



# **BLUESKY ONLINE** *The School Designed for You*



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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.

### Authorizer Information

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## Purpose of BlueSky Charter School

A charter school must identify the purposes it will address in the charter contract and document the implementation of those purposes in the school's annual report. Documentation of the implementation of those purposes shall be a component of the authorizer's performance review of the school.

BlueSky School serves students in grades 6-12 and provides them with:

- a) A safe place to learn and grow while being provided a compassionate, and individualized learning opportunity that addresses their academics and also their emotional and social needs;
- b) Caring adults who have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and innovative instruction models that best meets the needs of their students;
- c) With holistic student support by providing each student with a counselor, social worker, and advisor;
- d) Small class environments that assures each student will receive individualized attention and assistance; an innovative model of online learning and flexible scheduling that is consistent with its vision and mission.



## 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, or age 22 for students with special education services.

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 and not in special education.



## 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

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

- Ongoing staff training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and trauma informed best practices since 2016.
- Collaboration with Regional Centers of Excellence (now Brightworks) 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

## 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 1:100, 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 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.
- Full-time 504 Coordinator to provide support to students and staff
- Revising MTSS to align with MnMTSS. MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Supports) model incorporated with specific Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 interventions and referral processes.
- Own It!, a motivational and goal setting program, used as an intervention for BlueSky students demonstrating lack of engagement.
- 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 homeroom advisory course.
- The Middle school counselors provide career and organizational lessons through the synchronous homeroom advisory course.
- 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, 9th and 10 grade 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 available to support students academically with math coursework.
- Laptops and/or hotspots provided to students in need.
- Tier 1 committee meets bimonthly 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.
- 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.
- First online Career Day. featuring diverse career clusters into wide range of professional paths

## Community Building

- Academic snapshots and enhanced dashboard options for parents and students to monitor progress.
- Face to face conferences in the Fall.
- Opportunities for virtual and onsite social events and field trips.
- Publication of BlueSky's first annual yearbook.
- 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).

- E-Sports State Championship participants. Teams won first and second place in various team categories.

## 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.

BlueSky received the 2024-2025 Innovation Award from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools for our innovative approach to supporting students with mental health concerns. This award provides recognition for our online mental health course offerings and our tiered social work service model that is provided to every student. You can view the video highlighting our program by clicking on the link below.

 [BlueSky's Innovative Approach to Mental Health](#)

## 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

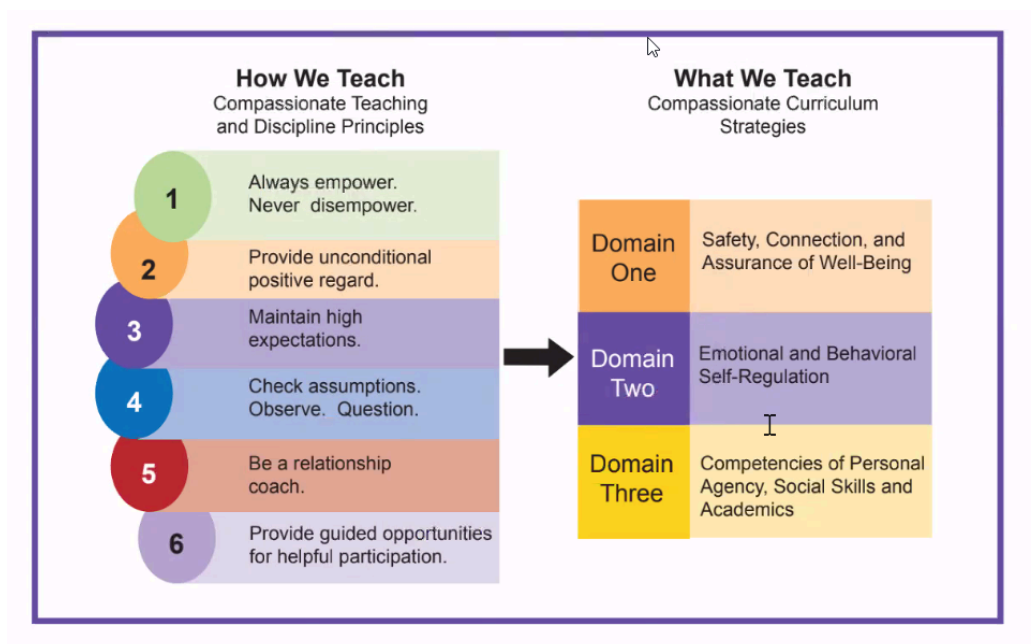
As a three year initiative starting in the 2016-17 school year, the social work team developed a strategic plan to become a compassionate school. The first year training was implemented for our social work staff. In the 2017-18 school year the social work staff provided training to all staff in trauma 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 2024-2025 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.

[Minnesota Department of Education: Social Emotional Learning](#)

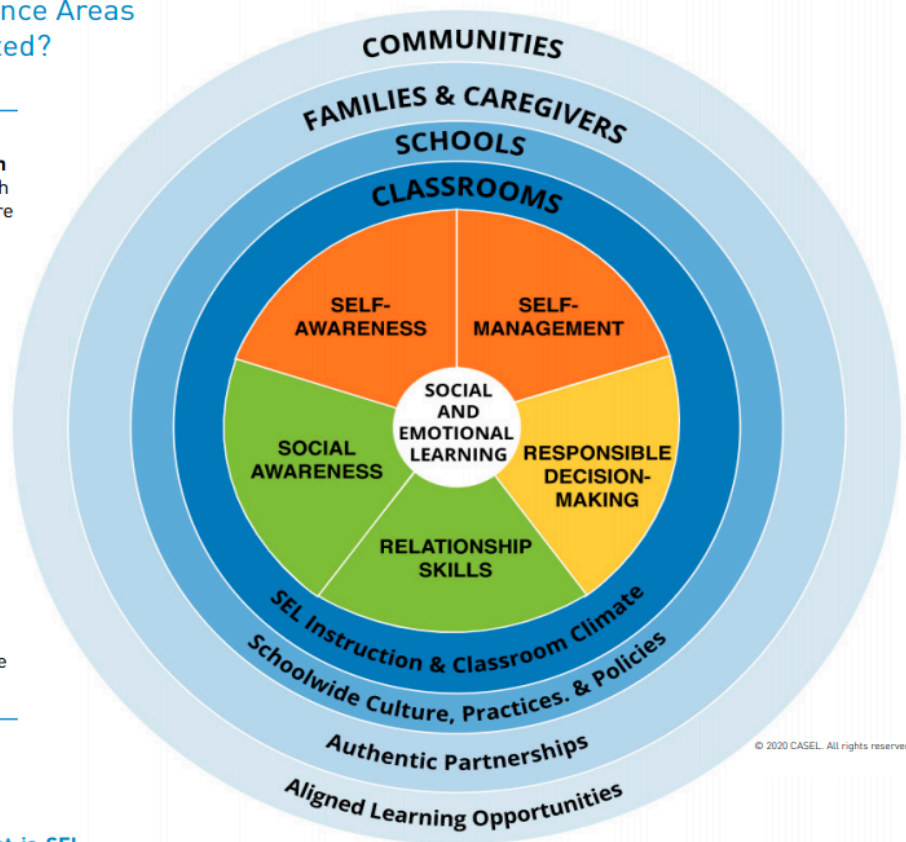
BlueSky uses the CASEL SEL Framework. Over the course of the past four years, BlueSky has and continues to incorporate and embed the five SEL core competency areas into curriculum. In 2020-2021 BlueSky focused on incorporating Responsible Decision Making, in 2021-2022 the focus was Self-Awareness and Self-Management, and currently in 2023-2024 Social Awareness and Relationship Skills were prioritized. 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.



