The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office thanks all of its charter schools and photographers — Renee Aleisa, Daymon J. Hartley, and Jim Hill — for allowing the use of their wonderful photographs in this report.
Schools are about people, and for 20 years the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office has brought together a diverse mix of them — students, families, teachers, administrators, volunteers, and community leaders — to become the number one authorizer of charter schools in Michigan. Read on to learn more about those who helped shape our first two decades and position us for future success.
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT THOMAS J. HAAS, PH.D.

PROUD OF OUR PAST.
FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE.

When Don Lubbers’ vision of Grand Valley State University being a charter school authorizer became a reality in 1995, we authorized three schools serving 350 students. At that time, I doubt that there were many people who would have predicted that just two decades later Grand Valley would authorize 64 schools serving more than 34,000 students. In fact, there may have been more people who believed charter schools would not even exist by this time. Today we are the number one authorizer of charter schools in Michigan, and we are celebrating our 20th anniversary. I am extremely proud of the hard work, innovation, and progressive leadership that has helped us reach this milestone.

As we celebrate our past, we remain focused on the future. When the state lifted its cap on the number of charter schools in 2011, we created our “Growth with Quality” initiative. Since then, we have been successful in growing both the number and excellence of our charter schools through innovative partnerships and high performance expectations. Going forward, we will continue to grow with quality as we provide relevant education options to parents and their students across Michigan.

We are enthusiastic about what the next 20 years holds for us and invite you to join us on that journey.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. HAAS, PH.D., PRESIDENT
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DONNA K. BROOKS
Honorary Life Member

DAVID S. HOOKER
2011–2018
Grand Rapids, MI

DOROTHY A. JOHNSON
Honorary Life Member

JOHN C. KENNEDY
2011–2018
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2007–2014
Douglas, MI

JOHN G. RUSSELL
2013–2020
East Lansing, MI

MICHAEL D. THOMAS
2007–2014
Freeland, MI

DAVID L. WAY
2009–2016
DeWitt, MI

KATE PEW WOLTERS
2013–2016
Grand Rapids, MI

“Grand Valley State University is committed to lifelong learning. The GVSU Charter Schools Office allows us to further that mission by oversight of K-12 schools authorized by the GVSU Board of Trustees. We are gratified that schools chartered by Grand Valley regularly rank first among peers in performance reviews of the state’s public school academies.”

— SHELLEY E. PADNOS, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR
The Charter Schools Office staff, with the support of Grand Valley, continuously strives to develop high-quality education opportunities for students across Michigan. Our vision, mission, values, and goals direct our efforts to shape and craft charter schools that rank among some of the highest performing schools in the state.

**VISION**
To authorize the highest performing charter schools

**MISSION**
To enhance student learning by providing oversight, compliance, and professional development to our charter schools

**VALUES**
We believe that
- school performance is measured at the individual student level;
- data is critical for informing decisions;
- accountability includes student achievement, compliance, and fiscal responsibility; and
- student success equals strong educational leadership, great teachers, effective governance, diversity, respect, and continuous improvement.

**GOALS**
1. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Charter Schools Office
2. To encourage competitive applications that propose innovative instructional models to meet the needs of targeted students
3. To design a plan for providing accurate information about charter schools to the general public and selected sectors
4. To strategically manage Grand Valley State University’s presence in Detroit
5. To use the National Standards for authorizers to measure the performance of the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office
6. To further inclusion and equity in the Charter Schools Office and Grand Valley State University’s charter schools
7. To integrate the Charter Schools Office’s activities within the broader university
8. To develop and implement a standardized start-up process for new charter schools
Two decades ago, Grand Valley State University embraced the opportunity to reshape Michigan’s educational landscape by establishing the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) and investing in charter schools. In its first year as a charter school authorizer, Grand Valley opened three schools, serving approximately 350 students. Twenty years later, the GVSU CSO portfolio now includes 64 schools throughout the state, serving more than 34,000 students. This growth has been fueled by our commitment to practicing strong leadership as an authorizer and providing high-quality schools to families seeking choice.

Part of our growth comes from our commitment to establish charter schools in communities with high demand for choice. A recent report by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools found 51 percent of Detroit students attend charter schools, the second highest percentage found among all cities nationally. We currently authorize 31 schools located in Metro Detroit, and we are continuously working to recruit successful out-of-state charter operators to invest in the city.

A strong authorizer also knows how to address schools that are hindering student growth. In 2009, the GVSU CSO closed two schools that were not meeting required performance standards and closed two others in 2013 and 2014. In our 20 years, Grand Valley has closed a total of 14 schools that were not in compliance with our academic standards. While it is a difficult decision to close schools, the Michigan State Board of Education commended the GVSU CSO for recognizing the damaging effect a low-performing school can have on a child’s future.

To ensure quality, the GVSU CSO offers a wide variety of professional development workshops and conferences for teachers and school board members. These workshops provide a forum for in-depth discussions about best practices in the classroom and are a resource for those who are seeking to improve their practice of instruction. Such programs have been the catalyst to our statewide improved student performance. In 2013, the State Board of Education commissioned Michigan State University to study charter school authorizers based on student performance on state tests. The results of the study named Grand Valley State University as the top authorizer in the state. The data shows that students in GVSU-authorized charter schools perform at higher proficiency levels than those in schools operated by other authorizers.

