



BLUESKY ONLINE *The School Designed for You*



2022-2023 Charter School Annual Report, Local World's Best Workforce Report & Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement

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About BlueSky

Mission Statement

BlueSky Charter School brings quality online education and diverse learners together.

Vision Statement

BlueSky is defining education for the 21st century by creating an individualized, dynamic education for all students. We are committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes, and relationships.

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BlueSky School Overview

A pioneer in distance learning, BlueSky is Minnesota's most established online public charter school. Since 2000, BlueSky has provided a free, high-quality online education to Minnesota residents in grades 7-12. Starting in the 2021-22 school year BlueSky began serving students in 6th grade.

The key to BlueSky's success is our unique approach to student support. BlueSky offers students a world-class online education backed by unsurpassed resources and individualized attention. Every student receives a dedicated support team consisting of an advisor, a counselor, and a social worker. Students have direct access to their teachers for assistance whenever they need it. BlueSky teachers and staff also make a personal connection with students and their families.

Through the parent portal, weekly emails, texts, phone calls, and conferences, parents are actively involved in their child's success.

Through Group Pace and My Pace classes, students are able to customize how they want to approach their coursework. BlueSky wants to make sure that each student finds the state-aligned program that meets their learning style, skill level, grade level, and credit requirements. BlueSky also offers several different enrollment options: full time, supplemental, tuition-based, and summer school. With classes and resources available online 24/7, and flexible pacing, students can learn during their most productive hours and with an academic plan tailored to work for them.

BlueSky's Full-Time Program

As an accredited, state approved public charter school, students in grades 6-12 can take all courses needed to meet middle school requirements or to earn a high school diploma. This public school option is free to all Minnesota residents under the age of 21.

All full-time students have an assigned support team that includes an advisor, a counselor, and a social worker in addition to their classroom teachers. Our high level of individualized support and flexible scheduling sets us apart from other online programs. Students are closely monitored using a variety of technology data points as well as through one on one communications which allows early interventions to be put in place when needed.

I can't thank you enough! BlueSky is a school that shows how dedicated and helpful the staff and teachers are in helping students achieve their goals. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I will never forget this! -Jessica (parent)

BlueSky's Supplemental Program

BlueSky invites students from across Minnesota to take up to half their courses online while staying enrolled in their home district. Course options include core subjects and electives that meet or exceed state standards.

BlueSky offers a high level of support to our supplemental students and works closely with enrolling districts and parents, keeping everyone in the loop regarding student progress. All courses are taught by Minnesota licensed full-time online teachers and can be adjusted for semester or trimester schedules.



BlueSky's Tuition-Based Program

Although most students that are Minnesota residents can enroll for free in either our full-time or supplemental programs, some students may opt for a tuition-based enrollment.

Our tuition program uses the same high quality online classes and teachers and meets the needs of students who live outside Minnesota, are taking an overload of classes in their home district, are home-schooled, or are over 21 years old.



BlueSky's Summer School Program

BlueSky offers a six-week summer school session for current BlueSky students and a tuition-based option for non-BlueSky students. All summer school courses are asynchronous; students work independently and at their own pace, allowing for an individualized learning experience. BlueSky offers a wide variety of summer school courses based on the needs of students.

Current BlueSky students will receive a registration email in March to register for summer school courses. Students work closely with their BlueSky counselor to register for any summer school course(s) that they need to meet BlueSky's graduation requirements. Students are allowed to take up to two credit recovery classes in the summer as long as they finish their first summer class within three weeks. Students are monitored in their classes by summer school teachers and the Summer School Coordinator,, who offer individualized support for those that need it.

Tuition based students take BlueSky's summer school classes either for credit recovery or to work ahead in a specific subject, most often in math. Tuition based students are also given individualized support by teachers and the summer school administrator.

Innovative Practices & Implementation

BlueSky provides a personalized, online learning environment with a student support focus. Within this student centered model, BlueSky incorporates a number of innovative practices that work together to enhance student success:



Compassionate Schools & SEL Strategies

- Ongoing staff training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and trauma informed best practices since 2016.
- Collaboration with Regional Centers of Excellence and CAREI (Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement).
- Participation in our authorizer's NGAPS (Next Generation Assessment Portfolio System) program to develop academic alignment of Social and Emotional Learning.
- Adoption of Social and Emotional Learning standards as part of our academic program.
- Implementation of Social and Emotional Learning Evidence Based Strategy throughout entire BlueSky program (in progress):
 - Explicit Instruction
 - Embedded instruction
 - Schoolwide support
 - Teacher pedagogy
 - Assessment of skills
- Implementation of 7th-9th grade Advisory programs with integrated Social Emotional Learning curriculum; Character Strong and Yale RULER evidence based programs

"I really like the teachers and the open communication and the flexibility to work with parents on specific needs of the student."

Student Support

- Licensed staff to student ratio of 1:11
- Teacher to student ratio of 1:150, which breaks down to 1:25 per class.
- Counselor to student ratio of 1:130, compared to 1:540 state average.
- Social worker to student ratio of 1:135, with the option to take courses taught by a social worker.
- Special education case manager ratio averages 1:16 with most direct services delivered in a small group.
- Special education replacement course commensurate with ability levels and aligned to State Standards and ability levels.
- Student advisor assigned to each student who acts as the first line of communication and forms positive adult relationships with students.

- Half-time 504 Coordinator to provide support to students and staff
- Reviewed CAREI MTSS training. MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Supports) model incorporated with specific Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 interventions and referral processes. Updated MnMTSS process.
- Own It!, a motivational and goal setting program, used as an intervention for BlueSky students demonstrating lack of engagement.
- BlueSky's Dean of Students provides student support plans and academic probation plans.
- Social worker groups and 1:1 support offered to students needing mental health support.
- The Middle school social worker provides direct service through the synchronous advisory class.
- The Middle school counselor provides career and organizational lessons through synchronous advisory class.
- Middle School and 9th grade students are identified for "Back on Track" program to help students that struggle with staying on pace, attendance, or quality
- Middle School Friday study hall to work 1:1 with students that need extra help.
- Intake risk assessment consisting of academic and behavioral readiness and support.
- Educational assistants available daily to support students with academic and behavioral needs.
- Math for Success and Reading for Success intervention courses to help build foundational skills necessary for grade level success.
- Evening math coaching to support students academically with math coursework.
- Laptops and/or hotspots provided to students in need.
- Tier 1 committee meets monthly to discuss students concerns and help develop individualized plans.

Flexible Scheduling & Curriculum

- Personalized learning options including flexible scheduling (Group Pace and my Pace Courses), PSEO options, supplemental courses, career academies, CTE (career and technical education) focused courses, college level articulated elective courses, and Honors courses.
- State approved, Cognia (formerlyAdvancED) NCA CASI accredited online program that aligns to the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) program standards.
- Incorporation of competency based instructional practices.
- Embedded social and emotional learning skills.
- State-of-the-art technology systems to support individualized flexible schedules.
- Ongoing open enrollment (when available based on capacity).
- Opportunities for onsite attendance, activities, and support.
- Supplemental program allowing students to remain in their home district and take 1-3 online classes.
- Summer school availability for students allowing recovery of credits towards their graduation requirements.
- Middle school program with focus on structured flexible scheduling, compassionate relationships, relevant and meaningful learning experiences, and lifelong success skills.

College and Career Readiness

- Career Academies for students who demonstrate college and career readiness in one of nine concentration areas.
- Required student career/college portfolio activities to include embedded SEL and career and college readiness standards.
- Provided information on career fairs, FAFSA support and PSEO informational meetings.
- Service learning projects.
- NCAA eligible courses.
- National Honor Society chapter.
- Graduation survey conducted to receive feedback on student plans for the future and their experience at BlueSky.
- Youth apprenticeship in manufacturing program.
- Individual meetings with each graduating senior to review future plans.
- ACT and ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test) onsite testing for students.

Community Building

- Academic snapshots and enhanced dashboard options for parents and students to monitor progress.
- Virtual parent teacher conferences in the fall (face to face option available pre COVID)
- Opportunities for virtual and onsite social events and field trips.
- Collaboration with other charter schools to provide 7th grade and high school teachers and content to their students
- Continual communication with students and all stakeholders through a variety of media - text, social media, email, phone calls, Newsletters, website updates, etc.
- Parent/student feedback requests and surveys
- Staff constructed, committee driven, and improvement focused collaborative culture.
- Staff presentations and participation at educational conferences.
- Social Workers offer Suicide Prevention and Mental Health course to staff for required CEUs
- In house re-licensure committee for licensed staff.
- Staff development committee that provides the majority of licensure requirements through in house trainings.
- Staff participation in educational associations.
- Student volunteer and service learning opportunities (i.e. National Honor Society, through coursework within elective classes and project based assignment options).

Student Support

How students are supported in their learning is equally important to the content and delivery of curriculum. BlueSky students benefit from teachers' individual attention and frequent contact via email, phone, text messaging, online chats and other electronic methods.

BlueSky's support teams consist of counselors, advisors, social workers, and case managers and are referred to as our student's three or four-person support team. The support teams work to create a compassionate school environment where all students can thrive and learn. They provide individualized resources and support for students, families, and staff related to mental health, social-emotional, attendance, and academic needs. The support teams often consult with other BlueSky staff and community professionals to help provide quality education and support for all students.

Student Intervention

BlueSky's intervention committee has developed a multi-tiered system of support in which staff identify struggling students early on to help give these students the support they need to be successful based on CAREI's suggested formula. The committee included math and intervention specialists, advisors, teachers, and leaders of the school. The committee met weekly to review referred students and to come up with tier 2 interventions to help students succeed. BlueSky also had a Tier 1 committee which met monthly and created individualized plans for students struggling with attendance, academic and/or behavior concerns. Students identified for Tier 2 interventions may be placed in BlueSky's Reading or Math for Success classes where students receive personalized instruction by BlueSky's intervention specialists to support students in their areas of need.

Student academic and behavior support plans have also been implemented to include additional tiered levels of support for student success. Students are monitored and given support by their three or four-person team. If students with behavior or attendance concerns need additional support they are referred to the Dean of Students to receive a more strict support plan. This may include daily or weekly check-ins, individualized weekly schedules, and/or attendance contracts. It may also require students at risk of dropping out of school to complete the Own It! curriculum. This curriculum helps students to outline their strengths as a learner and set goals for taking ownership of their education.