Learn more: [www.casel.org/what-is-SEL](http://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, 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 articulation agreements and the statewide PSEO program.

## Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness

BlueSky's strategic plan is updated to include Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness objectives with the intent of providing our students with a successful post-secondary or career transition after graduation. The focus on student readiness planning 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 college and 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, 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 students received the career academy green cord this year; with some of the students completing requirements in 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. 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.



During the 2024-25 school year, eight students participated in BlueSky's chapter of NHS. Highlights include creating the school yearbook, hosting two spirit weeks, gathering student body feedback on BlueSky's mission and vision statements, helping with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities, and creating and donating blankets for Bridging Home. Beyond the school community projects, students completed a variety of individual service projects.

## 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 two virtual activity days as well as three virtual assemblies;



Indigenous Peoples Day, Veteran's Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. During the virtual activity days, students had an opportunity to participate in a variety of games and activities. During the all school assemblies, students and parents have the opportunity to learn more about why we celebrate these federal holidays. BlueSky also offers virtual orientation sessions for new students, college and career planning sessions (including FAFSA), transitioning to high school session for 8th graders and their families, among many other virtual opportunities for parents to engage.

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 and activities included; Do Rad Things professional skateboarder lead skateboard deck decorating, Wildlife Science Center, two middle school meet ups with scheduled activities including team sports, Can Can Wonderland, Ojibwe shoulder bag art project, Sea Life Aquarium, Minneapolis Federal Reserve, Forestview Planetarium, Pal-entines party, Voice of the People, Mill City Museum, and additional summer field trips.

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, Twitch, 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 2024-25 school year, 56 parents took the time to reflect on their student's school and provide BlueSky with an analysis of their sentiments. Likewise, 67 students participated in the student satisfaction survey. This data was used, in part, as a base for comparison and goal setting for the 2025-26 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 school calendar input, 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 Professional Development Committee is highly engaged and BlueSky is financially committed to ensuring all staff have the opportunity to participate in frequent training, 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 training 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."

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

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

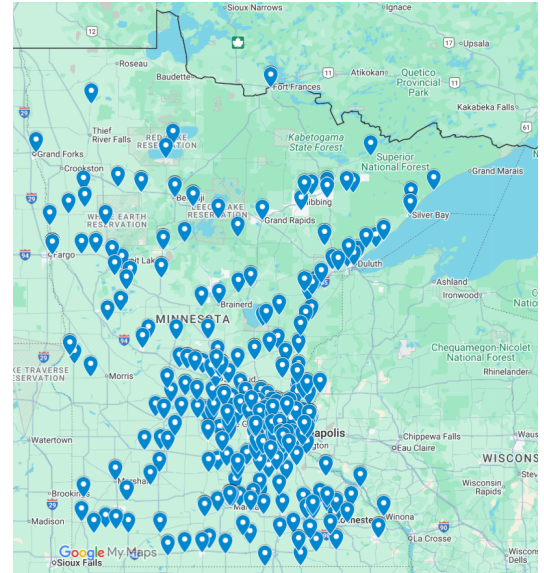
"There is no bullying. I feel welcome and appreciated."

# Student Enrollment, Attrition & Demographics

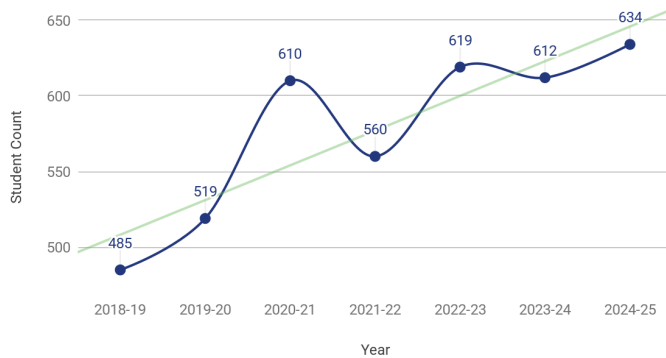
## Full Time School Enrollment

BlueSky’s enrollment on October 1, 2024 was 612 students. The average daily membership (ADM) for the 2024-25 school year was 613 students. BlueSky students come from all corners of the state with most students living in the Twin Cities metro area. ADM has been increasing over the past five years.

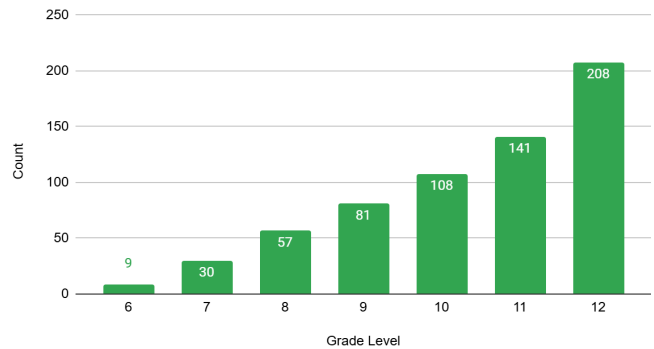
The graph below identify the number of students enrolled as of October 1st for the following school years: 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.