We also believe that strong leadership in the school directly correlates to student achievement. The GVSU CSO has established two ongoing workshops directed at principals and administrators: the Learning Network with Richard Lemons of Washington, D.C. and Leadership Coaching with Greg Dale of Duke University. These programs connect school leaders with each other to talk about how to tackle common issues in their buildings. The programs are held multiple times throughout the school year so participants may remain in close contact and relay insight on successful strategies.

We invite you to read the GVSU CSO report as we detail how an investment in education 20 years ago set the foundation for where we stand today and for many more exciting years of charter school growth.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY H. WOOD, PH.D.
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS
Staff members in the Charter Schools Office come to Grand Valley from a wide variety of personal and professional backgrounds, but every one of them shares a common goal: to develop high-quality education opportunities for students throughout Michigan.

With that in mind, we asked each of them to describe the Charter Schools Office in one word and to share a couple facts about themselves.

Impactful
TONA AMBROSE
Project Coordinator
• My first college class had more students in it than does my hometown.
• I love the Fighting Illini.

Meaningful
LISSA BRUNAN
Assessment Specialist
• I raised goats as a kid.
• I got my master's degree in educational technology from Michigan State University, but did not take any classes on United States soil or online.

Purpose
MICHAEL COUSINS
Communications and Technology Specialist
• I played hockey for 10 years.
• I can ballroom dance.
• I was once mentioned on ESPN's Sportscenter.

Grateful
DAN MATTHEWS
Field Service Representative
• I marched in President Johnson's inauguration parade.
• I made Wilt Chamberlain very angry when I asked him for his autograph in 1972.

Passion
WENDY MILLER
Reading Specialist
• I wanted to switch my major from education to geology my freshman year at Iowa.
• I moved eight times between kindergarten and 12th grade.

Life-changing
ALYSON MURPHY
Director of Governance and Compliance
• I lived out of a suitcase and on a tour bus for 5 full summers while marching with the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

Dedicated
ELIZABETH RUSSELL
Detroit Center Coordinator
• I performed with my high school choir on stage at Carnegie Hall.
• I love to write.

Dreams
JAMES D. SMITH, PH.D.
Field Service Representative
• I managed and trained IBM and customer technology pros from around the world.
• I am a novice golfer and 3.5 level tennis player — regressing in both sports!

Best
LARRY SPENCER
Field Service Representative
• I am a past president of the Special Olympics Michigan.
• I am the best chef in the office.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS

Powerful
LORI DAVIS
Reading Specialist
- I started my presentation career playing the Easter Bunny for the Sheraton Hotel in Buffalo.
- I love my kids, the beach, and diet coke.

Creative
CHERYL EDWARDS-CANNON
Field Service Representative
- I am a classically trained pianist.
- I am a writer of short stories about being a caregiver.

Thorough
BOB FORTIN
Field Service Representative
- I’ve been in the field of education for 49 years, 16 of which have been in the charter schools’ world.
- I have an extensive Pepsi collection.

Student-focused
ROBERT KIMBALL
Deputy Director of Charter Schools
- I am a certified wildfire fighter.
- I’ve taught high school social studies and middle school English, videography, math, and shop.

Essential
PATRICIA OLDT, PH.D.
University and Community Liaison
- I love teaching.
- I really like chocolate.

Innovative
JILL WEBER
Reading Specialist
- My favorite place in the world is the beach.
- I am running my third half marathon this year!

Inspiring
SARAH PEPPER
Office Assistant
- I like to walk barefoot in every new city that I visit.
- One of my life goals is to learn something new every day.

Vital
RANDY REMENAP
Field Service Representative
- I taught master’s courses in educational leadership for 17 years.
- I have been a Detroit Lions fan for 62 years.

Synergy
DAN WARREN
Field Service Representative
- I scored a touchdown in a GVSU football win at Soldier’s Field in Chicago.
- I am the first member of my family to earn a college degree.

Quality
RAM RAVIKUMAR
Data Analyst
- I play cricket in Michigan and won the MVP award for 2013.
- I am originally from Madurai, India and moved to Michigan for my master’s degree.

Intentional
AMIRAH VOSBURGH
Manager of Programs and Marketing
- I scored a touchdown in a GVSU football win at Soldier’s Field in Chicago.
- I am the first member of my family to earn a college degree.

ABOUT US 9
There have been countless people who have contributed to the growth and success of the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office over the past 20 years. We had a chance to sit down with three of the most influential of them to look back at how the charter schools movement began and the role Grand Valley has played in its success over the years.

**JOHN ENGLER**

**Governor of Michigan**

1991–2003

Elected in 1990 as Michigan’s 46th governor, John Engler was the key person in changing the state’s education landscape for decades to come. In 1994, Engler led the fight to enact Proposal A — a ballot proposal overwhelmingly approved by voters to fund schools fairly and cut property taxes. Proposal A also included many educational reforms that led to the establishment of charter schools in Michigan; since then, Michigan has become one of the top charter school states in the nation.

We asked Engler to reflect on the promise he initially saw in charter schools and how his idea has grown throughout Michigan.

What characteristics did you see in charter schools that made it important for Michigan to enact charter legislation?

The Nation at Risk report set the tone in 1983. Reform was indeed imperative. Sadly, 30 years later, it is just as urgent. Our education system wasn’t and isn’t good enough. I knew my responsibilities as governor were to work on the most important issues facing the state. I knew that strong communities needed great schools. Business leaders stressed that education had to improve or our other efforts wouldn’t be enough to ensure prosperity. Charters were an essential element of an overall commitment to improving education and providing choices under the Michigan Constitution.