BlueSky's Middle School team provides specific interventions for students at this age level. Monday through Thursday Middle School students attend an advisory class which covers a variety of topics including mental health, careers, and social emotional curriculum. Students that struggled during the first quarter are referred to a program called "Back on Track". Back on track is a daily check in with students to help them create a schedule to complete their weekly "to do" lists. Students that do not complete their

to-do list during the week are strongly encouraged to attend Friday study hall where students can receive 1:1 help from their teachers.

The Heart of Learning: Compassion, Resiliency, and Academic Success

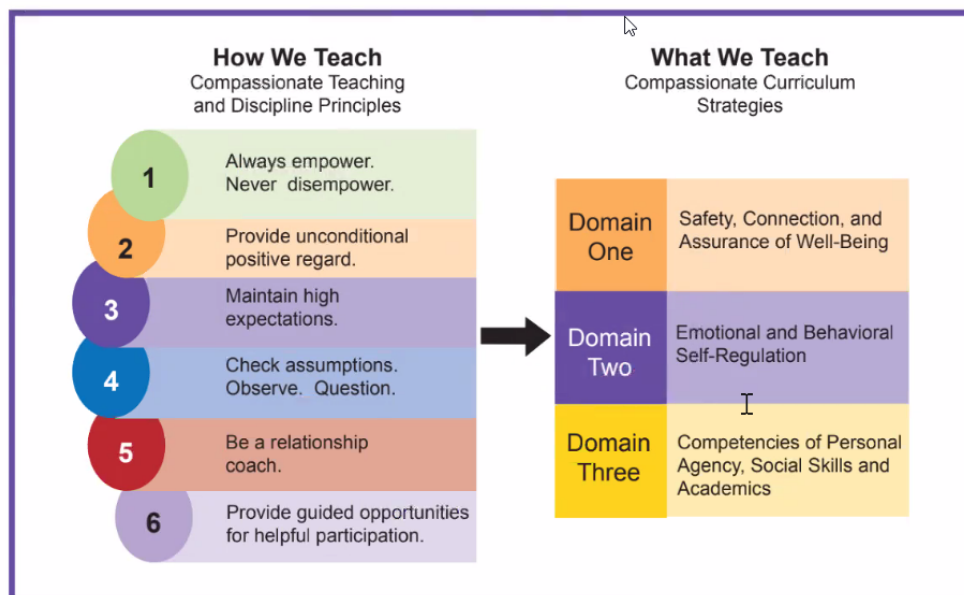
As a three year initiative starting in the 2016-17 school year, the social work team developed a strategic plan to become a compassionate school. The first year training was implemented for our social work staff. In the 2017-18 school year the social work staff provided training to all staff in trauma awareness and intervention techniques. The 2018-19 school year phase was working directly with students and families in the classroom focusing on trauma centered approaches to learning. Social and Emotional Learning standards were reviewed and adopted for future implementation. This work was completed in conjunction with the Regional Centers of Excellence as an approved evidence based strategy to improve attendance and graduation rates. Social workers developed a compassionate schools class in Moodle to train new BlueSky staff. The social workers meet monthly with the new staff to talk about what they learned in Moodle and how it applies to BlueSky to keep this initiative alive. In the 2022-2023 school year, social workers have added all staff training into the professional development rotation to ensure continued use of trauma informed strategies.

Compassionate Schools benefit all students who attend but focus on students chronically exposed to stress and trauma in their lives. These schools create compassionate classrooms and foster compassionate attitudes of their school staff. The goal is to keep students engaged and learning by creating and supporting a healthy climate and culture within the school where all students can learn. It is not a program; it is a process and as such is not "one size fits all." Each school and community will develop their own unique compassionate "personality."

Ten principles of a Compassionate School:

1. Focus on culture and climate in the school and community.
2. Train and support all staff regarding trauma and learning.
3. Encourage and sustain open and regular communication for all.
4. Develop a strengths based approach in working with students and peers.
5. Ensure discipline policies are both compassionate and effective (Restorative Practices).
6. Weave compassionate strategies into school improvement planning.
7. Provide tiered support for all students based on what they need.
8. Create flexible accommodations for diverse learners.
9. Provide access, voice, and ownership for staff, students and community.
10. Use data to:
 - a. Identify vulnerable students, and

- b. Determine outcomes and strategies for continuous quality improvement.



BlueSky also offers social worker support for those students needing support within a specific area of their lives - chemical dependency, anxiety, depression, dealing with a death, personal identity, social skills, independent living, etc. These sessions address some of the mental health concerns that many students face today.

Social Emotional Learning

Adding to our compassionate school training is the action initiative of embedding Social Emotional Learning standards into the academic curriculum as well as into our everyday interactions with students. Social Emotional Learning directly relates to the BlueSky Vision of being "committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes, and relationships".

Social emotional learning (SEL) is broadly understood as a process through which people build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships and making responsible decisions that supports their success in school and in life.(1) SEL develops cognitive social competencies, such as self-awareness, self-management and social awareness, according to the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL). Developing such competencies in students fosters positive social skills, reduces conduct problems, diminishes emotional stress and improves academic performance.(2)

When we develop social and emotional skills, our ability to form relationships and build social awareness increases, which enhances our ability to connect with individuals of diverse perspectives, cultures, languages, histories, identities and

abilities. By implementing SEL on a macro-level in schools, we create more equitable, better-performing schools and communities. This type of systemic change creates school environments in which all students learn the skills they need to be prepared for career, college and life.

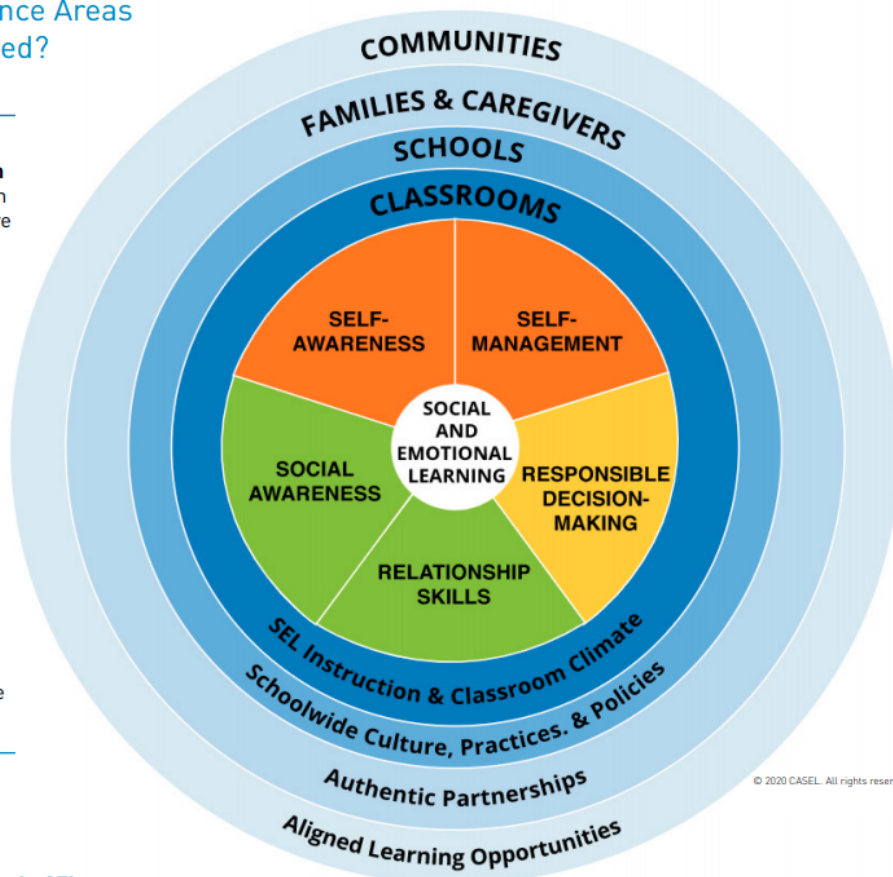
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/safe/social/>

BlueSky uses the CASEL SEL Framework. Over the course of the past three years, BlueSky has and continues to incorporate and embed the five SEL core competency areas into curriculum. In 2020-2021 BlueSky focused on incorporating Responsible Decision Making, in 2021-2022 the focus was Self-Awareness and Self-Management, and currently in 2022-2023 the focus is Social Awareness and Relationship Skills. The process of embedding all five core areas into curriculum has come with extensive schoolwide training as well as specific work that has been done in collaboration with department teams. BlueSky has developed multiple resources to provide training, facilitate discussion, and guide the work of embedding SEL competencies across the curriculum. All departments at BlueSky have and are continuing to identify where and when the SEL competency areas and skills naturally fit into the curriculum. BlueSky has also developed SEL assessment tools in the form of rubrics for each competency area as well as a formative assessment question bank tool that can be used and adapted to various forms of assessments across curriculum.

CASEL'S SEL FRAMEWORK: What Are the Core Competence Areas and Where Are They Promoted?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.



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Learn more: www.casel.org/what-is-SEL

Flexible Scheduling

Group Pace Courses

BlueSky's Group Pace courses focus on creating a highly interactive community of learners. These courses utilize frequent opportunities for collaboration and interactions between students, as well as between students and the teacher.

In Group Pace classes, students are expected to attend a live online session each week and stay on pace with their work. This ensures all the students in Group Pace class are familiar with the same content at the same time, allowing more productive discussions, collaborative projects, and other interactive learning experiences.

My Pace Courses

BlueSky's My Pace courses are designed for students needing a highly flexible schedule. These courses feature self-paced, independent work. Many of these courses also offer flex scheduling with variable start and end dates, allowing for students to create a highly individualized learning experience. My Pace courses are also a great choice for students looking to catch up on credits.

BlueSky staff provide a high level of support to students taking My Pace Courses, helping them pace and structure their weekly assignment completion. My Pace courses are best designed for students who have the self-discipline to devote significant time to their school work, and who will work regularly so that they do not fall behind.