BlueSky Oct. 1 Enrollment Trend



Oct. 1 Grade Level Count by Grade Level

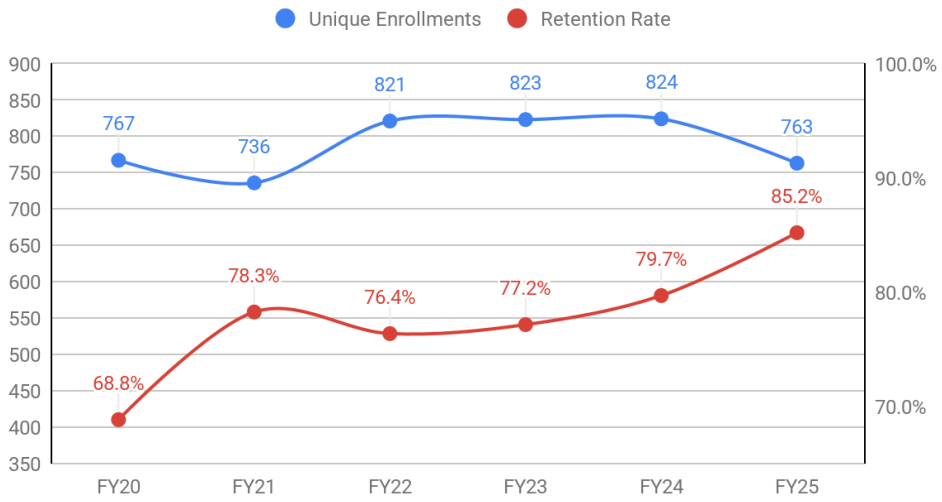


## Full Time Program Attrition

During the 2024-25 school year BlueSky had a maximum student capacity of 627. We started the year with 634 students on October 1st and ended the year with an average of 613.4 students (ADM). During the 2024-25 school year BlueSky enrolled a total of 763 unique full-time students. There were 650 students that either finished the school year or graduated giving BlueSky a 85.2% 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,

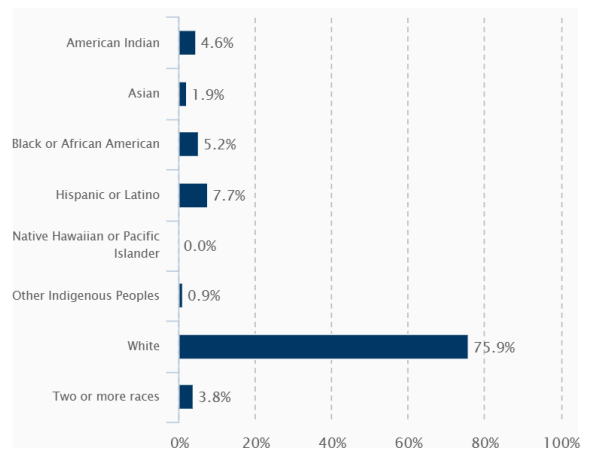
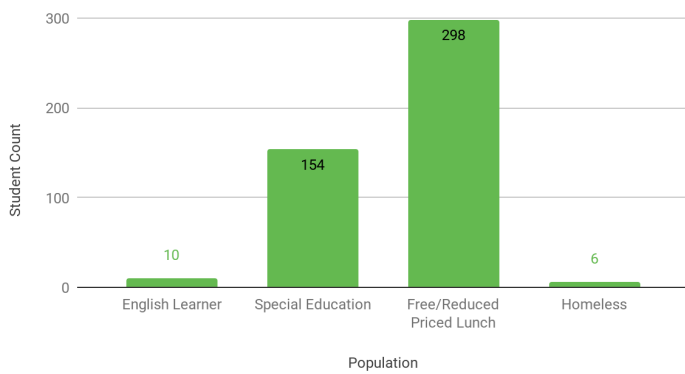
pregnancy, or mental health, with the expectation of returning to their home district once they are ready to return to a brick and mortar setting. Although we certainly want students to stay with us and graduate, we have embraced our role as a transition option for some students and are happy to provide whatever support we can while they are enrolled.

### BlueSky Student Attrition Trend



## Full Time Program Demographics

BlueSky 2024-25 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 2024-2025 school year, BlueSky had 149 supplemental students for Semester 1 and 174 supplemental students for Semester 2. These students came to us from 51 school districts across the state, and our supplemental team collaborated with 65 Minnesota counselors in support of their students' success. These students were enrolled in 504 courses throughout the school year (237 courses for Semester 1 and 267 courses for Semester 2), and passed 97% of these courses.

## Summer School

BlueSky also enrolls students in summer school. In the summer of 2025 BlueSky had 84 tuition based enrollments and 104 BlueSky student enrollments. 82 tuition based enrollments passed for a 96.5% passing rate. Out of the 104 BlueSky student enrollments, 81 passed their classes for a 77.8% passing rate. So out of all 188 summer enrollments, 163 students passed their classes for an overall summer passing rate of 86.7%. Additionally BlueSky had 2 summer school students who passed their classes and met the requirements for their MN diploma.





## Post-Secondary Agreements

BlueSky did not have any post-secondary tuition agreements during the 2024-25 school year.

## **Strategic Plan**



# BlueSky School Strategic Plan Focus Areas & Benchmarks

 Student Success	Finance & Governance	High Performing Workforce	Technology	Community Partnerships 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain a positive, compassionate, and culturally responsive schoolwide culture that encourages student growth in a positive learning environment.</li> <li>Empower all students to actively participate in planning for their continuous growth and lifelong success in ways that honor their unique strengths, identities, and aspirations.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for alternative pathways to learning through instructional and socio-emotional support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster a collaborative and transparent relationship between the Board and the Administrative team by regularly reporting progress and refining the strategic plan, school board bylaws, and policies required by law.</li> <li>Uphold fiscal responsibility through equitable budgeting practices that align resources with the school's mission and vision.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultivate a positive, compassionate, and culturally responsive schoolwide culture that encourages professional growth in a collaborative and inclusive environment where all stakeholders (students, families, educators, and community members) are valued and supported.</li> <li>Recruit, hire, and retain highly qualified and diverse staff.</li> <li>Strengthen staff practice in the equitable evaluation, interpretation, and use of data for effective decision making that aligns with curriculum, instruction, interventions, and assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt equitable and inclusive technologies that positively impact access, accessibility, and achievement for all stakeholders.</li> <li>Identify, develop, and implement emerging technologies that facilitate, support, and enhance instructional success while addressing diverse learning needs and safeguarding stakeholder data.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and strengthen meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders to ensure engagement in continuous improvement processes that create equitable opportunities for student success.</li> <li>Collaborate with the Minnesota educational community to share expertise and resources that cultivate partnerships to support diverse learners across the state.</li> </ul>

## 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 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness/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. At this year's strategic planning session, the BlueSky board updated the strategic plan benchmark statements to include language related to diversity and equity.

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 ten years in a row.