What gave you the confidence to continue to fight for charter schools and push forward with your vision?

I trust parents. I knew that most parents look for the best options for their own children. Creating more options — charters, schools of choice, magnet schools — simply makes it easier for parents to find the right option for their children. I accepted that the role of governor is to lead and make tough choices. I’m glad we put a stake in the ground in favor of charter schools.

What does it feel like to see such growth of charting, having been a strong advocate of the model and being a major part of the initial movement to offer charter schools in Michigan?

I’m pleased there are so many good charter schools operating, but I’m certainly not satisfied. The traditional public schools have reacted and are improving, but we haven’t gotten to scale where excellent schools are available for every child in Michigan. We need to build on the lessons learned from the best charters and replace or improve some of the poorer performing ones. At the same time, some of those lessons are transferable to traditional schools. They too have to improve or face restructuring. Progress needs to accelerate so that young people are prepared for our increasingly complex 21st century world.

What are your current views on GVSU as a charter school authorizer?

I was grateful to President Lubbers for stepping in early and authorizing schools. Don Lubbers was courageous — one of the pioneers. President Murray was committed to charter schools — he had helped me on this and other school reform efforts at the state. President Haas has built on that commitment as well during his tenure. Grand Valley should be proud of what they have done to improve educational opportunities for thousands of Michigan residents. Michigan is stronger today because of GVSU and its visionary leaders both in the university and on the Board.
IN THEIR WORDS: Q&A WITH THREE KEY LEADERS

AREND D. LUBBERS
President of Grand Valley State University
1969–2001
President Emeritus
2001–Present

Arend (Don) Lubbers was the key figure who connected Grand Valley State University with the charter movement. Not long after charter law was enacted, Lubbers focused on making Grand Valley a charter school authorizer. In 1995, his goal came to fruition as the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO) opened its first three schools, serving 350 students. Lubbers’ vision of charter growth fueled the CSO to open 25 schools in the next five years, quickly setting a high standard of authorizing. His exemplary work with charter schools earned Lubbers praise from across the state, culminating in the year 2000, when the Michigan Association of Public School Academies honored him with the Plachta Award for outstanding leadership.

We asked Lubbers to reflect on the formation of Grand Valley’s role with charter schools and the quick success the CSO had under his leadership.

You were the one who got the ball rolling with GVSU becoming a charter school authorizer. Why did you feel it was important to take that step?

From the time I learned of Governor Engler’s charter schools initiative for the State of Michigan, I became an enthusiastic supporter. Most of our public school systems in Michigan are strong, but there are exceptions. Where those exceptions existed, I felt too many children and youth were not served well and parents should have an opportunity to find a better education for their daughters and sons. Charter schools provided that possibility.

I have observed that competition in higher education improves education, and I believed that charter schools could provide competition in the K–12 arena that would be beneficial for traditional school systems. When I was in high school and college, teachers in the public schools of Michigan were organizing. The need for collective initiatives in the teachers’ interests was obvious. My observation after many decades revealed what I considered many gains for teachers, but I thought many of the rules and customs that characterized teacher unions in both strong and weak schools were no longer useful for improving K–12 education. Charter schools offered a new way for teachers and those who employed them to relate in a less adversarial relationship.

What partnerships did you establish to set a strong foundation for the future of the GVSU Charter Schools Office?

When Grand Valley decided to charter schools, I invited superintendents from school districts in our region to meet with me and other staff members so we could take into account their concerns. It gave me an opportunity to express to them why we were engaged as well as calling their attention to the fact that they, too, had the authority to charter schools. At that time, we agreed to limit the number of schools we would charter in each district. Each year I invited superintendents to meet with me to discuss charter schools’ issues and policies.

It has been 20 years since Grand Valley started chartering schools. What are your thoughts on how the GVSU Charter Schools Office has grown over the past two decades?

Grand Valley has been fortunate in the leadership and staffing of the Charter Schools Office. As always, leadership determines the level of quality of an operation. That is why Grand Valley has a school chartering program that can claim a high level of success. The leaders have not been intimidated by those who challenge, and even threaten, the charter school movement. They have trusted, accommodated when best to do so, and acted when it was in the interests of students and parents. They have been involved in supervision of the schools that were chartered to the right degree, and they have not been hesitant to decertify the schools that fail. Since the cap was removed on the number of schools a university can charter, Grand Valley has increased the numbers of charters in the most strategic and helpful ways. The positive contribution of Grand Valley to the education of Michigan’s children and youth has taken a leap forward. Charters will always be established where they are needed. Where traditional school districts provide what parents want for their students, there will be few.
IN THEIR WORDS: Q&A WITH THREE KEY LEADERS

MARK MURRAY
President of Grand Valley State University
2001–2006
President of Meijer, Inc.
2006–Present

Mark Murray became the third president of Grand Valley State University on July 1, 2001. Before arriving at Grand Valley, Murray had worked closely with education, including his service as the education policy advisor to Governor John Engler from 1999–2001. Upon becoming president of Grand Valley, Murray was immediately supportive of the mission of the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO). His goal was to build on the success in place and to ensure GVSU-authorized charter schools were high-quality schools with proven achievement records.

We asked Murray to reflect on his vision for the GVSU CSO and how it helped the Charter Schools Office reach a new level of success.