The curriculum within the Group Pace and My Pace programs consists of the following:

1. Required courses that meet or exceed state standards in each of the core subject areas (English, science, math, and social studies).
2. Core subject courses and remedial courses especially tailored to special education students, taught by special education teachers who also hold licenses in the subject area, or team-taught by regular education and special education teachers.
3. Courses in the elective areas of art, music, world languages, career and technical education, and health and physical education. (0.5 credit of art, and 0.5 credit in health/physical education are required for graduation). Many electives have a college and career readiness focus.
4. Support groups, facilitated by licensed social workers, help students acquire skills in the following areas: anxiety and depression, coping skills, independent living, social awareness, self-esteem, and other life skills.

5. College-level courses available through the statewide PSEO program.

Career & College Readiness

BlueSky's strategic plan is updated to include career and college readiness objectives with the intent of providing our students with a successful transition after graduation. The focus on student career or college readiness begins the moment a student enrolls. BlueSky continues to utilize an online enrollment form as part of the counselor intake session in which each student indicates their career interests. This enables the

counselors to focus course scheduling for career and college preparation or individual post high school goals. Students are then scheduled accordingly into the World of Work career clusters for their elective classes.



All students have individual access to their assigned school counselor who guides them in making college and career decisions through a variety of career activities in their Required Career Portfolio (RCP). The counselor works with each student individually to develop a portfolio through Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) and a specific Course Plan tailored to each student. A student's plan upon graduation incorporates resume building, post-secondary educational exploration, interest inventory, scholarship search, financial aid, and applications to schools of their choice. These portfolios remain in our MCIS site indefinitely, so the student can access their information while they attend college or are in the workforce. In addition, during the 2022-2023 school year, students met individually with their counselor to review the career plans, transcript, and post secondary actions.

BlueSky continues to encourage student participation in Career Academies to demonstrate college and career readiness in one of seven concentration areas: business, visual communication, world language, health career, fine arts career, music career, and culinary arts career. Students pursuing one of the Career Academies are required to complete a series of classes in one of these concentrated areas of study. They are also required to have a B average in the group of classes. Twenty-five students received the career academy green cord this year; seven of the students had more than one career area.

In addition to the support provided by counselors, students were provided with opportunities to observe and experience various career fields as part of their classes and school activities. As part of the required career portfolio class, students are required to select and answer questions regarding careers in the virtual job shadowing program. Opportunities were also provided to students to attend college fairs, college visits, and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

National Honor Society

In 2019 BlueSky was approved to start a new chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), the oldest and most prestigious student recognition program in the US and worldwide. In the fall, students with a cumulative 3.0 GPA were invited to submit candidate information forms to our faculty council and were accepted into the program. NHS students attend chapter meetings twice per month and commit to 20 hours of service through an individual or group project each year that benefit the school and/or their home communities. They also have opportunities to develop leadership skills through NHS sponsored webinars and events.



Community Building

BlueSky strongly encourages parents to take an active role in their child's education and embrace in-home, online learning. Having the student working from home, free from classroom distractions, is a necessity for many families. Parents can easily monitor their student's progress; students and guardians have daily accessibility to staff to help with their academic and socio/emotional needs while maintaining a flexible schedule.

To strengthen family involvement, BlueSky hosted a parent and student virtual open house in the fall and regional activities across the state of Minnesota in March. Two virtual activity days were hosted, where students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of games and activities, including a talent show.

In addition to activities, parents have access to monitor their student's progress and connect with teachers and support staff on a daily basis. Parents can see a list of student courses and know which assignments are due during the current week as well as how students scored on assignments. Grades are updated within 48 hours of being submitted and feedback is often provided to both students and parents. Consistent communication and feedback from all BlueSky staff provides a sense of community and support for students and families.





BlueSky has provided additional social opportunities for students to participate in such as prom, onsite student activities, Student Clubs, lunch bunch, and online advisory. Field trips have also been a great way to build our BlueSky community and we aim to offer at least one event per month during the school year. These trips include Mill City Museum, ValleyFair, Sea Life Aquarium, Feed My Starving Children, and student college/career fair just to name a few.

BlueSky was also able to collaborate with two other charter schools to provide their students with online content and teachers to support their 7th grade and high school students. These collaborations directly helped support the unique needs of the students and the charter school situation.

Monthly newsletters contain important reminders, school updates, student work, and profiles. Newsletters are posted on our website and sent to families of active students as well as those in the enrollment process in an effort to build a sense of community and foster educational awareness in a strictly online environment. Weekly phone calls and emails from a variety of BlueSky staff also ensure that the family is involved with the school and their student's role therein.



Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Discord and YouTube have also been utilized to spread information and updates to our students and their parents. We are using these tools to build a stronger sense of community and connect BlueSky students, staff, and families. We are easily able to track and monitor involvement on these sites with built-in analytics.

As a tool for measuring parent and student satisfaction with BlueSky, separate parent and student surveys are released each spring. During the 2022-23 school year, 109 parents took the time to reflect on their student's school and provide BlueSky with an analysis of their

sentiments (an increase from 68 in 21-22). Likewise, 124 students participated in the student satisfaction survey (an increase from 111 in 21-22). This data was used, in part, as a base for comparison and goal setting for the 2023-24 school year.

BlueSky also requests feedback from our parents and students throughout the school year typically through the use of Google forms and surveys. We appreciate the input our families provide which help us in the planning process. Some of these forms include Social Emotional Needs Assessment, American Indian Education Feedback, Title 1 feedback form, satisfaction surveys, student activities requests, prom committee survey, course feedback surveys, etc.

Staff are involved in all levels of decision-making in the school – as board members, committee members, and part of subject-area groups that give input into school operations both directly and through their supervisors. We feel that staff who work directly with students and their families are in the best position to help shape policies, procedures and pedagogical approaches that work best for our students. Our improvement focused, collaborative culture allows BlueSky to seek out innovative solutions to educational challenges and implement them with fidelity.

BlueSky's Staff Development Committee is highly engaged and BlueSky is financially committed to ensuring all staff have the opportunity to participate in trainings, attend conferences, and share their knowledge with other organizations by presenting content. Our committee members approve staff requests for conferences, promote specific conferences (i.e. DLAC, MoodleMoot) and work to provide in-house trainings related to relicensure requirements. BlueSky also has its own Relicensure Committee that maintains CEU information for all teaching staff and automatically uploads CEU's for staff who attend the in-house trainings. An example of an in-house training is the Suicide Prevention and mental Health course that our social workers have developed.

BlueSky staff are encouraged to participate not only in our committees and decision making process, but also in outside educational organizations. Many of our staff participate in their content specific associations. Our IT staff participate in multiple vendor related advisory groups (Moodle, PowerSchool, MDE EdFi) and our HR Specialist is involved with SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management). Our administrative staff participate in and are members of MACS (MN Association of Charter Schools), MNOLA (MN Online Learning Association), CAREI (Center for Applied Research and Ed. Improvement), MSBA (MN School Board Association), and MASA (MN Association of School Administrators) to name a few.

Another way BlueSky is fostering community building is through our student volunteer and service learning opportunities. These are embedded into our National Honor Society program as well as through our elective class coursework that include project based assignments.

"Excellent communication from advisors, counselors, and teachers."

"My child was in public schooling and was falling behind more everyday. My child went from F's to the A honor roll. I am so glad we chose this school. Couldn't be happier."

"I like how flexible the school is. I can do my assignments when I have time and motivation."

"I appreciate the thought that has gone into the lessons and the way they have been developed to provide a wealth of information on various topics."

"The teachers are truly there to help the children succeed. They go above and beyond to reach out to the student and parents to offer help in anyway they can if the child is struggling."

"One on one advocates that communicate weekly."

"The teachers and staff at BlueSky are nice, caring, helpful, and accommodating."

"I work all week and it's nice to work on schoolwork at night."

"There is no bullying. I feel welcome and appreciated."

"The teachers are helpful and seem genuinely interested in my wellbeing."

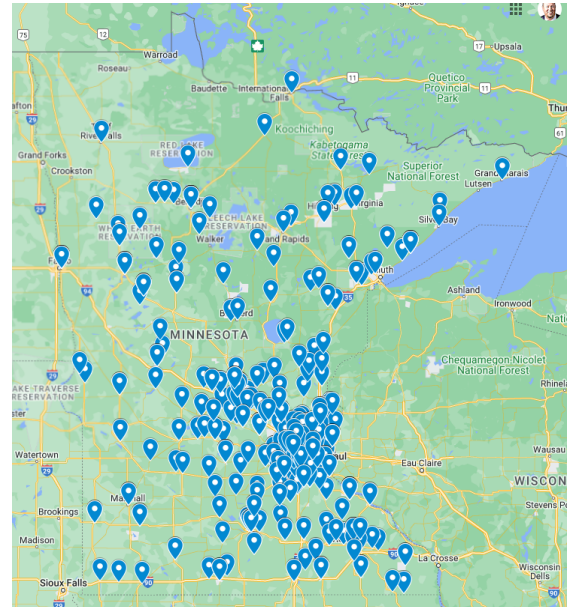
"I enjoy having such a good selection of classes to take."

Student Enrollment, Attrition & Demographics

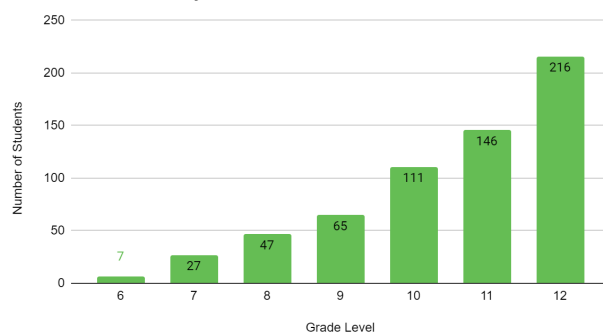
Full Time School Enrollment

BlueSky's enrollment on October 1, 2022 was 619 students. The average daily membership (ADM) for the 2022-23 school year was 593 students. BlueSky students come from all corners of the state with most students living in the Twin Cities metro area.

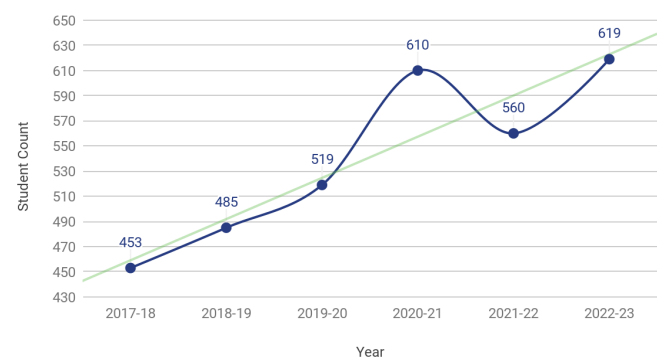
The graphs below identify the number of students enrolled as of October 1st for the following school years: 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23.