During the 2023-2024 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 2026

### **Jim Stocco**

Board Chair

Community Member, 2024-2026

651.235.3853

[jim.stocco@blueskyschool.org](mailto:jim.stocco@blueskyschool.org)

### **Matthew Schempp**

Vice Chair, Teacher Member,

2023-2025

651.202.2065

[matthew.schempp@blueskyschool.org](mailto:matthew.schempp@blueskyschool.org)

### **Julie Johnson**

Secretary

Teacher Member, 2024-2026

651.202.2055

[julie.johnson@blueskyschool.org](mailto:julie.johnson@blueskyschool.org)



**Judy Pekarek**

Treasurer  
 Community Member, 2023-2025  
 612.236.4194  
[judypek@hotmail.com](mailto:judypek@hotmail.com)

**Kelsey Waits**

Parent Member, 2024-2026  
 651.703-2055  
[kelsey.waits@blueskyschool.org](mailto:kelsey.waits@blueskyschool.org)

**Heidi Kelbel**

Teacher Member, 2024-2026  
 651.202.2049  
[heidi.kelbel@blueskyschool.org](mailto:heidi.kelbel@blueskyschool.org)

**Allen Charles**

Community Member, 2023-2025  
 612-600-2286  
[allen.charles@blueskyschool.org](mailto: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 8/2/24	6/21/16 8/2/24	6/14/16 8/2/24	Data Privacy training <i>Indigo</i> 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; IQS Good Governance Training-Virtual Board Mtgs & Board Supervision 2/5/24, IQS Board Training 8/2/24

Julie Johnson	10/6/12 8/2/24	10/6/12; 7/29/15, 8/2/24	10/6/12; 7/29/15, 8/2/24	Data Privacy training <i>Indigo</i> 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; IQS Good Governance Training-Virtual Board Mtgs & Board Supervision 2/24/24, IQS Board Training 8/2/24
Kelsey Waits	8/2/24	8/2/24	8/2/24	IQS Board Training 8/2/24
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; IQS Good Governance Training-Budgeting 3/11/24, IQS Leadership Training 4/10/25
Matthew Schempp	2/19/16; 8/2/24	7/29/15; 8/2/24	7/29/15; 6/11/15; 8/2/24	Data Privacy training <i>Indigo</i> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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; IQS Good Governance Training-Virtual Board Mtgs & Board Supervision 2/27/24, IQS Board Training 8/2/24
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; IQS Good Governance Training-Virtual Board Mtgs & Board Supervision 2/23/24; School Law Conference (Ratwick) 11/8/24; Legal Impacts on Charter Schools 3/26/25; IQS Leadership Mtg 4/10/25
Allen Charles	8/10/23	8/10/23	8/10/23	MSBA Charter Board Training; IQS Good Governance Training-Virtual Board Mtgs & Board Supervision 3/2/24; MDE/MACS Data Practices & Open Mtg Law 11/15/24

## Superintendent Professional Development/Training

Below is a list of 24-25 staff development/training that Amy Larsen participated in. The list is not exhaustive, but is reflected as a summary:

- MNOLA/MDE Online Learning Summit
- IQS Innovation Conference and Board Training
- MDE/MASA Back to School Conference
- Back to School BlueSky Staff Retreat
- MnMTSS Training Sessions - Cohort
- Squires, Waldspurger, and Mace School Law Conference
- SMART HR training
- Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney School Law Seminar
- MACS (MN Association of Charter Schools) Leadership Trainings, Public Policy Trainings, and Annual Meeting
- READ Act Trainings
- CPR Training
- MDE Data Practices & Open Meeting Law training
- MDE Ed-Fi training
- Weekly staff development trainings (including a variety of topics; i.e. cyber security, data privacy, instructional strategies, crisis management, technology/software trainings)

- Special Education Accommodations Training
- Equity and Inclusion onsite training
- Kraus-Anderson employee benefit legislative changes

## Annual Assessment of School Board's Performance

BlueSky's Board of Directors conducted an annual assessment during the 2024-2025 school year. The findings can be found on the [BlueSky Charter School Board Performance Assessment](#) form which includes a summary of areas of strength and areas for improvement.

Strengths:

- Board membership, structure, and conduct are all areas of strength. Other areas of strength are the Board's oversight of finance and of student learning.

Areas of Improvement:

- The Board could benefit from a closer review and update of its bylaws, and a more structured self evaluation and training plan.

In addition, each board member participated in an individual assessment of board training needs. These responses were collected and reviewed by the Executive Director who works with each board member to obtain appropriate training throughout the year to address any areas needing improvement. These trainings are then recorded on BlueSky's Board Training Tracker spreadsheet.

## 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

Leslie Egner - HR Generalist

Christine Graupman - Administrative Assistant - Level 1

Ben Haensel -Technology Infrastructure Specialist

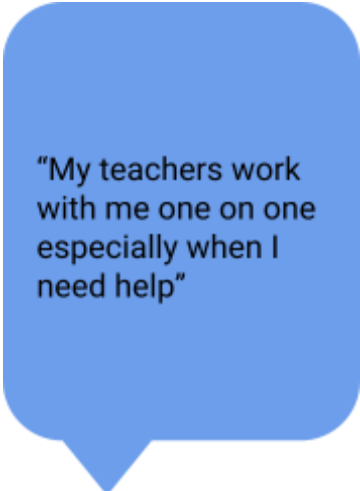
Heidi Housh - Supplemental Coordinator

Billie Johnson - Educational Assistant

Benoit Kabwar - Technology Support Specialist  
Elise Lahmann-Sharbonda - Education Assistant  
Christine McNabb - 504 Coordinator  
Sarah Miner - Administrative Assistant - Level 2  
John Mizeur - Registrar  
Xavier Ondich- Educational Assistant  
Sheila Pelowski - Educational Assistant  
Kim Pike - Technology Implementation Specialist  
Ben Jones - Student Information Specialist  
Brenda Ritter - Instructional Designer  
Danielle Sanders-School Operations Manager  
Emily Torvik - Retention and Orientation Coordinator  
Janette Willenbring - Supplemental Admin Assistant  
Amee Wittbrodt - Instructional Designer

## Support Staff

Jen Anderson - Counselor  
Carla Anderson-Diekmann - Counselor  
Grant Cameron - Counselor  
Hanna Coleman - Advisor  
Megan Andrews - Social Worker  
Cayla Rother - Social Worker  
Julie Endersbe - Advisor  
Danielle Fackler - Advisor  
Casie Hammel - Social Worker  
Abby Henderson - Advisor  
Chet Johnson - Advisor  
Rashel Lane - Middle School Counselor  
Dawn Mensing - Middle School Counselor  
Sean Miller - Advisor  
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"