Your vision for the GVSU Charter Schools Office was to ensure student performance. How did your experiences prior to GVSU help you shape and execute this vision?

I had assisted in the development of charter schools — both in public policy and in the beginnings of some individual charter schools. Like any new movement, some efforts were more successful than others. It was obvious that the best of the charter school movement could have a great impact for good on the lives of young people. What a great opportunity there was to have Grand Valley be in the leadership of ensuring top-quality schools.

When you became president at Grand Valley, what did you see in charter schools that made it important for GVSU to continue its authorizer role?

Charter schools were offering new options to parents who often had very few choices. This was particularly a concern for low-income children in urban areas. With so many, and often such small school districts, middle and upper-class families could move to a different district if their schools weren’t good enough. The poor often did not have such options.

How were you able to help the GVSU CSO reach new levels of achievement?

The project was building on the successes that were in place to be even better. As we authorized more schools, we could standardize the school support structures, the data reporting architecture, and board support functions. We also could return some of the money that was available to the authorizers to schools to enhance their offerings.

Some aspects of the CSO operation, like the Compliance Cabinet and the implementation of NWEA testing, stem directly from your tenure at Grand Valley and are still important parts of the office. How does it feel to see pieces of your vision playing key roles in the CSO’s daily operation?

Everything done at the Charter Schools Office came from the great ideas of the teams who worked there. I had the good sense to ensure great teams had great support. It pleases me to see all the good that has resulted.

What are your views on Grand Valley as a charter school authorizer?

It was heartening to have the Michigan Department of Education recognize the quality of Grand Valley’s work. My guess is many of the children who have received great educations in GVSU-authorized schools don’t even know of Grand Valley’s role. The school administrators do. They have received great help from Tim Wood, Ed Richardson, and others who were so instrumental in this work. What is more satisfying than knowing you’ve helped young people flourish?
The GVSU Detroit Center officially opened its doors in early May of 2013 and is now filled with activity. The Charter Schools Office (CSO) celebrated the opening by welcoming about 100 people to a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attendees included educational leaders from Detroit, students from a GVSU-authorized school in the city, and Grand Valley faculty and staff members.

The Detroit Center is located on Madison Avenue next to the Detroit Athletic Club and Comerica Park, with the Grand Valley logo visible from inside the stadium over the center field wall. The Detroit Center is used primarily for CSO professional development seminars and conferences like the Learning Network and Leadership Coaching. Grand Valley master’s of education classes also are held in the building. Plans are in place to renovate the building’s third floor, turning it into a conference room that would hold approximately 250 people.

**MAPSA AWARDS**

The 2013 Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) Conference held great honors for principals and staff members from our schools. Three of the five finalists for MAPSA Administrator of the Year represented GVSU-authorized charter schools, including the recipient of the award, Shawn Leonard. Leonard has been the principal of East Arbor Charter Academy since the school opened in 2011 and is often praised for his dedication to using student data to track growth and proficiency in the school.

Leonard said that while he is honored to receive the award, none of his success at East Arbor could have been achieved without the support of the team around him. The other finalists were Amanda Dickens from Forest Academy and Raymond Alvarado from Covenant House Academy Detroit (Southwest). GVSU-authorized charter schools were also represented for the MAPSA Teacher of the Year award. Kurt Steiner, a Latin teacher at Grand River Preparatory High School, was one of five finalists.

**LEADERSHIP COACHING**

In the 2013-2014 school year, the CSO was pleased to partner with Gregory Dale and offer Leadership Coaching to our school administrators. Leadership Coaching is an interactive and innovative workshop that gives administrators the opportunity to meet with other school leaders to discuss best guidance practices for their staff members and students. The all-day workshop is held twice during the school year – once in the fall and once in the spring – and is led by Dale, together with Mark Thomas, principal at Northview High School. Leadership Coaching is offered on both sides of the state.

Dale, a professor of sport psychology and sport ethics at Duke University, is a renowned expert on the topic of leadership. He is the director of the sports psychology and leadership programs for Duke athletics. Dale also has written four books related to leadership and performance, as well as acted as a consultant for numerous global organizations including the World Bank, Habitat for Humanity International, Airports Council International, Pfizer, and SKANSKA International.

**Covenant House**

The CSO added four Covenant House schools to its portfolio this year and is adding another one for the 2014-2015 school year, thanks to a growing relationship with Covenant House Michigan. Three of the Covenant House Academies are located in Detroit and have been in operation since 2005; Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids, which opened in the fall of 2013, serves approximately 200 students and celebrated its first graduating class that winter. The CSO and Covenant House Michigan are establishing another academy in Muskegon with a projected opening of Fall 2014.

Covenant House Academies target homeless and at-risk youth, serving students ages 16–22. The schools offer students who dropped out or aged out of high school an opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Sam Joseph, the founder of Covenant House Michigan, said, “We are honored to be partnering with [GVSU]. This will help us with professional development for staff and good academic support in teaching methodologies.”
Grand Valley State University’s Charter Schools Office has a record of authorizing some of the highest performing charter schools in the state. Quality begins with leadership and the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office has a reputation of innovative and progressive leaders, each singularly motivated to achieve continued growth through ever-improving quality.
GROWTH WITH QUALITY: J. PATRICK SANDRO

J. PATRICK SANDRO
Director of GVSU Charter Schools Office, 1995–2002

J. Patrick Sandro
1995–2002

Edward D. Richardson
2002–2009

Timothy H. Wood
2009–PRESENT
Before becoming the first director of the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO), J. Patrick “Pat” Sandro spent nearly 30 years in the Grand Rapids Public Schools system and worked “every job you could ever have.” Eventually Sandro worked his way up to superintendent of GRPS, where he caught the eye of Arend “Don” Lubbers, who was then Grand Valley’s president.

