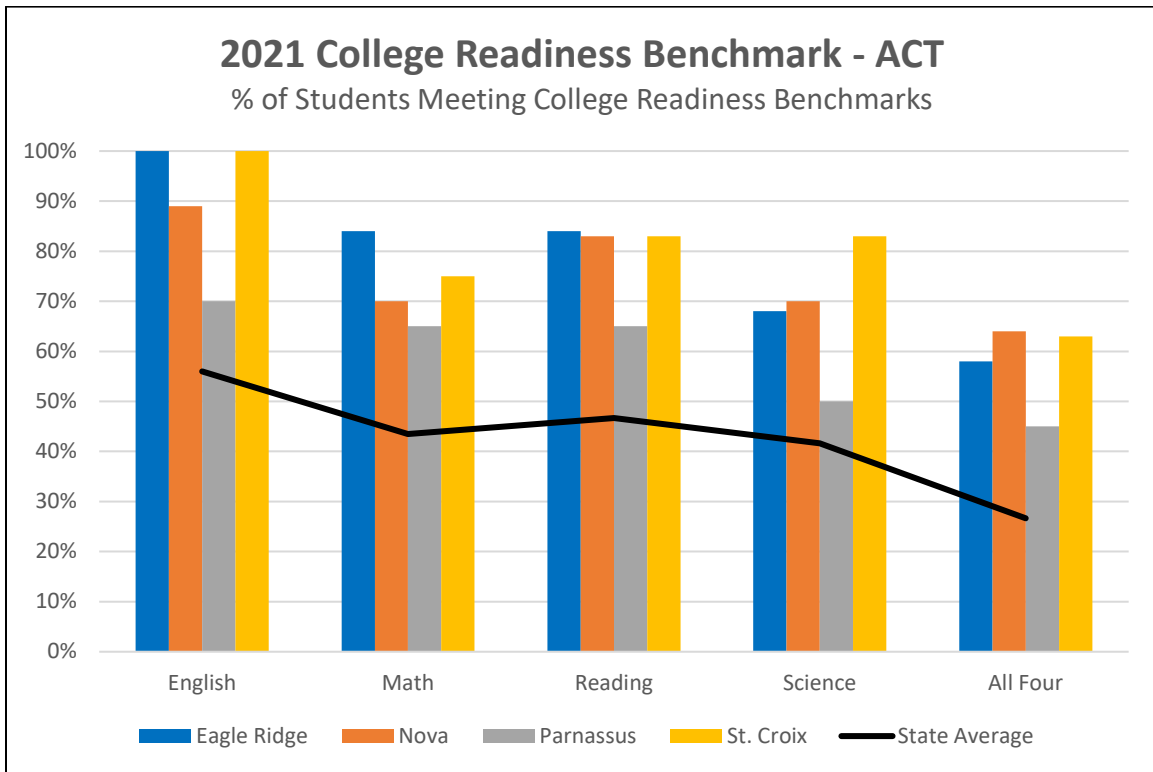


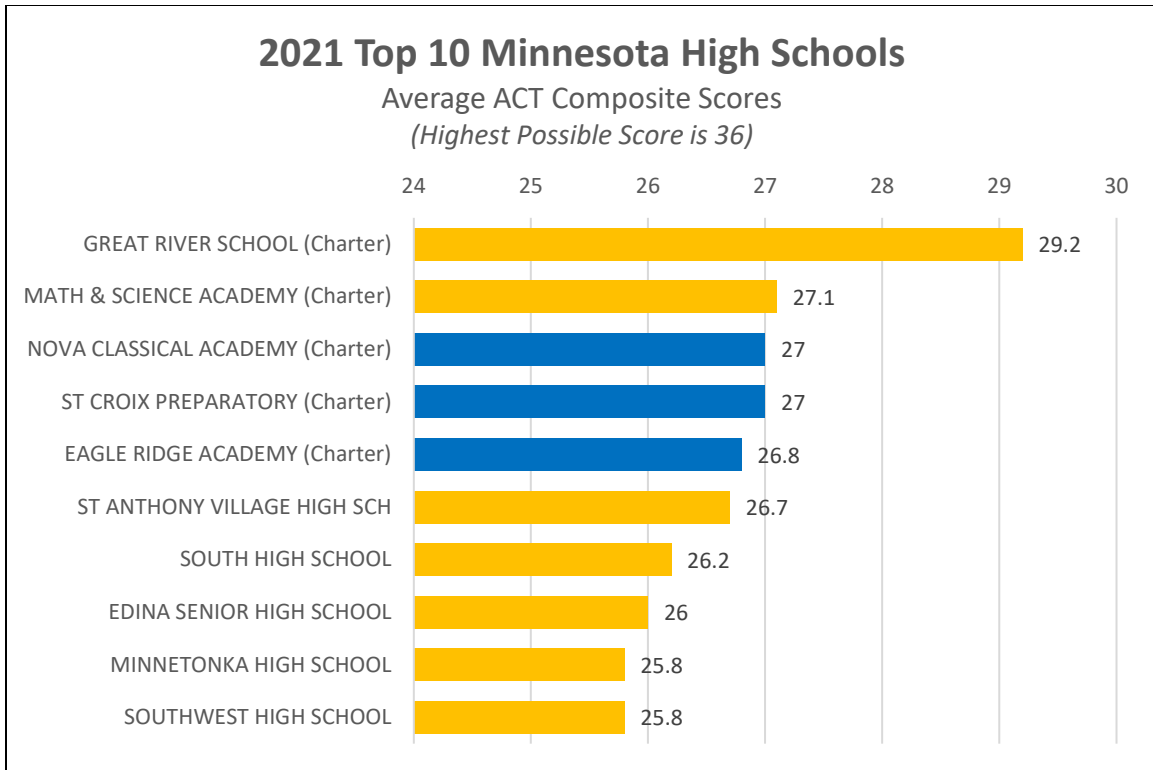
Notes:

- Clarkfield Area Charter School: CSTSR (cell size too small to report)
- Yinghua Academy: is a Chinese full-immersion school; as reflected in national studies, English reading proficiency in full-immersion schools typically lags until Grade 5; yet, Yinghua exceeds state-average proficiency
- Hennepin Elementary (HES): has 59% English learners, compared with the state average of 8%. HES had a 98% participation rate for all 3rd grade students taking the Reading assessment.
- New Millennium Academy (NMA): has 60% English learners, compared with the state average of 8%. NMA had a 37% participation rate for all 3rd grade students taking the Reading assessment.

World's Best Workforce Goal: All Students are Ready for Career and College

Friends of Education charters four schools which have high school grades. As demonstrated in the following chart, which was created using the *Minnesota 2021 Public School Graduating Class 5-Year Trends* data from the Minnesota Department of Education, comparison of the ACT readiness benchmarks demonstrates that all four Friends of Education high schools significantly outperform state averages. In addition, three of the top five Minnesota public high schools with the highest composite ACT scores are Friends of Education schools.





Academic Performance

Present outcome data regarding key academic performance indicators your organization used when evaluating your portfolio of charter schools. Provide a narrative analysis of this data, indicating strengths and areas for improvement.

Friends of Education assesses many different academic performance indicators of its schools. As examples:

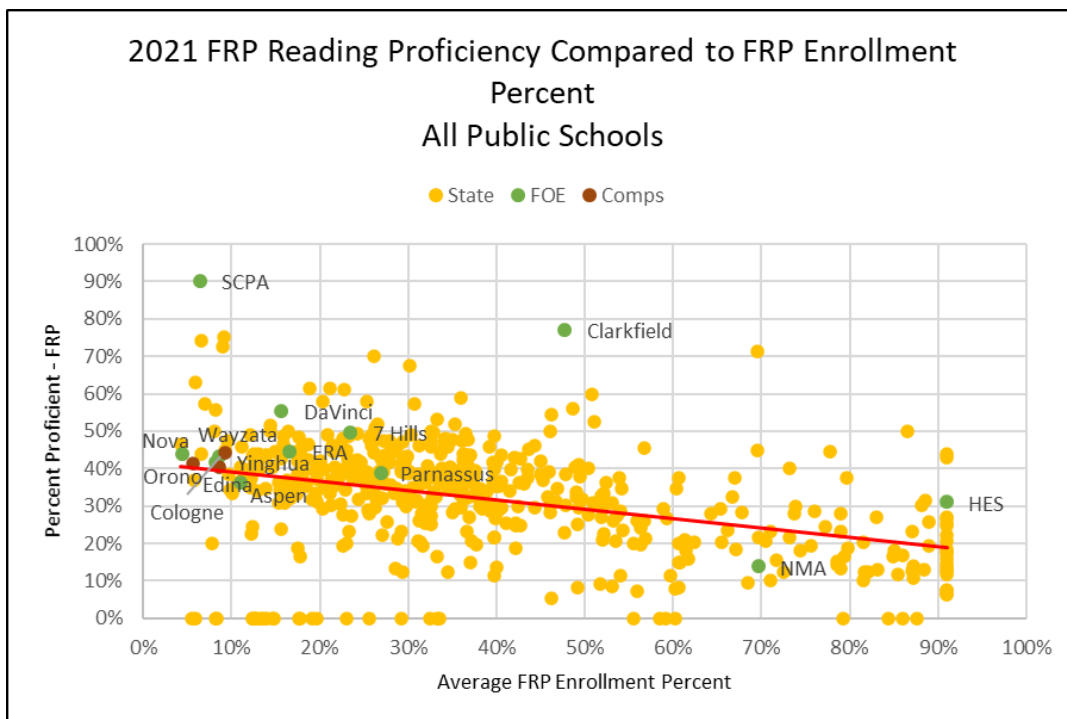
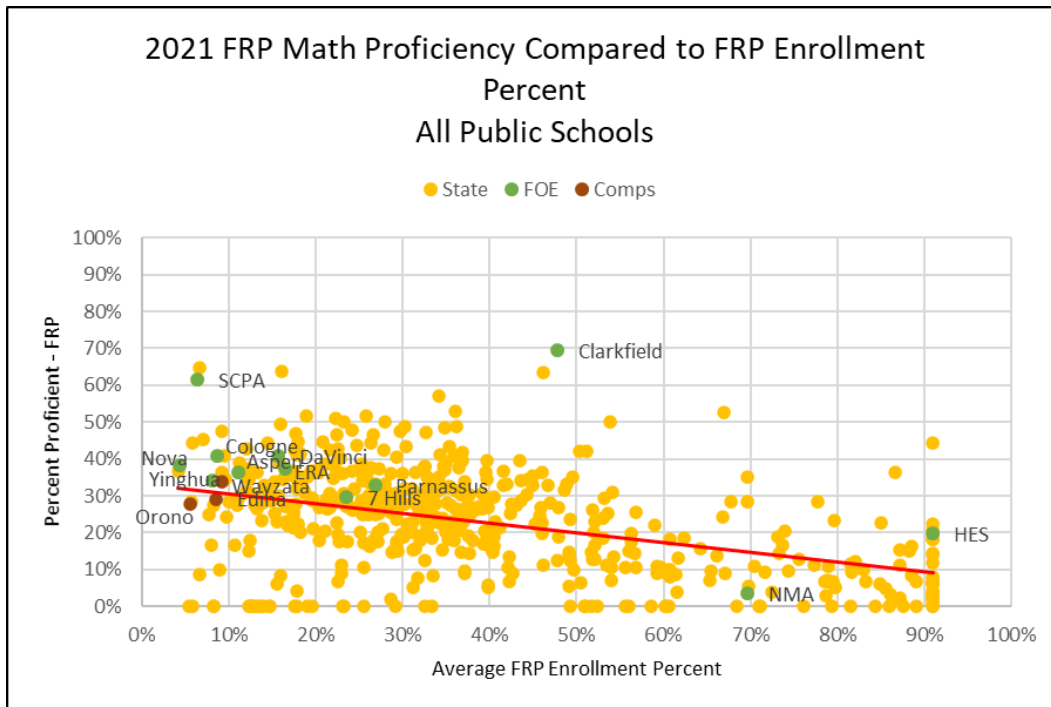
- Friends compares absolute proficiency with the resident districts and state averages;
- Friends compares the school's economically disadvantaged (FRP) proficiency to the state's economically disadvantaged (FRP) proficiency average; and
- Friends compares the schools' reportable sub-group proficiency against high-performing suburban schools sub-group proficiency.

As summarized below, Friends of Education's portfolio of schools is generally high performing in all areas. The MCA data for FY2021 has been significantly impacted by COVID 19 restrictions that have affected testing environments and levels of student participation. As expected, some indicators are at lower levels, particularly among the majority of reportable subgroups when compared with traditionally high-performing regular school districts.