Matthew Schempp - Q-Comp Coordinator

Alisa Snyder - Counselor

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

Pam Bagley-Special Education

David Bjorklund - Science

Suzy Bordeau - Social Studies/ELL

Sarah Bradley - Special Education

Gaia Buttweiler - Social Studies/ASL

Allison Ahonen - 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

Margo Hanson - Science

Abby Henderson – Art

Jodi Helder - Special Education

Chet Johnson - Social Studies

Julie Johnson - Science

Kelsey Janni - Special Education

Heidi Kelbel - Math

Sara Keller - Special Education

Molly Kinnamon - Language Arts

Emily Kreklau - Math

Leasa Kulm - Spanish & Welcome and Support

Gabra Lokken - Business

Amy Loney - 6th Grade Teacher

Rylee Martin - Language Arts

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

Bre Saba-Special Education

Samantha Savoie - Language Arts

Matthew Schempp - Language Arts

Anthony Shealy - Social Studies

Leah Sickmann - Science

Darren Sonenstahl - Math

Jaclyn Weber - Language Arts

James Weiberg - Math

Laura Welciek - Math

Erin Winchell - Music

Michelle Wilkinson - ASL

Amea Wittbrodt - Language Arts

## Annual Public Meeting

BlueSky Charter School's [annual public meeting](#) and board training was held on July 30, 2025 and its strategic plan review meeting was held on June 18, 2025 at BlueSky's district 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/Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness District Advisory Committee

BlueSky Charter School's District Advisory Committee and Curriculum Committee members for 2024-2025 were as follow:

Allen Charles: Community/Board Member

Amee Wittbrodt: Teacher/Instructional Designer

Amy Larsen: Administrator

Brenda Ritter: Instructional Designer

Carla Ahrenstorff: Teacher

Carla Anderson-Diekmann: Counselor

Cathy Parker: Student Services Director

Cayla Rother: School Social Worker

Daniel Ondich: Principal

Erin Winchell: 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

Laura Welciek: Teacher/Student Services Advisor

Mandy Kasowicz: Special Education Director

Matthew Schempp: Teacher/Board Member/Curriculum Committee Chair

Michelle Wilkinson: Teacher

Sam Savoie: Teacher

## BlueSky’s Academic Goals & Performance

During the 2024-25 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 math 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. In particular, we refined our reading intervention supports and screening processes to align with the Minnesota Read Act requirements. Under Minnesota’s North Star Accountability System, BlueSky was identified for comprehensive supports based on our graduation rates, and we continued to work with BrightWorks (formerly the Regional Centers of Excellence) to improve student outcomes. We shifted our focus from implementing SEL practices to sustaining these practices and began working on a new action plan to implement MnMTSS. BlueSky’s academic goals and results are detailed in the following section of this report.

### BlueSky Charter School Goals, 2024-2025

#### 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.	<b>1. Mathematics Results:</b>  During the 2024-25 school year 63.0% of students met their Renaissance Star Math SGP of 50 or	<i>Goal Met</i>



## 21st Century Skills

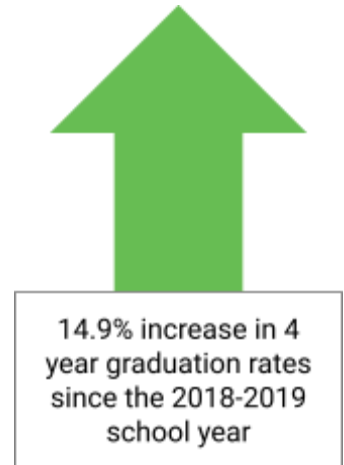
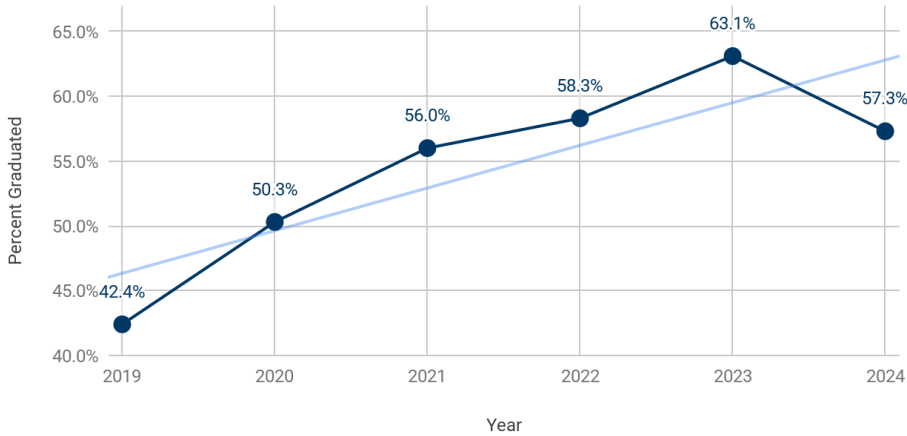
Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>Each year, the number of 9th grade students enrolled by Oct. 1 who score 70% or higher on the 6+1 Traits of Writing rubric will increase by 1.5% or more from the previous year or exceed 85%.</i></p>	<p>The goal was met with 79.7% of all students meeting criteria. The results for the previous year were 72.2%.</p>	<p><i>Goal Met</i></p>

## All Students Graduate

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>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%.</p>	<p>The goal was met with 93.3% graduating. The rate for the previous year was 85.0%.</p>	<p><i>Goal Met</i></p>

BlueSky’s overall graduation rates have consistently improved over the past six years, with a 14.9% 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 92.2% of all students completing 60% or more of their grade level Required Career Portfolio.	Goal Met

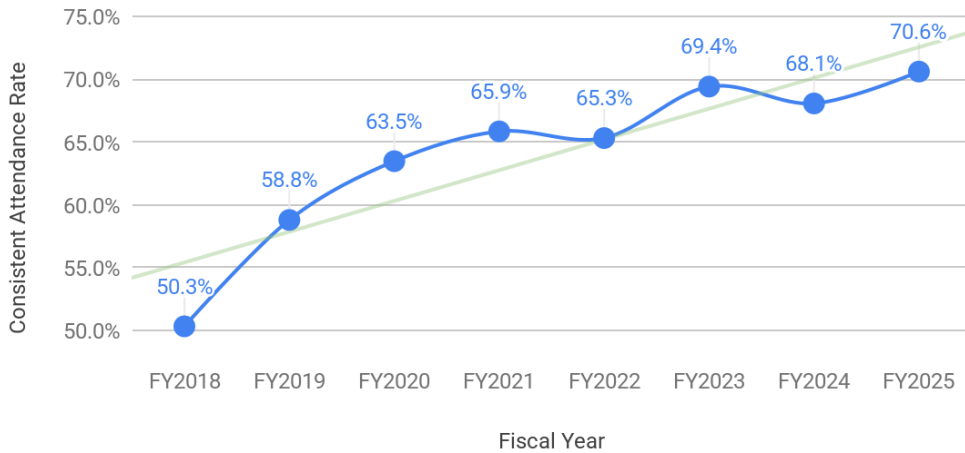
### Attendance Rate

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 2024-25 school year BlueSky's consistent attendance rate was 70.6%.	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 75.6% of all students meeting criteria.	Goal Met