When Lubbers approached Sandro in 1995 to come to Grand Valley and help establish a charter schools office, Sandro was initially hesitant. He said the idea of charter schools was controversial at the time and created an explosive environment in the education sector. He expressed to Lubbers that he had just spent the past three decades working in the public school system and was nervous his friends would turn on him if he switched to charter schools. Lubbers then gave him a piece of advice that stuck with him forever: “If your friends are going to be upset with you for trying to help children get a better education, then you don’t have any friends at all.” Sandro also disliked the idea that some parents didn’t have a choice of schools for their children, so in the spring of 1995, Sandro joined Grand Valley.

Sandro worked for seven years with the GVSU CSO before retiring in 2002. Shortly after his retirement, the J. Patrick Sandro Education Scholarship was established to honor his passion for children and leadership, as well as his commitment to education. When comparing Michigan’s charter school landscape today to what it was when he started, Sandro feels he achieved his initial goals. “We’ve been able to grow, help kids, and give them a choice.”

GROWTH	Quick Start — Started with three schools serving 350 students. Retired in 2002 with CSO portfolio at 23 schools and serving nearly 13,000 students.

GROWTH	Broad Reach — The CSO expanded its portfolio to serve students in cities all across Michigan including Lansing, Detroit, Big Rapids, Battle Creek, and Jackson.

Hello Detroit! — The CSO authorized its first school in Detroit in 2000 (University Preparatory Academy Middle School)

HIGHLIGHTS	Setting Expectations — The mission of the CSO under Sandro was to connect with a charter school operator that could provide large scale growth and be very visible in the schools.

HIGHLIGHTS	Changing Perceptions — Sandro started chiseling away at the negative environment charter schools faced. He attended speaking events and meetings almost every day, explaining the specifics of charter schools to concerned parents and community members and how establishing charters would not be detrimental to public schools.

HIGHLIGHTS	Making it Personal — Being visible to the schools is what Sandro called “providing technical assistance.” He attended as many school board meetings as possible, sometimes working with board members from early in the morning to late at night. He also frequently brought coffee and donuts for schools’ staff members and made surprise visits.
Delegating Authority — When GVSU’s portfolio expanded to 14 schools, Sandro was unable to visit schools as often as he wanted, so he hired former superintendents and school leaders to take his place in school board meetings, ensuring Grand Valley provided a strong presence in the school. This is a practice that continues in the CSO today.

PARTNERSHIPS

Grand Valley State University President Arend D. Lubbers — The GVSU president requested that the university commit to chartering schools in 1994. Lubbers worked closely with Sandro to set up the CSO and initialize chartering process.

J.C. Huizenga — Huizenga founded National Heritage Academies and quickly became a person Sandro wanted to work with to open schools. “He told me he wanted to operate the best schools in the world,” Sandro said, “and whenever he had to decide between his business and the students, he always put parent concerns first.”

National Heritage Academies (NHA) — NHA was one of the first educational service providers to work with GVSU. In 1995, the GVSU CSO and NHA opened its first school, Excel Charter Academy. There are 12 NHA schools still in operation that opened during Sandro’s tenure, including Excel.

Looking back at his time with the CSO, Sandro fondly remembers the school boards embracing his ideas. “When you work with positive, entrepreneurial people, you just can’t wait to help,” he said. Perhaps his favorite memories with the CSO, though, are ones that involve parents. Sandro said he would get countless calls from parents who were overjoyed about the success their child was having in a charter school. “I’d have parents calling me, tearfully, to say ‘thank you,’” he said. “They would call and say, ‘God bless you, Grand Valley.’”
EDWARD D. RICHARDSON
Special Assistant for Charter Schools, 2002–2009

J. Patrick Sandro
1995–2002

Edward D. Richardson
2002–2009

Timothy H. Wood
2009–PRESENT
Ed Richardson arrived at the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO) having worked 25 years with public schools, serving seven different school districts. Richardson was a principal and superintendent in Olivet, Michigan, before becoming the superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools in 1994. He held the position for eight years before declaring his retirement. “I wasn’t sure where I was going next,” Richardson said, “but I knew I was ready for the next step.” That step came when a friend of his recommended an opening at Grand Valley State University working with charter schools. Richardson applied and was named the Special Assistant for Charter Schools in April of 2002.

When Richardson started at the CSO, Grand Valley was going through a major shift in leadership. Longtime university president Arend Lubbers had retired the year before and was replaced by former Michigan State Treasurer Mark A. Murray. Richardson and Murray worked together to formulate a new direction for the CSO. While previous years had been dedicated to charter school growth, the two leaders focused on maneuvering through the politics associated with charter schools and holding schools at higher levels of accountability.

Richardson increased accountability by embracing an idea that was somewhat foreign to educators: student growth. “Many people couldn’t believe you could measure student growth,” he said. In 2005, Richardson introduced Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) to the schools in the CSO portfolio.

GROWTH

Steady Growth — Started with 23 schools in CSO portfolio serving more than 13,000 students. By the time Richardson left Grand Valley, the CSO portfolio contained 32 schools and served more than 15,000 students.