Oct. 1 Enrollment by Grade Level



BlueSky Oct. 1 Enrollment Trend

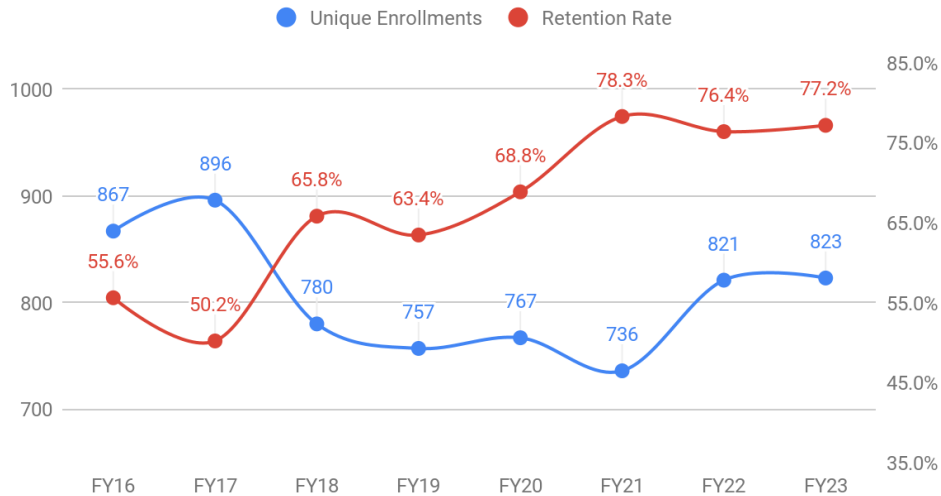


Full Time Program Attrition

During the 2023-23 school year BlueSky had a maximum student capacity of 603. We started the year with 619 students on October 1st and ended the year with an average of 593 students (ADM). During the 2022-23 school year BlueSky enrolled a total of 823 unique students. There were 635 students that either finished the school year or graduated giving BlueSky a 77.2% retention rate. It should be noted that BlueSky gets full-time enrollments that never intend to stay at BlueSky through graduation. Often students in this category plan to enroll temporarily for a variety of reasons including health issues, family needs, pregnancy, or mental health, with the expectation of returning to their home district once they are ready to return to a brick and mortar setting. Although we certainly want students to stay with us and graduate, we

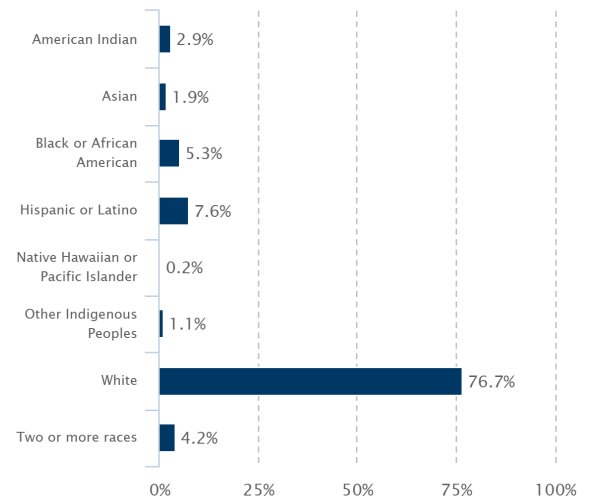
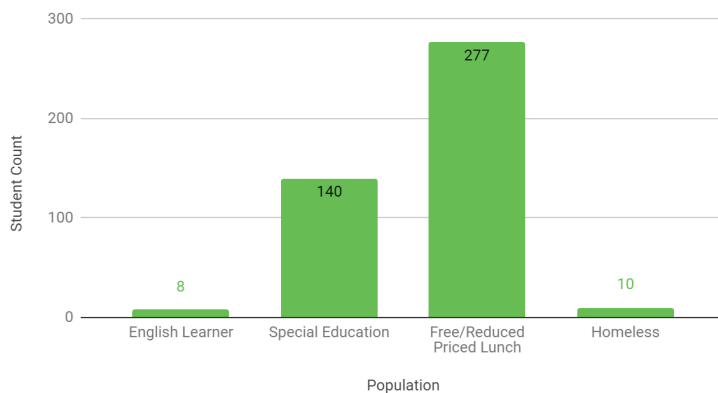
have embraced our role as a transition option for some students and are happy to provide whatever support we can while they are enrolled.

BlueSky Student Attrition Trend



Full Time Program Demographics

BlueSky 2022-23 Special Population Counts



Supplemental School Enrollment

BlueSky also enrolls supplemental students. These students remain enrolled at their school and typically take one to three classes at BlueSky each semester. During the 2022-2023 school year, BlueSky had 109 supplemental students for Semester 1 and 129 supplemental students for Semester 2. These students came to us from 36 school districts across the state, and our supplemental team collaborated with 64 Minnesota counselors in support of their students' success. These students were enrolled in 372.5 courses throughout

the school year (159.5 courses for Semester 1 and 213.5 courses for Semester 2), and 98% of these courses were passed.

Summer School

BlueSky also enrolls students in summer school. In the summer of 2023 BlueSky had 78 tuition based enrollments and 94 BlueSky student enrollments. Seventy-three tuition based enrollments passed for a 93% passing rate. Out of the 94 BlueSky student enrollments, 73 passed their classes for a 77.6% passing rate. So out of all 172 summer enrollments, 146 students passed their classes for an overall summer passing rate of 84.9% Additionally BlueSky had 4 summer school students who passed their classes and met the requirements for their MN diploma.

Strategic Plan

Student Success

- Develop and maintain a positive and compassionate schoolwide culture that encourages student growth in a positive learning environment.
- Promote student involvement in planning for their continuous growth and lifelong success.
- Provide opportunities for alternative pathways to learning through instructional and socio-emotional support.

Finance and Governance

- Maintain a positive working relationship between the Board and the Administrative team by continually reviewing and revising the strategic plan, school board bylaws and policies required by law.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility by establishing and aligning a budget and healthy fund balance to carry out the school's mission and vision.

High Performing Workforce

- Develop and maintain a positive schoolwide culture that encourages professional growth in a collaborative environment.
- Recruit, hire, and retain highly qualified staff.
- Develop staff in the evaluation, interpretation and use of data for effective decision making that aligns with curriculum, instruction, interventions, and assessment.

Technology

- Be a global leader in technology and innovation that positively impacts student engagement, achievement, and college and career readiness.
- Continually work to identify and develop emerging technologies that facilitate, support and enhance instructional success.

Community Partnerships

- Develop and enhance effective partnerships with all stakeholders to ensure involvement in continuous improvement processes that provides opportunities for student success.

Governance & Management

BlueSky's vision and mission provides the focus for decision making of the school. The strategic business plan has used the vision and mission to outline five focus areas (Student Success, Finance and Governance, High Performing Workforce, Technology, and Community Partnerships) in which goal statements, objectives, and benchmarks have been developed to provide direction and priority. Through the strategic plan, the school board has allocated the resources necessary to meet the district's goals. Also, the board receives consistent progress reports related to each of the strategic plan focus areas during its monthly board meetings as well as through weekly newsletter-type communications. In addition to aligning with BlueSky's vision and mission, the strategic plan aligns with the World's Best Workforce goals as well as the goals identified by the authorizer, Innovative Quality School (IQS).

Each year, BlueSky's board of directors meet to discuss the strategic plan goal statements and review the objectives to determine if priorities need to be shifted or additional goals added. At this meeting, survey data from staff, students, and parents is used to help prioritize objectives. In addition, student performance data, results from IQS accountability reports, retention data, graduation exit survey data and other information is used to develop focus areas for improvement. Administration, along with other BlueSky stakeholders as needed, use the strategic plan as a working document throughout the year to create benchmarks that detail how each objective will be met.

BlueSky incorporates a committee structure which includes board appointed and informal committees. This structure allows for the input of teachers and other stakeholders but keeps the final decision making power with the board. This allows for board meetings to be more efficient as the committees have brought key actions and ideas forward for board approval. The board appointed committees are chaired by a board representative and include the Finance Committee, HR Committee, and Curriculum Committee. Other informal committees report to the Executive Director who provides the board with updates related to their activities. Some of these committees include Staff Development, Re-Licensure, Q-comp, Technology, Intervention, and Student Activities.

BlueSky has incorporated a Q-comp program which includes peer observations and feedback, PLC teams, professional development plans, staff portfolios and formal evaluations. The program creates the framework to allow for schoolwide goals, team goals, and personal professional goals. All goals are aligned and work together towards the academic success of all students.

BlueSky has built a culture of collaboration and support. Because of this, we have very low staff turnover, high ratings on our staff satisfaction surveys and have been named a [Top Workplace by the Star Tribune](#) for eight years in a row.



During the 2022-2023 school year, BlueSky went through its third accreditation renewal process with Cognia and was granted a 6 year renewal with an Index of Education Quality score of 338. Cognia's network average score is 253 which means that BlueSky is well above average. This score indicates that BlueSky, as an institution, meets Cognia's expectations for accreditation and includes one or more Noteworthy Practices. Accreditation means that the school not only meets rigorous established standards, but that it has demonstrated its commitment to continuous improvement of its curriculum, programs, and operations.

Highlighted in the [Cognia Engagement Review Report](#) are BlueSky's Noteworthy Practices:

- Learners' well-being is at the heart of the mission, vision, and beliefs of the school and serves as the basis of decisions. The school's practices, processes, and decisions are documented and consistent with and based on its stated values. The school has implemented a formal structure that supports each learner with a team of adults. Professional staff members work together to implement solutions on behalf of learners.
- Qualified staff and leaders, supported by the school's board, have established structured shared leadership focused on learners' success. The school has implemented committee-led governance that offers formal and informal leadership opportunities and expectations. Leaders and professional staff implement ongoing practices that improve learning. Committee decisions and recommendations demonstrate alignment with the school's mission.