### 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 2024-25 school year.	<b>Student Results:</b> Overall Score = 4.25	Goal Met
2. BlueSky's average Cognia parent satisfaction score is 3.6 or more during the 2024-25 school year.	<b>Parent Results:</b> Overall Score = 4.57	Goal Met



**Average parent satisfaction survey rating for BlueSky**

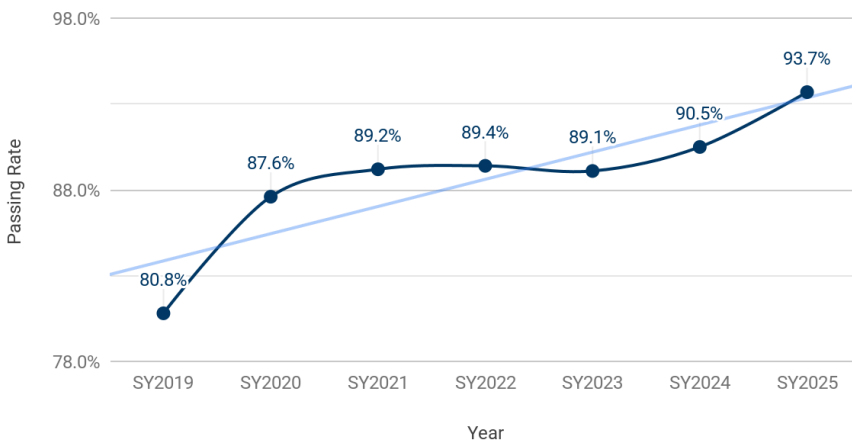



**Average student satisfaction survey rating for BlueSky**

### Course Passing Rates

Goal	Result	Goal Status
The overall course passing rate for the 2024-25 school year will improve by 0.2% or exceed 90.0%.	The goal was met with a 93.7% overall passing rate.	Goal Met

Course Passing Rate by Year

**12.9% increase in course passing rates since the 2018-2019 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 scorecard areas which includes mission, governance, finance, performance, and operations.

BlueSky was prioritized for comprehensive support by the Minnesota Department of Education because the four-year graduation rate was below 67 percent for all students. We are continuing work with BrightWorks (formerly 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. In the 2024-25 school year BlueSky will continue working with BrightWorks, 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

### 2023-24 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, 2024. 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, 2024:

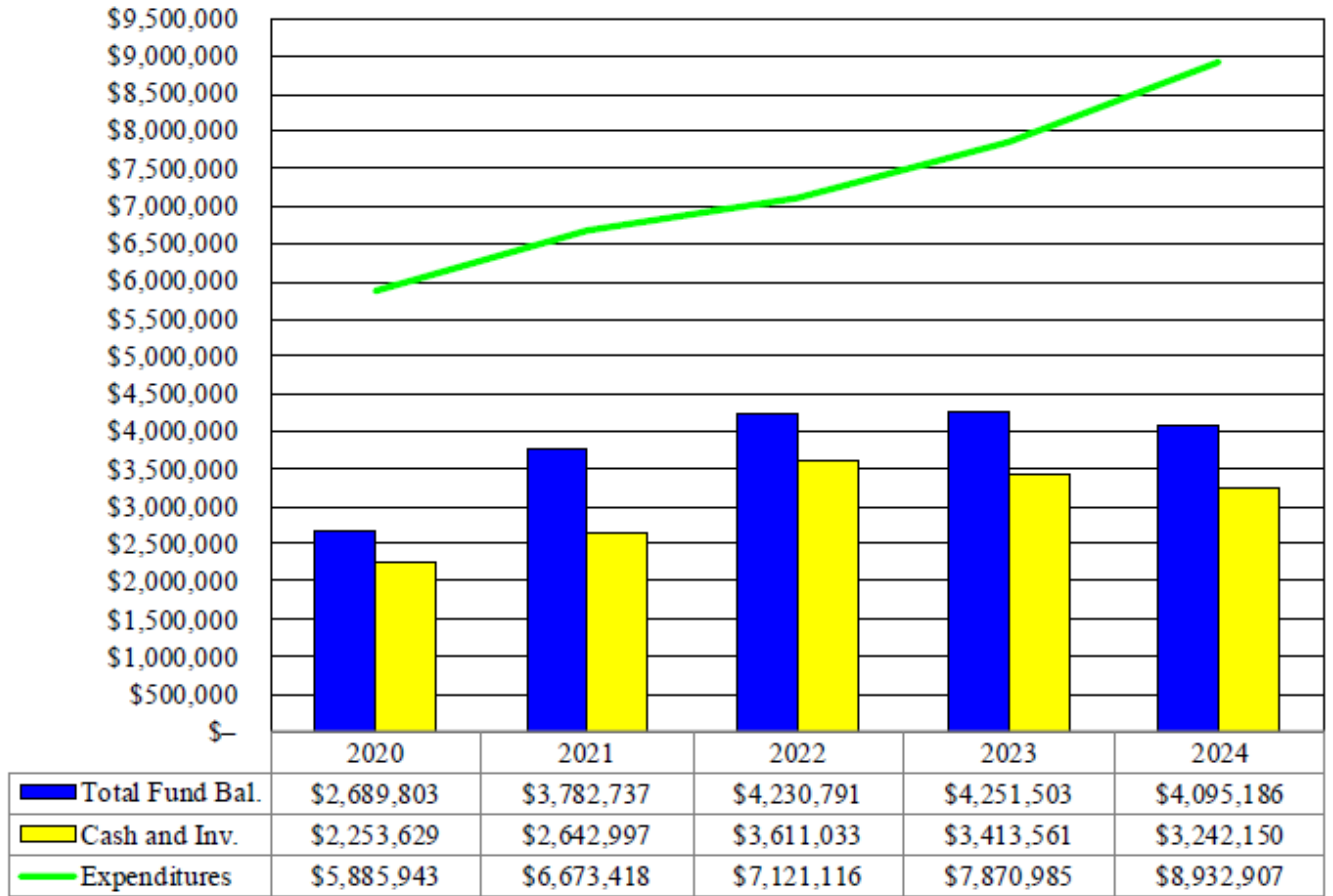
- We have issued an unmodified opinion on the School's basic financial statements.
- We reported no deficiencies in the School's internal control over financial reporting that we considered to be material weaknesses. It should be understood that internal controls are never perfected. The controls that protect the School from such things as fraud and accounting errors should be continually reviewed by the Board and management and modified as necessary to address perceived risks, segregate duties, and improve operational efficiency.
- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
- We reported no findings based on our testing of the School's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

## GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The total fund balance of the School's General Fund decreased \$156,317 from the prior year, compared to a fund balance decrease of \$987,868 projected in the final budget. The General Fund cash and investments balance decreased \$171,411 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 \$3,581,912 represented 40.1 percent of annual expenditures based on 2024 expenditure levels. This ratio was 47.0 percent at the end of fiscal 2023.