An Urban First — Worked to designate University Preparatory Academy as an urban high school academy in 2006. This made Grand Valley the first authorizer to have such a school in Michigan.

Excelling in Grand Rapids — In 2008, Excel Charter Academy, GVSU’s first charter school, opened a high school (Grand River Preparatory High).

Focus on Accountability — Rather than focus on portfolio growth, the CSO worked to improve overall performance by closing schools that were not meeting required standards. Michigan State Board of Education Superintendent Michael Flanagan commended Richardson and the CSO for such closings.

Compliance Cabinet — In 2004, the CSO introduced a customized Web-based solution that allowed staff members to file, track, and maintain information regarding legal compliance of GVSU-authorized schools. It is still in use today.

HIGHLIGHTS

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OFFICE TIMELINE

2006
- Grand Valley Board of Trustees approves an authorizing resolution to designate University Preparatory Academy as an urban high school academy, making it the first in Michigan. GVSU was the first, and now only, authorizer to have an "urban high school academy" in the state of Michigan.
- Thomas J. Haas becomes Grand Valley's fourth president. His vision for the Charter Schools Office is to create learning opportunities through board, staff, and administrator trainings.
  Students: 13,889

2007
- The CSO develops a Comprehensive Performance Review (CPR) plan that evaluates the success of each school by considering multiple areas of performance. The CPR is now the main testing method for charter schools authorized by Grand Valley.
- In 2007, the CSO developed a comprehensive performance review (CPR) plan to evaluate the success of each school by considering multiple areas of performance. The CPR is still a part of the CSO today.

2008
- February 12, Michigan State Board of Education Superintendent Flanagan commends Grand Valley’s CSO for closing two charter schools that did not meet performance standards.
- December 19, the CSO opens its competitive application process and receives 78 charter applications confirming continued interest in Michigan in establishing new charter schools.
- GVSU’s first charter school, Excel Charter Academy opens a high school in Grand Rapids, Grand River Preparatory High school.
  Students: 15,094

NWEA MAP showed how much a student had grown academically in a school year and compared it to national levels of growth.

Richardson felt NWEA MAP was beneficial because it created a degree of separation between instructors and students. “Teachers and students connect better when the assessment is outside of them,” he said.

Richardson credits his time with the CSO to those he connected with and helped him advance toward his goals. He acknowledges Murray for handling the difficult legal ramifications that came with dealing with charter schools. He also is grateful for the support he received from school administrators and board presidents.

Richardson continues to watch the CSO from afar and is proud of the growth it has undergone through the leadership of Sandro, Wood, and himself. “It’s always rewarding to work at a place that is doing the right thing,” he said.

HIGHLIGHTS

NWEA MAP — In 2005, Richardson wanted a new way to track student growth. With the financial support of the university, GVSU-authorized charter schools implemented student growth assessments using Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP). The assessment tests students twice each school year and allows for quick results and feedback. NWEA MAP is now the main testing method for charter schools authorized by Grand Valley.

CPR — In 2007, the CSO developed a comprehensive performance review (CPR) plan to evaluate the success of each school by considering multiple areas of performance. The CPR is still a part of the CSO today.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mark A. Murray — Grand Valley’s third president worked closely with Richardson to ensure GVSU-authorized charter schools met or exceeded state achievement levels. Murray’s background in education and data fueled the mission of the CSO while he was at Grand Valley.

We moved to our location on Straight Street in Grand Rapids in 2009.
GROWTH WITH QUALITY: TIMOTHY H. WOOD, PH.D.

TIMOTHY H. WOOD, PH.D.
Special Assistant to the President for Charter Schools, 2009–Present
For the past 25 years, people have looked to Timothy H. Wood for guidance. In 1990, he stepped into his first leadership role as principal at Lakewood High School in Lake Odessa, Michigan. Six years later, he took over the principal position at Northview High School, just outside of Grand Rapids. In 2003, he moved closer to Lake Michigan and was the superintendent of Saugatuck Public Schools for six years before accepting the role of special assistant to the president for charter schools in 2009, making him the third director of the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO).

Wood started his tenure at the CSO by establishing a robust assortment of professional development programs and in-school training sessions focused on reading, technology, classroom management, and data-driven instruction. “We view our schools as our partners, and we want them to be successful,” he said.

The commitment to professional development has led to a steady increase in school quality that in turn has led to recognition for Wood and the CSO. In 2011, AdvanceED Michigan and the CSO were among the first charter school authorizing entities to be awarded National Recognition by Lighthouse Academies. The CSO now authorizes more than 40 charter schools serving more than 35,000 students.

Another way to learn — GVSU opened the state’s first virtual charter school under Wood’s direction (Michigan Virtual Charter Academy, 2010).

Recruiting National Operators — Wood has worked to bring successful national charter school operators into Michigan. He said he is proud to have already made a number of strong connections with national operators — Lighthouse Academies (Boston), SABIS (Beirut), Charter Schools USA (Florida), and Expeditionary Learning (Denver) — and is looking forward to bringing more to the state.

MI-School.net — Created in 2011, MI-School.net is a public website developed by Grand Valley. It is designed to help Michigan residents learn more about their schools and communities as well as how each impacts one another.
Tuition Reimbursement—GVSU CSO offers 50 percent tuition reimbursement for its teachers and administrators working on a Master’s of Education degree at Grand Valley. This support allows participants to complete their degree faster thanks to the reimbursement. There are currently eight reimbursable programs sponsored by the CSO and more than 120 teachers and administrators currently enrolled.