Other findings from the Cognia review are also noted in the report and are as follows:

Culture of Learning

"Learners' well-being was at the heart of the mission and vision of BlueSky Charter School and served as the basis of decisions."

"The school's levels of support and individualization provided guiding relationships and dynamic opportunities for students to choose pathways and options that met their needs and built on their strengths."

Leadership for Learning

"Qualified, dedicated, mission-driven staff and leaders, supported by the school's board, established shared leadership focused on learners' success."

"The establishment of the school's effective, involved board has increased the capacity of the school to grow and become successful."

"Staff was well-qualified and certified for their positions, and at least half held advanced degrees. Staff members were represented in the creation of the school's next strategic plan. Providing opportunities for professional growth and expectations for shared leadership and involvement has resulted in engaged staff."

Growth in Learning

"The school collected multiple sources of reliable data and demonstrated a commitment to action research to address the needs of learners."

"Partnerships, grants, and commitment to improvement have resulted in the school's conscientious collection and analysis of data over time to inform planning and accountability."

Board of Directors

BlueSky Online Charter School maintains a governing board of directors made up of 7 non-majority members. BlueSky's board holds monthly public meetings in the Bloomington office and posts board minutes and schedules on the BlueSky website. All BlueSky board members are compliant with the required training related to governance, finance, and employment law and also receive additional training at least annually as required in statute. This is done through attendance at offsite conferences, webinars offered by MDE, or scheduled working sessions following or included in board meetings. In addition, BlueSky's authorizer, IQS, conducts periodic observations of board meetings and provides feedback related to board governance.

Next Board Election: May 2024

Jim Stocco

Board Chair

Community Member, 2022-2024

651.235.3853

jim.stocco@blueskyschool.org

Matthew Schempp

Vice Chair, Teacher Member, 2023-2025

651.202.2065

matthew.schempp@blueskyschool.org

Julie Johnson

Secretary

Teacher Member, 2022-2024

651.202.2055

julie.johnson@blueskyschool.org**Judy Pekarek**

Treasurer

Community Member, 2023-2025

612.236.4194

judypek@hotmail.com**Sandra Meinerts**

Parent Member, 2022-2024

612.220.7174

sandy.meinerts@blueskyschool.org**Heidi Kelbel**

Teacher Member, 2022-2024

651.202.2049

heidi.kelbel@blueskyschool.org**Allen Charles**

Community Member, 2023-2025

612-600-2286

allen.charles@blueskyschool.org**Board of Directors Training Tracker**

Member Name	Oversight of Financial Matters	Board Governance	Oversight of Employment Matters	Ongoing Training
Heidi Kelbel	6/20/16	6/21/16	6/14/16	Data Privacy training Indigo 10/5/17; MACS Board Governance Award criteria working session 1/31/18, 2/28/18, 3/21/18; OLL Institutional Standards Review 1/30/19; History of Charter School Law (Ember video) 10/30/19; Participate in Meetings Remotely MSBA training 4/7/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/22/23

Julie Johnson	10/6/12	10/6/12; 7/29/15	10/6/12; 7/29/15	Data Privacy training Indigo 10/5/17; MACS Board Governance Award criteria working session 1/31/18, 2/28/18, 3/21/18; OLL Institutional Standards Review 1/30/19; History of Charter School Law (Ember video) 10/30/19; Participate in Meetings Remotely MSBA training 3/25/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/22/23
Sandy Meinerts	8/18/20	11/12/19	11/20/19	"School Board & Superintendent Relationships Matter" MSBA presentation recording 6/7/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/22/23
Judy Pekarek	11/23/15	7/29/15	7/29/15	Charter School Director Evaluation Training 11/8/17; MACS Board Governance Award criteria working session 1/31/18, 2/28/18, 3/21/18; OLL Institutional Standards Review 1/30/19; IQS Board Training 7/24/19; MACS Annual Meeting 10/3/19; History of Charter School Law (Ember video) 10/30/19; IQS Board Refresher Training 8/14/20 & 8/18/20; MSBA Participate in Meetings Remotely 5/26/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/22/23
Matthew Schempp	2/19/16	7/29/15	7/29/15; 6/11/15	Data Privacy training Indigo 10/5/17; MACS Board Governance Award criteria working session 1/31/18, 2/28/18, 3/21/18; OLL Institutional Standards Review 1/30/19; History of Charter School Law (Ember video) 10/30/19; MSBA Charter Training Oct. 13, 20, 27 th 2020; "Conduct a Board Election" 6/2/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/3/23, IQS Board Training (Empl., Fin., Gov.) 8/9/23
Jim Stocco	11/21/13	8/1/13	8/1/13	IQS Leadership Conference 5/1/17; Ratwik School Law Conference 10/13/17; MACS Board Governance Award criteria working session 1/31/18, 2/28/18, 3/21/18; OLL Institutional Standards Review 1/30/19; History of Charter School Law (Ember video) 10/30/19; IQS Leader Training 11/6/19; Ratwik School Law Conference 11/6/20; MSBA Webinar: An Overview of the School Finance 7/2/22; Charter Finance Review w/ Scott Brown 12/14/22; Cyber Security Training 2/22/23
Allen Charles	8/10/23	8/10/23	8/10/23	MSBA Charter Board Training

BlueSky School Administrative Leadership

Below is information for ALL members of the school management/administrative team and staff employed by the school who did not serve as a classroom teacher (e.g. curriculum coordinators, social workers, counselors, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, custodial, technology, librarians, etc.)

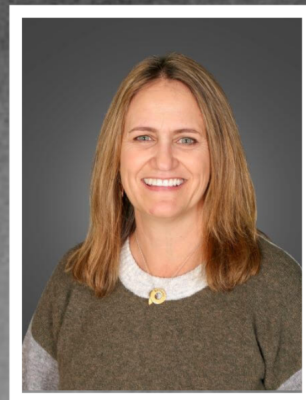
Leadership



Amy Larsen
Superintendent/Executive Director



Dan Ondich
Assistant Director/Principal



Cathy Parker
Director of Student Support Services



Mandy Kasowicz
Director of Special Education



Elisabeth O'Connell
Dean of Students

Office Staff

Tierra Cain - Educational Assistant
 Leslie Egner - HR Specialist
 Ben Haensel -Technology Infrastructure Specialist
 Heidi Housh - Supplemental Coordinator

Kevin Jack - Attendance/Technology Support Specialist
 Benoit Kabwar - Technology Support Specialist
 Elise Lahmann-Sharbonda - Special Education Assistant
 Garret Lucas - Educational Assistant
 Judy McMillan - Special Education Assistant
 Christine McNabb - 504 Coordinator
 Sarah Miner - Administrative Assistant
 John Mizeur - Registrar
 Kim Pike - Technology Implementation Specialist
 Erin Reusing - Student Information Specialist
 Brenda Ritter - Instructional Designer
 Danielle Sanders-School Operations Manager
 Katie Shealy - Educational Assistant
 Alisa Snyder - Retention and Orientation Coordinator
 Allison Sickmann - Educational Assistant
 Melissa Vang - Due Process and Testing Coordinator
 Janette Willenbring - Supplemental Admin Assistant
 Amee Wittbrodt Instructional Designer
 De Xiong - Education Assistant

Support Staff

Jen Anderson - Counselor
 Carla Anderson-Diekmann - Counselor
 Grant Cameron - Counselor
 Amy Chicoine - Counselor
 Hanna Coleman - Advisor
 Megan Andrews - Social Worker
 Cayla Rother - Social Worker
 Danielle Fackler - Advisor
 Casie Hammel - Social Worker
 Kelly Hanson - Advisor
 Dawn Mensing - Middle School Counselor
 Sean Miller - Advisor/Q-Comp Coordinator
 Dawn Nicol - Advisor
 Carrie Ostman - Advisor
 Lynn Riebe - Social Worker
 April Scharnberg - Social Worker

"My teachers work with me one on one especially when I need help"

Laura Welciek - Advisor

BlueSky Teaching Staff

Below is information for ALL teachers employed by the school or providing services contractually (e.g., special education teacher, reading specialist, speech therapist).

Carla Ahrenstorff - Science
 Brittany Bailey - Health/PE
 Eric Bakken - Social Studies
 David Bjorklund - Science
 Suzy Bordeaux - Social Studies/ELL
 Sarah Bradley - Special Education
 Gaia Buttweiler - Social Studies/ASL
 Allison Anderson - Special Education
 Brooke Lea - Special Education
 Sam Engel - Special Education
 Alex Schulz - Special Education
 Kyle Felder - Health&PE/Welcome & Support
 Emilie Canton - Special Education
 Tamara Cowan - Health/PE
 Barbara DeGrote - Language Arts
 Margo Hanson - Science
 Jodi Helder - Special Education
 Chet Johnson - Social Studies
 Julie Johnson - Science
 Bonnie Jude - Special Education
 Heidi Kelbel - Math
 Sara Keller - Special Education
 Molly Kinnamon - Language Arts
 Karen Kraco - Science & Advisor

Emily Kreklau - Math
 Leasa Kulm - Spanish & Welcome and Support
 Gabra Lokken - Business
 Amy Loney - 6th Grade Teacher
 Matthew Meuers - Special Education
 Tracy Mullenbach - Special Education
 Heather Novak - Social Studies
 Nicole Petersen - Art
 Chris Peterson - Business
 Jason Prekker - Math
 Marti Prekker - Language Arts
 Katie Roorda - Family and Consumer Sciences
 Samantha Savoie - Language Arts
 Matthew Schempp - Language Arts
 Anthony Shealy - Social Studies/Special Education
 Leah Sickmann - Science
 Darren Sonenstahl - Math
 James Weiberg - Math
 Erin Winchell - Music
 Anee Wittbrodt - Language Art

Annual Public Meeting

BlueSky Charter School's annual public meeting and strategic plan review meeting was held on June 28, 2023 at BlueSky's office located at 2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite #500, Bloomington, MN 55425. The [agenda](#) for the Annual Strategic Planning/WBWF meeting can be found on our website.

World's Best Workforce District Advisory Committee

BlueSky Charter School's District Advisory Committee and Curriculum Committee members for 2022-2023 were as follows.