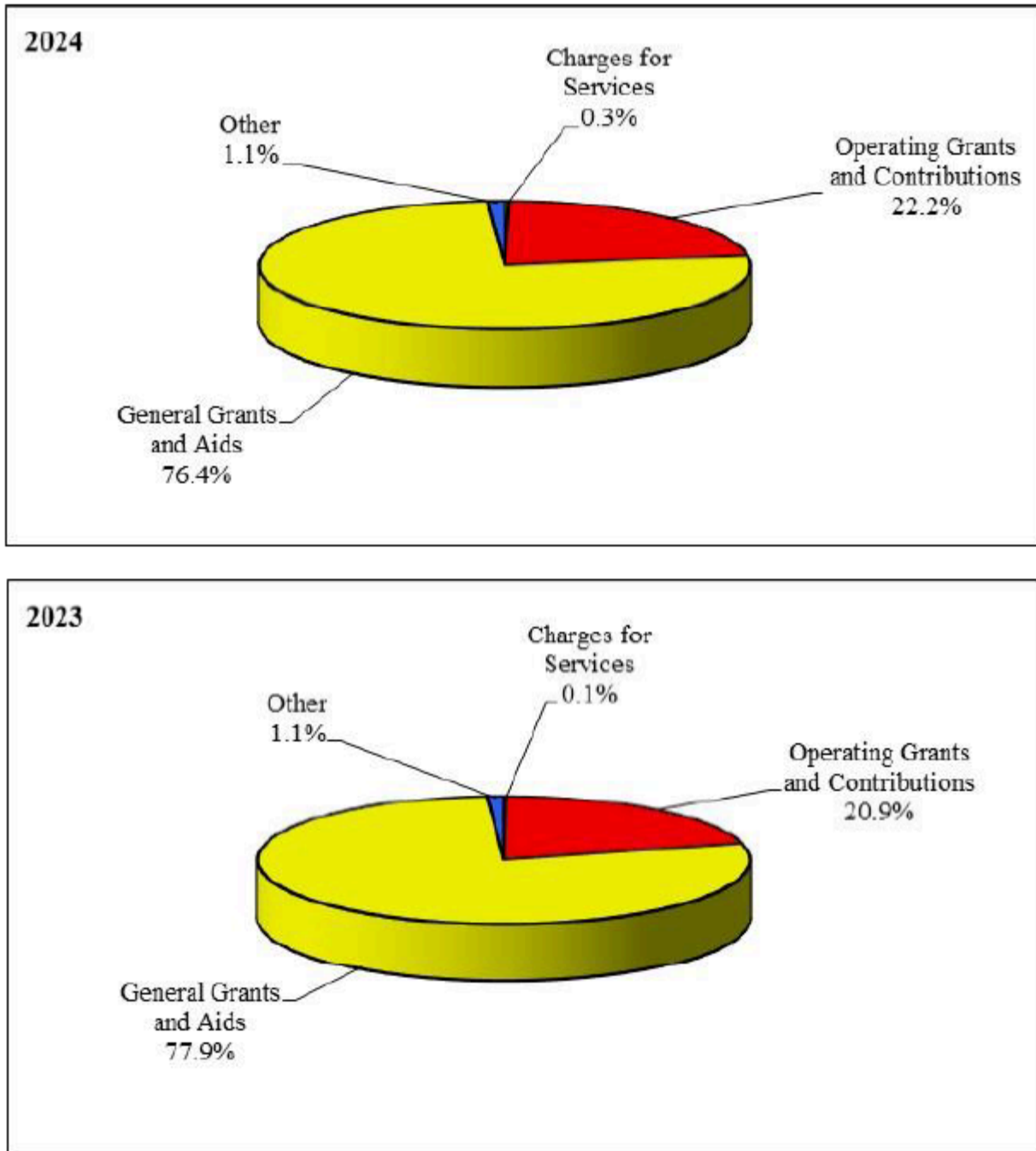
**General Fund Financial Position  
Year Ended June 30,**





SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2023

Figure A – Sources of Revenue for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023