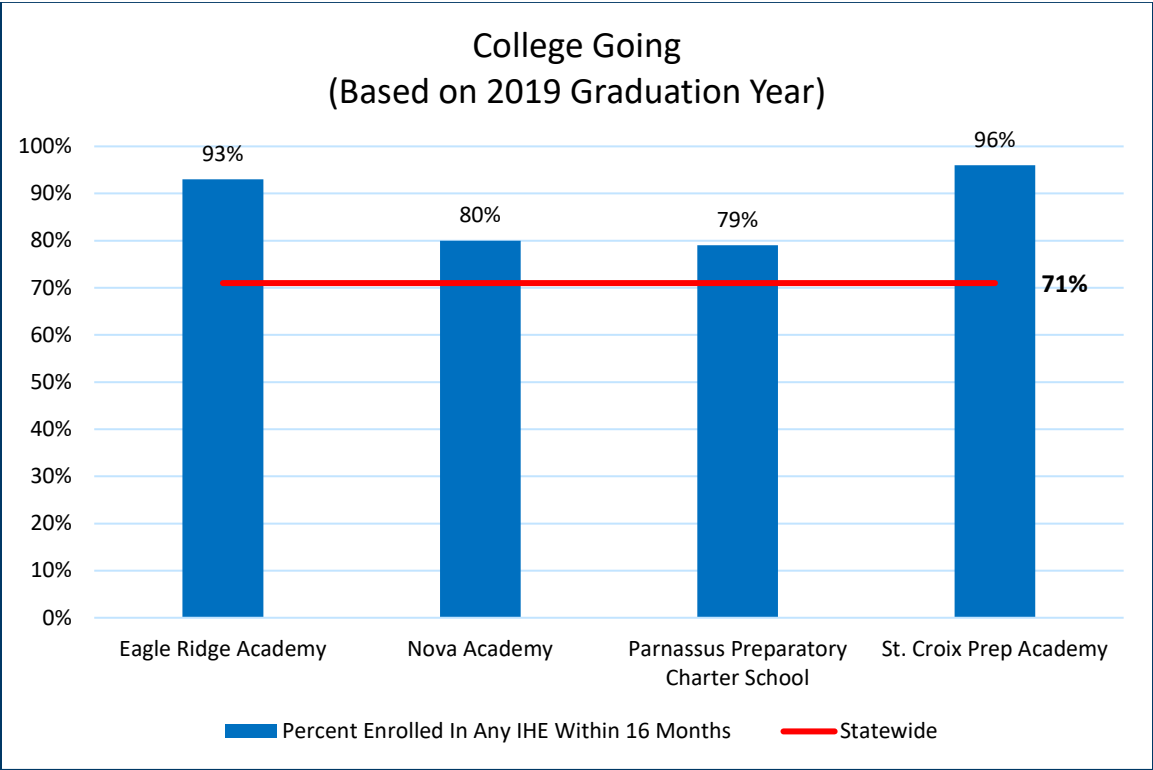
% Schools Achieving Indicators

Academic Indicators	2021	2020	2019	2018	3-Year Average
MCA Proficiency > resident district	79	<i>2021 data is not available due to Covid 19 restrictions</i> <i>2020 data is not available due to Covid 19 restrictions</i>	88	92	86
MCA Proficiency > state average	83		83	81	82
On-track growth > state average			82	75	79
FRP proficiency rate > state FRP proficiency rate	83		92	85	87
Majority of reportable subgroups MCA proficiency > Edina, Orono, or Wayzata districts proficiency for same subgroups	75		79	76	77

As shown in the two scatter graphs below, when comparing the FY2021 math and reading proficiency of Friends of Education FRPL students with the state trendline (shown in red) for this same reporting group, only one Friends of Education school falls below the state trendline in math and two in reading.



As shown in the graph below, all four of the Friends of Education high schools exceeded the state average percent of graduates enrolled in an institute of higher education within 16 months of high school graduation. This is based on the 2019 graduation year, which is the most recent data available from the Minnesota Department of Education.



Operational Performance

Present outcome data regarding key operational performance indicators your organization used when evaluating your portfolio of charter schools. Provide a narrative analysis of this data, indicating strengths and areas for improvement.