Amee Wittbrodt: Teacher/Instructional Designer
 Amy Larsen: Administrator
 Bonnie Jude: Special Education Teacher
 Bradley Wolfe: Community/Board Member
 Brenda Ritter: Instructional Designer/Staff Development Committee Chair
 Carla Ahrenstorff: Teacher
 Carla Anderson-Diekmann: Counselor
 Cayla Rother: School Social Worker
 Daniel Ondich: Principal
 Darren Sonenstahl: Teacher
 Emily Kreklau: Teacher
 Eric Bakken: Social Studies Teacher
 Erin Winchell: Teacher
 Gabra Lokken: Business Teacher
 Heidi Kelbel: Teacher/Board Member
 Jim Stocco: Community/Board Member
 Judy Pekarek: Community/Board Member
 Kim Pike: Technology Implementation Specialist
 Julie Johnson: Teacher/Board Member
 Mandy Kasowicz: Special Education Director
 Matthew Schempp: Teacher/Board Member/Curriculum Committee Chair
 Sandra Meinerts: Parent/Board Member
 Suzy Bordeau: Teacher/EL Coordinator

BlueSky's Academic Goals & Performance

During the 2022-23 school year, BlueSky established academic SMART goals to meet identified needs. These goals align with BlueSky's World's Best Workforce Plan to close the achievement gap, prepare students for college & career readiness and improve graduation rates for all students. Specific attention and focus was given to improving reading performance through BlueSky's established Q-Comp program. Through Q-Comp, professional learning communities were utilized to develop and implement reading instruction and support strategies to meet the needs of all students. Existing math and reading intervention programs were refined to provide help to students identified as needing additional support. Under Minnesota's North Star Accountability System, BlueSky was identified for comprehensive supports based on our graduation rates and continued to work with the Regional Centers of Excellence to improve student outcomes. As part of BlueSky's required school improvement efforts, a districtwide social and emotional learning strategy was adopted to integrate SEL throughout all of BlueSky's curriculum and support services. BlueSky's academic goals and results are detailed in the following section of this report.

BlueSky Charter School Goals, 2022-2023

Meet or Exceed National Growth Norms - Students At or Above Grade Level

BlueSky uses the Renaissance Star Student Growth Percentile (SGP) to measure student growth compared to national norms. This measure allows us to see how BlueSky students on average compare to other similar performing students across the country. An average school would have 50% of their students meeting 50 SGP and 50% of their students not meeting 50 SGP.

Goal	Result	Goal Status
1. 50% or more of students in grades 7-11 will have a Renaissance Star Math Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 50 or higher from fall to spring.	1. Mathematics Results: During the 2022-23 school year 55.3% of students met their Renaissance Star Math SGP of 50 or higher.	Goal Met
2. 50% or more of students in grades 7-11 will have a Renaissance Star Reading Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 50 or higher from fall to spring.	2. Reading Results: During the 2022-23 school year 57.4% of students met their Renaissance Star Reading SGP of 50 or higher.	Goal Met

Meet or Exceed State Assessment Achievement Goals

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>Exceeding Statewide MCA Proficiency Rates - All Students</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The MCA math proficiency of all 5th - 8th grade students meeting the enrollment criteria will have a percentile change of 0.1 or more compared to state rate of change. The MCA reading proficiency of all 5th - 8th grade students meeting the enrollment criteria will have a percentile change of 0.1 or more compared to the state rate of change. 	<p>1. Mathematics Results:</p> <p>BlueSky's 2022-23 percentile change was 0.23 higher than the state change.</p> <p>2. Reading Results:</p> <p>BlueSky's 2022-23 percentile change was 9.14 lower than the state change.</p>	<p><i>Goal Met</i></p> <p><i>Goal Not Met</i></p>

Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>The passing rate of full time students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) will change by 0.5 or more percentage points from the previous school year or exceed 80%.</i></p>	<p>The goal was met with an 84% passing rate for students that qualify for FRL.</p>	<p><i>Goal Met</i></p>

21st Century Skills

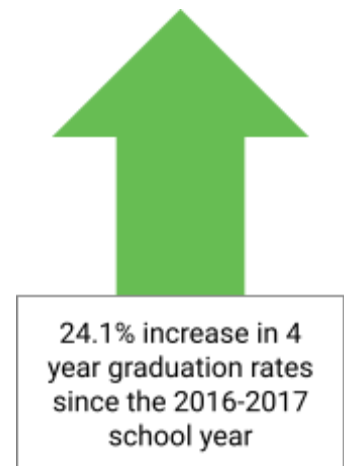
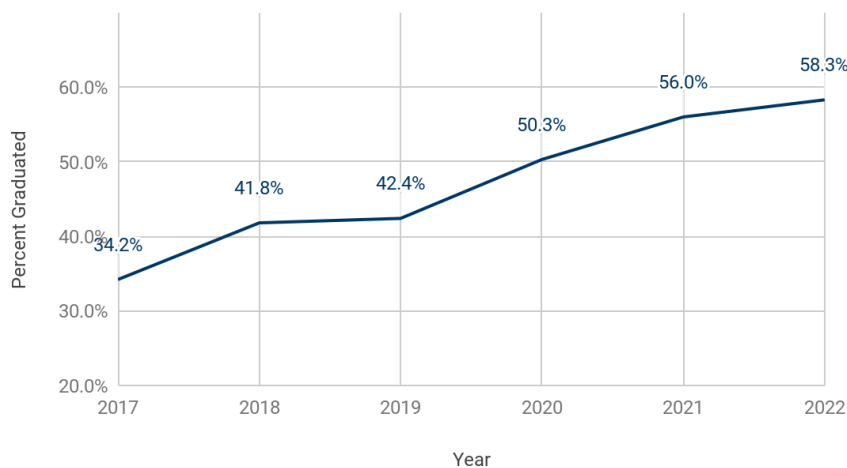
Goal	Result	Goal Status
<i>Each year, the number of 9th grade students enrolled by Oct. 1 who score 70% or higher on the 6+1 Traits of Writing rubric will increase by 1.5% or more from the previous year or exceed 85%.</i>	The goal was met with 83.0% of all students meeting criteria. This was an increase of 14.6% from the previous year.	<i>Goal Met</i>

All Students Graduate

Goal	Result	Goal Status
The number of current year 12th grade on track students enrolled by Oct. 1st of their senior year will graduate at a rate of 0.1% or more from the previous year or exceed 78%.	The goal was met with 89.4% graduating.	<i>Goal Met</i>

BlueSky's overall graduation rates have consistently improved over the past six years, with a 24.1% increase in 4-year graduation rates.

Graduation Rate Trend



All Students Career and College-Ready by Graduation

Goal	Result	Goal Status
The number of 9-12 students enrolled by Oct. 1 through the end of the school year that complete 60% or more of their grade level Required Career Portfolio will change 0.5% or more from the previous year or exceed 80%.	The goal was met with 85.5% of all students completing 60% or more of their grade level Required Career Portfolio.	Goal Met

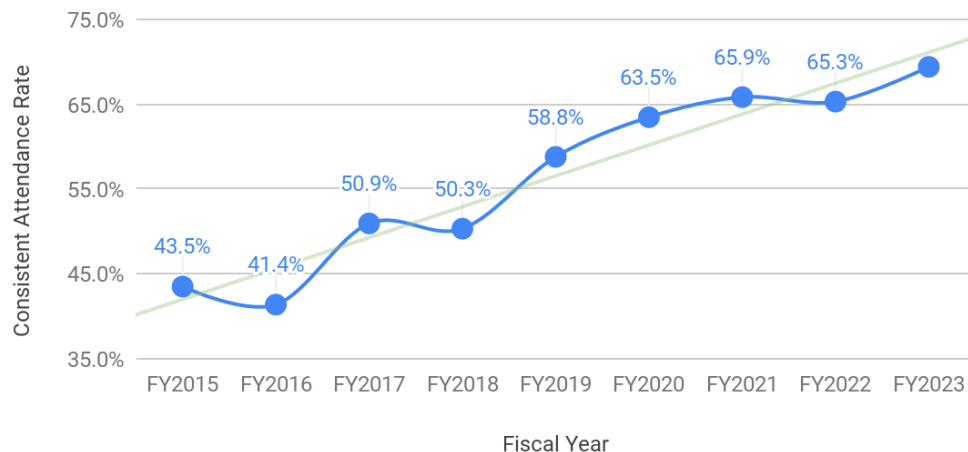
Attendance Rate

Attendance at BlueSky is measured by assignments submitted during the course of the school week. At a minimum, a student must submit an average of 15 assignments during a 5 day school week. Every three assignments students turn in counts as one day in attendance for that week.

A critical measure and predictor of student success is consistent attendance. A student is considered to have consistent attendance if they maintain 90% attendance or better.

Goal	Result	Goal Status
BlueSky's consistent attendance (number of students with 90% attendance or better) will exceed 51.1% each year.	During the 2022-23 school year BlueSky's consistent attendance rate was 69.4%.	Goal Met

Consistent Attendance Rate by Fiscal Year



Social Emotional Learning

Goal	Result	Goal Status
Each year, the number of 8th grade students who score 70% or higher on the common SEL Assessment will increase by 1.5% or more from the previous year or exceed 60%.	The goal was met with 72.3% of all students meeting criteria.	<i>Goal Met</i>

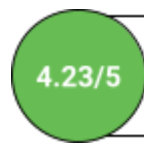
School Climate - Parent & Student Satisfaction

During 2022-23 BlueSky conducted the AdvancED student and parent survey.