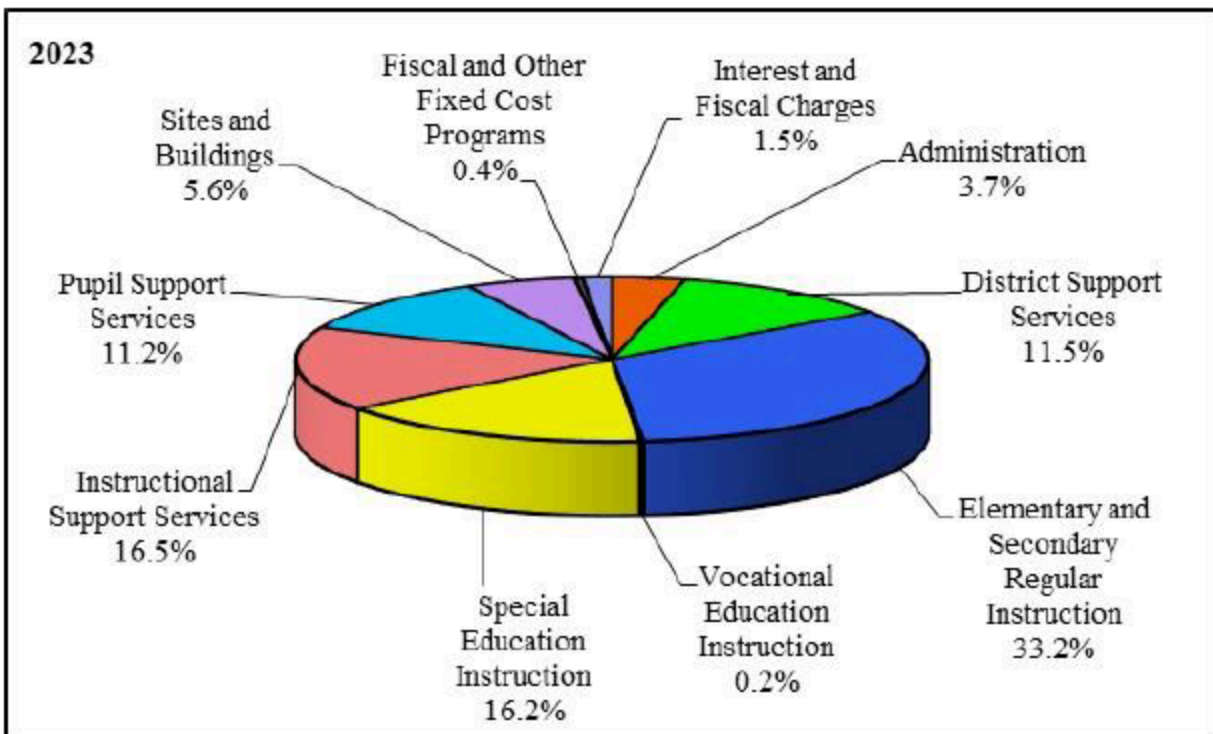
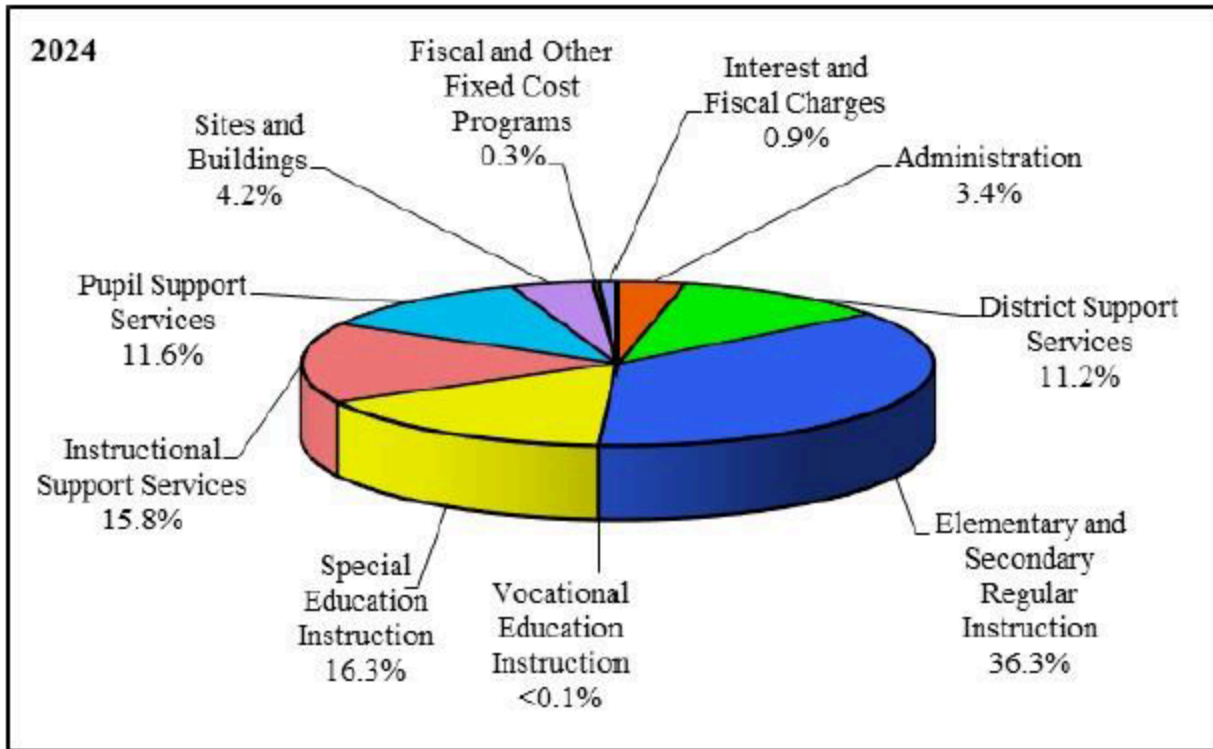


The largest share of the School's revenue is received from the state, including most of the operating and general grants. This significant reliance on the state for funding has placed pressures on charter school budgets as funding increases have generally not kept pace with inflation. Enrollment continues to be the largest influence on the School's revenue. The School's enrollment, an adjusted average daily membership (ADM) of 596 for the year, reflected an increase of 2 ADM from the prior year.

The School's total governmental activity revenues were \$8,805,217 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which is an increase of \$882,613 from the prior year. General grants and aids increased by \$552,946, mainly in state aid for general education and online learning, due to a legislative increase in the basic formula allowance and an increase in compensatory revenue. Operating grants and contributions increased by \$301,533, as the School earned more state and federal aid for special education, mainly due to increased costs.

EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2023

**Figure B – Expenses for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023**



The School's expenses are predominately 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 total cost of the School's governmental activities for 2024 was \$8,899,125, which is an increase of \$1,939,298 (27.9 percent) from the prior year. The increase was mainly in salaries and benefits, along with changes in the amount of PERA and TRA pension expense recognized compared to the previous year.

*"Financial stewardship is a hallmark of the school showcased through a healthy General Fund balance and consistently clean financial audits. It is always a pleasure to work with BlueSky leaders."* (Innovative Quality Schools FY25 Annual Review) BlueSky received a composite score of 3.94 out of 4 on our FY25 annual authorizer review.

## 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 BrightWorks.
- Improved use of student assessment scores to guide instruction and individualized support.
- Implement READ Act requirements and provide staff training.
- 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.
- Utilize a common end of course student survey to drive curriculum and instructional improvements.
- Working closely with the Student Success Coordinator to define and develop her role.
- Special Education course alignment to new learning standards in core content areas.

## High Performing Workforce

- Review HR policies related to staff benefits to identify areas of improvement.
- Continue providing in house professional development opportunities aligned to BlueSky's strategic goals and licensure requirements.
- Compassionate School Training for Staff who are new to BlueSky, facilitated by social workers.
- Conduct in-depth inter-rater reliability training for administrators and Q-Comp coaches
- Create opportunities to recognize departments and all staff for the good work they do.
- 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.
- Continued training of mentors and leads in communication and leadership.
- Research transitioning to PTO versus vacation and sick time.
- Implement Paid Family Medical Leave.

## Technology

- Continue implementation of BlueSky's [Technology Strategic Plan](#).
- Identify new communication tools to integrate translation abilities, create a better parent user experience, and improve efficiency.
- Improve staff reporting and dashboards to support early support and intervention practices.
- Adopt artificial intelligence technologies in accordance with [BlueSky's Guidelines for the Use of AI](#).
- Improvements to document organization, management and records retention.

## 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.
- Coordinating with the MN Office of Higher Education on a student direct admissions process.
- 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 BrightWorks and CAREI in an effort to improve graduation rates and student intervention programs.
- Improve use of translated documents and communication tools when partnering with parents and community resources.
- Expand school sponsored events and activities.

## 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.
- Continue to research 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.

**2024-2025 Annual Report Prepared by:**

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Approved by BlueSky's Board of Directors on November 19, 2025

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