Friends of Education monitors its portfolio of schools operationally through a variety of mechanisms, including site visits, various compliance reviews, attendance at school’s board meetings, and review of reports. Generally, Friends schools have been responsive in making any required or suggested changes and updates. When considering the numerous existing legal requirements and that a school is identified as deficient if it misses even one, the lack of 100% legal compliance is not surprising. While Friends of Education expects 100% legal compliance, it also believes that not all legal requirements are of identical importance, e.g., failing to post the authorizer’s name on the website is of lower significance than omitting admission and lottery requirements. Friends of Education’s expectations regarding corrections reflect this difference. For example, Friends of Education will require immediate correction of admission/lottery information and allow longer correction periods for other items.

Operations Indicators	% Schools Achieving Indicators			
	2021*	2020	2019	3-Year Average
Educational Program contained in charter implemented	100	100	92	97
Instruction/assessment aligned to standards, emphasizes student achievement	92	100	92	95
Complies with requirements related to English Language Learner students and students with disabilities	92	100	83	92
Complies with ALL applicable laws and reporting requirements	75	100	67	81
Complies with lottery, data privacy, and discipline requirements	92	100	75	89
Complies with Health, Safety, and Occupancy requirements	100	100	100	100
Complies with charter school board membership and composition and reports	92	100	92	95
Complies with and reports charter school board training	83	100	75	86
Charter school annual reports/WBWF reports contained all legal requirements	97	92	67	85
Websites contained all legal requirements	96	91	75	87

*As set forth in its Approved Authorizing Plan, health considerations (such as COVID-19) may limit scope, nature, and frequency of site visits. Friends of Education conducted FY2021 virtual site visits, and information presented is based on school self-evaluation and information observed during virtual site visit.

Financial Performance

Present outcome data regarding key financial performance indicators your organization used when evaluating your portfolio of charter schools. Provide a narrative analysis of this data, indicating strengths and areas for improvement.

Financial Indicators	% Schools Achieving Indicators			
	2021	2020	2019	3-Year Average
External Audit = no material or significant deficiencies	83	100	83	89
State Finance Award Recipient	100	92	92	95
Per Pupil Cost < Resident District Cost	Not Available	92	100	96

Taxpayer Value	Not Available	85	92	88
Fund Balance \geq 25%	83	75	58	72
All Additional Sustainability Indicators Met	88	88	33	69
All Near-Term Indicators Met	100	100	67	89

Other Performance

Present outcome data regarding other key performance indicators your organization used when evaluating your portfolio of charter schools. Provide a narrative analysis of this data, indicating strengths and areas for improvement.

2021 Minnesota Department of Education High Quality Schools

The Minnesota Department of Education designated eight Friends of Education schools as High-Quality Charter Schools in 2021.

- Aspen Academy
- Cologne Academy
- DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science
- Eagle Ridge Academy
- Hennepin Elementary School
- Nova Classical Academy
- Seven Hills Preparatory Academy
- Yinghua Academy

2021 Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award

This award recognizes schools for meeting statutory deadlines for submission of audited fiscal financial data and reporting criteria.

- All 12 Friends of Education schools received this award

United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools

Four Friends of Education schools have been named National Blue-Ribbon Schools.

- 2015 – Yinghua Academy
- 2016 – DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science
- 2019 – Aspen Academy
- 2021 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy Middle School

U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings

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
- 3 – Eagle Ridge Academy
- 4 – Parnassus Preparatory School

2021 Niche.com Rankings

The 2021 list of best charter elementary, middle, and high schools in Minnesota is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and reviews from students and parents. Ranking factors include state test scores, student-to-teacher ratios, student diversity, teacher quality, college readiness, graduation rates, and SAT/ACT scores.

Best Charter Elementary Schools

- 1 – Yinghua Academy
- 2 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- 3 – Aspen Academy
- 4 – Nova Classical Academy
- 6 – Eagle Ridge Academy

Best Charter Middle Schools

- 2 – Nova Classical Academy
- 3 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- 4 – Eagle Ridge Academy
- 5 – Yinghua Academy

Best Charter High Schools

- 2 – Nova Classical Academy
- 3 – St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- 4 – Eagle Ridge Academy
- 10 – Parnassus Preparatory School

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The information provided on pages 17 through 26 demonstrates a strong portfolio. Friends of Education recognizes that education is a continuous improvement process. One improvement area continues to be closing the achievement gap between white students and other student groups within each school. Unfortunately, data tracking year-over-year improvement is not available for FY2021 due to the gaps created by COVID-19.