Goal	Result	Goal Status
1. BlueSky's average Cognia student satisfaction score is 3.6 or higher during the 2022-23 school year.	Student Results: Overall Score = 4.23 (network average was 3.62)	<i>Goal Met</i>
2. BlueSky's average Cognia parent satisfaction score is 3.6 or more during the 2022-23 school year.	Parent Results: Overall Score = 4.42 (network average was 4.04)	<i>Goal Met</i>



Average parent satisfaction survey rating for BlueSky

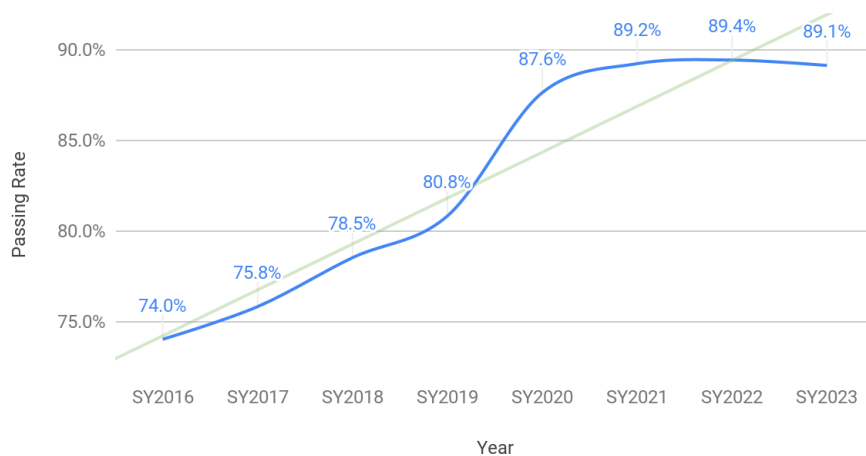


Average student satisfaction survey rating for BlueSky

Course Passing Rates

Goal	Result	Goal Status
The overall course passing rate for the 2022-23 school year will improve by 0.2% or exceed 90.0%.	The goal was not met with an 89.1% overall passing.	<i>Goal Not Met</i>

BlueSky Annual Course Passing Rate



**15.4% increase in
course passing rates
since the 2015-2016
school year**

School Improvement Plan Priorities

Each year All IQS schools are required to create a school improvement plan based on identified areas of need for each of the score card areas which includes mission, governance, finance, performance, and operations.

BlueSky was identified as a priority needs school by the Minnesota Department of Education for a low graduation rate. We are continuing work with the Regional Centers of Excellence to implement SEL for all students. Students in grades 6-8 are utilizing the Character Strong curriculum in their daily (M-Th) advisory class. All 9th grade students participated in a live advisory class twice per week utilizing the Yale RULER curriculum. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year BlueSky will begin working with the Regional Centers of Excellence, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement to begin updating our Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to align with the new MnMTSS model.

All staff continued to participate in SEL professional development as part of BlueSky's compassionate school initiative. This training included utilizing tools in Yale's RULER program and embedding SEL within our curriculum in all content areas. For the 2022-23 school year PLCs focused on embedding Responsible Decision Making, Self-Management, Self-Awareness, Self-Management, and Relationship Skills within their curriculum or support systems.

Leadership and staff also looked at data to improve early identification criteria in order to be more responsive and preventative to student needs. As part of this process, referral systems were streamlined and monitored.

Two factors were identified as contributing to our low MCA reading proficiency. First, student participation rates ranged between 53% and 79% depending on the grade level. Improved scheduling and clear communication of expectations will be enacted to support participation. Second, many students who were not proficient in reading enrolled at BlueSky well below grade level. Continued work to implement MnMTSS and establish early identification criteria and support will be put into place to quickly address academic needs.

Finances

2021-22 Audit Summary

A Management Report and Financial Statements and Supplemental Information report were prepared in conjunction with MMKR's audit of BlueSky Charter School, Inc.'s financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2022. Some of the items listed in that report are as follows:

AUDIT OPINION AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the School's financial statements for the year ended June, 30, 2022:

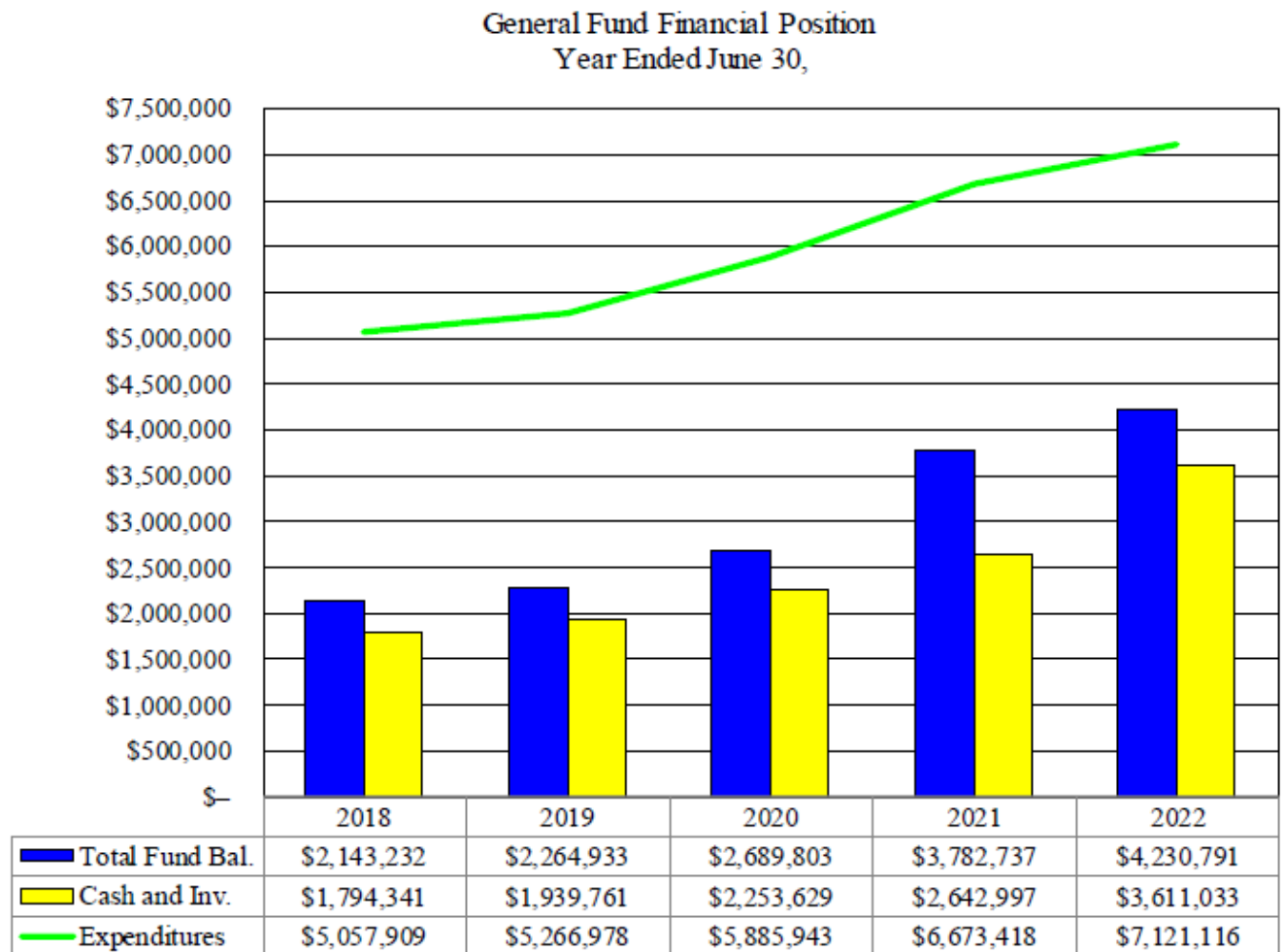
- We have issued an unmodified opinion on the School's basic financial statements.
- We reported no deficiencies in the School's internal control over financial reporting that we considered to be material weaknesses.
- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.
- We reported one finding based on our testing of the School's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations. Minnesota Statutes require that if the School's deposits exceed federal deposit insurance coverage, excess deposits must be covered by corporate surety bonds or collateral that has a market value of at least 110 percent of such excess. This requirement was not met for the School's depository at year-end.

GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

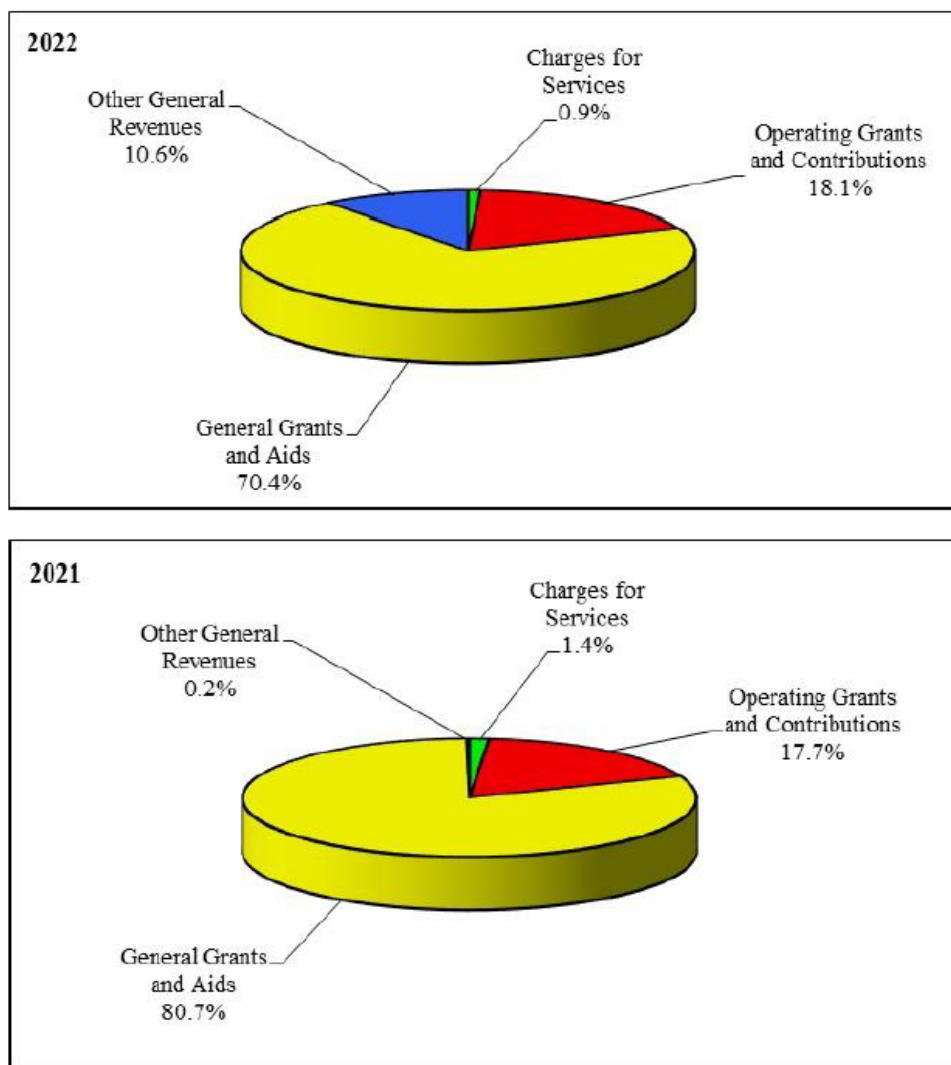
The total fund balance of the School's General Fund increased \$448,054 from the prior year, compared to a fund balance decrease of \$8,761 projected in the final budget. The General Fund cash and investments balance increased \$968,036 from the prior year.