In-school Support—The CSO provides support by staffing specialists who go into schools upon request and assist in different areas. Currently three reading specialists, two NWEA MAP® specialists, a Curriculum Crafter specialist, a classroom management specialist, and an e-learning specialist are available to any GVSU-authorized charter school for in-school training or consultation.

National Authorizers Workshop—Started in 2012, the National Authorizers Workshop is a two-day event that connects charter school authorizers from around the nation. The workshop highlights charter school authorizing best practices. The GVSU CSO works closely with the National Charter Schools Institute to cohost the event.

North Central Association awarded Wood its Excellence in Education Award for the State of Michigan. In 2013, a study commissioned by the State Board of Education compared charter authorizers by looking at student performance on state tests. The results of the study named Grand Valley the top authorizer in the state with GVSU charter school students performing at higher proficiency levels than their peers in charter schools not authorized by Grand Valley. In January 2014, Wood was appointed to the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) Board by Governor Snyder.

However, Wood’s most memorable moment at the CSO doesn’t involve accepting an award, it involves presenting one. In 2011, Wood gave Detroit Merit Charter Academy a School of Excellence award at a student assembly. “Looking out over the crowd, seeing a group of very excited students, very proud of their school, that was definitely a highlight,” he said.

We moved to our current home in the Bicycle Factory building in Grand Rapids in 2009.
Looking to the future for the CSO, Wood said he wants to continue the “Growth with Quality” initiative that was created after the cap on charter schools in Michigan was removed in 2011. The centerpiece of the initiative is recruiting national operators who have been successful with opening schools in other parts of the country.

PARTNERSHIPS

Richard Lemons and the Learning Network — Wood met Lemons through the Harvard Change Leadership Group and worked with him for five years before joining the CSO. Lemons, who is deputy director at the Connecticut Center for School Change, is now the leader of the CSO’s Learning Network, a workshop held five times throughout the year. The CSO and Lemons have worked together for four years to offer the Learning Network to every charter school authorized by Grand Valley. The goal of the Learning Network is to develop and support leadership teams to improve overall achievement and to close achievement gaps through targeted improvement of teaching and learning.

Nora Chahbazi and EBLI — In 2002, Wood met Nora Chahbazi, who crafted a new system for improving student reading skills called Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI). EBLI uses research-based strategies that are infused within a school’s existing reading curriculum. The goal of EBLI is to assist learners of all ages to reach higher levels of reading in the shortest amount of time possible, while producing measurable results. Wood was impressed with the model and quickly applied it in classrooms wherever he went, including those authorized by the CSO. Professional development programs featuring EBLI are now among those offered by the CSO that are in the highest demand.

Greg Dale and Leadership Coaching — Wood’s goal of quality leadership development took another step forward in 2013-2014 when the CSO partnered with Gregory Dale and offered Leadership Coaching to our school administrators. Dale, a professor of sport psychology and sport ethics at Duke University, is a renowned expert on the topic of leadership. Leadership Coaching is an interactive and innovative workshop that gives administrators the opportunity to meet with other school leaders to discuss best guidance practices for their staff and their students. The all-day workshop is held twice during the school year.
The Charter Schools Office partners with innovative charter schools that can meet Grand Valley’s rigorous charter contract performance expectations. Strategically located to provide choice and opportunity to Michigan students, GVSU-authorized schools are focused on improving student outcomes through diverse program models that meet specific regional and neighborhood needs.
ACHIEVE CHARTER ACADEMY
3250 Denton Rd., Canton, MI 48187
T (734) 397-0960
F (734) 397-0968
www.nhaschools.com/schools/achieve

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2009
Enrollment: 756
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Conley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Bradley DeFoe*, Chadwin Childers, Judith Draplin, Richard Gordon, Michael Iacopelli

MEAP Proficiency: 82%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +9%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 13%

Points of Pride:
• Invited former MSU basketball player Anthony Ianni to speak about antibullying.
• Cleaned up fall debris for people in surrounding neighborhoods.
• Had a student reach the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“I like that the parents are very involved. This keeps the level of learning higher for everyone.”
— PARENT, ACHIEVE CHARTER ACADEMY

ARBOR ACADEMY
55 Arbor St., Battle Creek, MI 49015
T (269) 963-5851
F (269) 964-2643
www.arbor-academy.org

Grades: K–6
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 207
School Leader: Ms. Melissa Martin
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Philip VanWanken*, Janette Frantz, Donald Gilmer, Jerry Harmon II

MEAP Proficiency: 30%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +2%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 69%

Points of Pride:
• Enrollment grew 12 percent since the fall of 2013.
• Started program that gives in-need students food for a weekend.
• Offer Guys on the Go and Girls on the Run clubs.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
491 Columbia Ave., Holland, MI 49423
T (616) 355-0055
F (616) 355-0057
www.blackriverpublicschool.org

Grades: K–12
Opened: 1996
Enrollment: 851
School Leader: Mr. Shannon Brunink
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Barbara Ellis*, Gregory Christie, Jane Clark, Ruth Crouch, Timothy DuMaz, Stephanie Elhart, Mary Mims, Brian Porter, Thomas Pietri

ACT: 24.3
MEAP Proficiency: 71%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +20%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 20%

Points of Pride:
• Expanding outdoor learning area for science classes.
• Received individual and group awards at state band competition.
• Had student artwork featured in West Michigan art gallery.