Unassigned fund balance as a percentage of expenditures is one key measure of a school's financial health. The resources represented by this fund balance are critical to a school's ability to maintain adequate cash flow throughout the year, to retain its programs, and to cushion against the impact of unexpected costs or

funding shortfalls. The General Fund unassigned fund balance of \$3,883,585 represented 54.5 percent of annual expenditures based on 2022 expenditure levels. This ratio was 46.5 percent at the end of fiscal 2021.



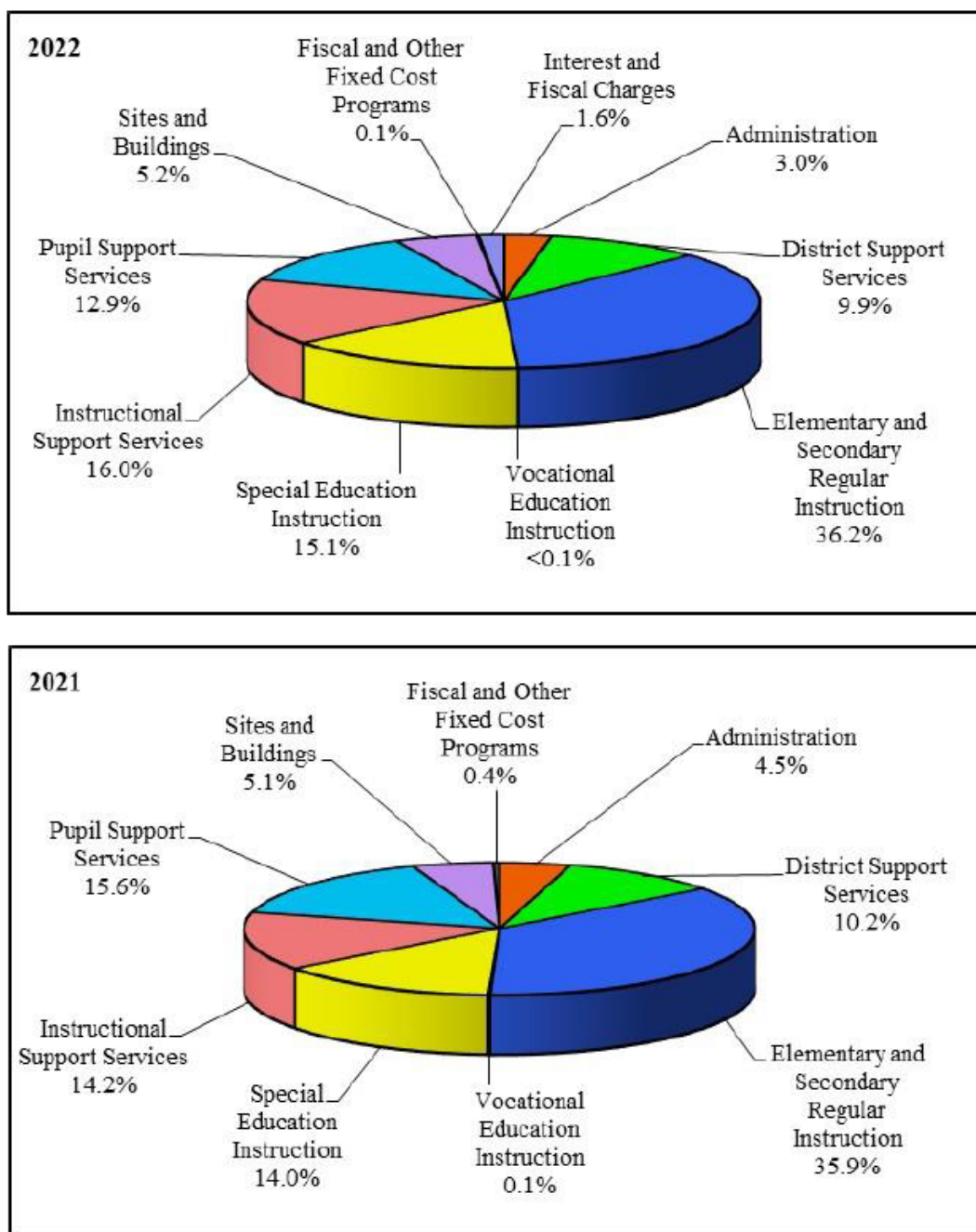
SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2021

Figure A – Sources of Revenue for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2021

The largest share of the School's revenue is received from the state, including most of the operating and general grants. This significant reliance on the state for funding has placed pressures on charter school budgets as funding increases have generally not kept pace with inflation.

Enrollment continues to be the largest influence on the School's revenue. The School's enrollment - an adjusted average daily membership (ADM) of 576 for the year, reflected an increase of 13 ADM from the prior year. The School's total governmental activity revenues were \$8,410,192 for the year ended June 30, 2022, which is an increase of \$1,503,589 from the prior year. Operating grants and contributions increased by \$346,197 as the School earned more state aid for general education, due to the increase in enrollment and enhanced funding, and several new federal grants in fiscal 2022 related to the pandemic. The PPP loan received by the School in the prior year was forgiven in the current year. This increased general revenues by \$870,430.

EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2021

Figure B – Expenses for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2021

The School's expenses are predominantly related to educating students. Programs (or functions) such as regular instruction, vocational education instruction, special education instruction, and instructional support services are directly related to classroom instruction, while the rest of the programs support instruction and other necessary costs to operate the School.

The School's cost of all governmental activities for 2022 was \$7,109,156, which is an increase of \$26,788 (0.4 percent) from the prior year. The overall increase in expenses was mainly attributable to additional staffing and other costs necessary to serve the School's increased enrollment, offset by changes in the pension expense allocated to the School from the state-wide PERA and TRA pension plans.

BlueSky has maintained the necessary resources to accomplish the mission and has appropriately planned for and expanded using sound business practices. BlueSky maintains a healthy fund balance and continues to be fiscally responsible. This is evidenced by BlueSky receiving a composite score of 4.0 out of 4 on our FY22 annual authorizer review (Innovative Quality Schools).

Future Plans

BlueSky Charter School's strategic plan outlines five focus areas that support the vision and mission of the school; Student Success, Finance & Governance, High Performing Workforce, Technology, and Community Partnerships. BlueSky's leadership team oversees the development and implementation of goals, objectives, and benchmarks that fall under each of these focus areas. A list and description of some of those future objectives and benchmarks are listed below in order of their strategic plan focus area.

Student Success

- Support more students with mental health needs through a tiered service delivery model in the social work department.
- Complete MnMTSS training and an MnMTSS plan with support from MDE, CAREI, and the Regional Centers of Excellence.
- Improved use of student assessment scores to guide instruction and individualized support.
- Continued focus on implementation of Social and Emotional Learning standards within existing curriculum.
- Continue creating assessment measures of all SEL standards to identify student proficiency.
- Incorporate inquiry based learning throughout the curriculum.
- Continue to increase opportunities for students to interact socially by providing field trips, onsite days and other student activities.
- Improve student access to technology including devices, internet, and software applications.
- Implement a common end of course student survey.
- Improvements to the Required Career Portfolio (RCP) through the use of MCIS 360.

High Performing Workforce

- Review HR policies related to staff benefits to identify areas of improvement.
- Update the licensed staff steps and lanes schedule.
- Continue providing in house professional development opportunities aligned to BlueSky's strategic goals and licensure requirements.
- Compassionate School Training for Staff who have been at BlueSky for less than 3 years, facilitated by social workers.
- Aligning Q-Comp observation and coaching to compassionate schools training.

- Create opportunities to recognize staff who go above and beyond.
- Continue to refine substitute teacher processes for covering staff who request time off.
- Provide professional development aligned to strategic goals including inquiry based learning, PBIS, homelessness, child labor laws, DEI, tier 1 interventions, and required relicensure areas.
- Revise the staff summative evaluation and communication expectations.

Technology

- Continue implementation of BlueSky's [Technology Strategic Plan](#).
- Implement staff and student device management through Intune and Splashtop.
- Adapt student device procurement processes to facilitate cost effective device distribution and management.
- Deploy a new student Academic Snapshot with improved user functionality.
- Release Moodle update and theme change.
- Implementation of the EdFi system for MARSS submissions.
- Continued improvements to security protocols.
- Improvements to document organization and management.

Community Partnerships

- Seek opportunities to collaborate with other charter schools and districts to enhance student learning i.e. provide courses not offered at the local school.
- Seek opportunities to share best practices with others by presenting at conferences.
- Continue working with IQS and the NGAPS pilot in an effort to promote alternative assessment options.
- Continue involvement with MSBA, MACS and other education related organizations to keep current with legislative activity and provide input when needed.
- Work with marketing vendors to develop content for our website, social media, and blog in an effort to share BlueSky student stories.
- Continue to collaborate with MSHSL and other school districts to support student athletics.
- Continue work with the Regional Centers of Excellence and CAREI in an effort to improve graduation rates and student intervention programs.
- Improve use of translated documents when partnering with parents and community resources.
- Expand school sponsored events and activities.
- Implement student lettering opportunities.

Finance and Governance

- Maintain a healthy fund balance while providing adequate resources so the strategic plan supports BlueSky students and the school's mission.
- Build relationships with other charter schools by providing them with tuition agreement opportunities for 6-12th grade students.
- Facilitate the application and spending of CARES funding with a focus on mental health support, technology support and PPE.
- Additional revenue sources by applying for existing grants.
- Maintain budget by monitoring increased enrollment cap.

- Review and update bylaws as necessary.
- Implement new HR-Staff and HR-Admin shared drives to better organize and facilitate HR processes.

2022-2023 Annual Report Prepared by:

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Approved by BlueSky's Board of Directors on November 29, 2023

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