“The staff is friendly, caring, and communicative.”
– PARENT, BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL
9930 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
T (616) 878-4852
F (616) 878-7196
www.byroncentercharter.org

Grades: K–12
Opened: 1996
Enrollment: 286
School Leader: Mr. Tom Berriman
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Rebecca Mohrmann*, Michael Alber, Anne Brouillette, Doug Diekman, Laura Buchanan, Konrad Gielow

ACT: 20.1
MEAP Proficiency: 58%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +7%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 43%

Points of Pride:
• Planning for sixth building expansion.
• Named a top-50 charter school in Michigan.
• Receiving performance bonus funding for improved test scores.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHANDLER WOODS CHARTER ACADEMY
6895 Samrick Ave. NE, Belmont, MI 49306
T (616) 866-6000
F (616) 866-6001
www.nhaschools.com/schools/chandlerwoods

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1999
Enrollment: 698
School Leader: Mr. Joe Hammond
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Violet Rohrer*, Loretta Florida, Timothy Compton, Brian Sullivan, Ralph Holewinski

MEAP Proficiency: 79%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +12%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 24%

Points of Pride:
• Eighth-grade students exceeded National ACT Explore scores.
• Ranked 93rd in State of Michigan Top-to-Bottom listing.
• Increased MEAP scores from previous years.

“Chandler Woods is a caring school with high academic expectations for all the students.”
– PARENT, CHANDLER WOODS CHARTER ACADEMY

CORNERSTONE HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL
17351 Southfield Rd., Detroit, MI 48235
T (313) 486-4260
F (248) 430-6950
hhs.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades: 9–11
Opened: 2012
Enrollment: 133
School Leader: Mr. Michael Griffie
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: Kevin Schnieders*, Robert Dutkiewicz, Anne-Maré Ice

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 79%

Points of Pride:
• Participated in TEDx Livestream for Education.
• Expanding to 11th grade in Fall 2014.
• Established partnerships with local hospitals and medical facilities.
COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY
DETROIT (EAST)

6700 Goethe, Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 267-4315
F (313) 267-4320
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/east

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 264
School Leader: Mr. Michael Springs
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis,
Christine Surdock, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella,
Leila Kello, Shannon McCuiston

ACT: 11.8
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%

Points of Pride:
• Safe learning environment.
• Offers wrap-around services.
• Flexible scheduling to meet student needs.

“I am so glad this school is here for my child.”
– PARENT, COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY DETROIT (EAST)

COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY
DETROIT (CENTRAL)

2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Detroit, MI 48208
T (313) 899-6900
F (313) 899-6910
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/central

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 350
School Leader: Ms. Anna West
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis,
Christine Surdock, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella,
Leila Kello, Shannon McCuiston

ACT: 13.5
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 85%

Points of Pride:
• Offers wrap-around services.
• Graduated 22 students in December who were former dropouts.
• Strong vocabulary initiative.
COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY
DETOUR (SOUTHWEST)

1450 25th St., Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 297-8720
F (313) 297-8730
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/southwest

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 251
School Leader: Mr. Derek E’Lon
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis, Christine Sundick, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella, Leila Kello, Shannon McCuiston

ACT: 14
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 95%

Points of Pride:
• Held a Spirit Week in February.
• Celebrated the traditional Spanish holiday Las Posadas.
• December graduates were treated to lunch to celebrate their success.

“The teachers here really care.”
– STUDENT, COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY DETROIT (SOUTHWEST)
CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY ELEMENTARY

215 N. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307
T (231) 796-9041
F (231) 796-9874
www.ccabr.org

Grades: K–6  
Opened: 1998  
Enrollment: 364  
School Leader: Mr. Christopher White  
Management Company: Axios  
Board Members: Olukemi Fadayomi*, Sayed Hashimi, Kathryn Lake, Jimmie Rodgers, Donald Guernsey  
MEAP Proficiency: 51%  
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -11%  
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 66%

Points of Pride:
• Dedicated staff.  
• Offers a focus on higher moral character.  
• Academic support for all learners.

“Superb teachers, small class sizes, individualized attention, caring community, diversity of thought.”
- PARENT, CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY ELEMENTARY

CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY MIDDLE/HIGH

215 W. Spruce St., Big Rapids, MI 49307
T (231) 796-9041
F (231) 796-9790
www.ccabr.org

Grades: 7–12  
Opened: 1998  
Enrollment: 320  
School Leader: Mr. Ross Meads  
Management Company: Axios  
Board Members: Olukemi Fadayomi*, Sayed Hashimi, Kathryn Lake, Jimmie Rodgers, Donald Guernsey  
ACT: 20.7  
MEAP Proficiency: 51%  
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +4%  
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 58%

Points of Pride:
• Ranked 22nd out of 540 for 11th grade academic performance by Bridge Magazine.  
• Implementing new math instruction strategies.  
• Completed the CCA Founders three building phases.

* Board President
DETROIT ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

15000 Southfield Rd., Detroit, MI 48223
T (313) 468-9618
F N/A
www.detroitachievement.org

Grades: K–2
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 41
School Leader: Ms. Sharon Yaecker Roesser
Management Company: Expeditionary Learning
Board Members: Lewis Butler*, Jared Stasik, Sarah Beaubien, Meghan Moyithian, Michael Hernandez

MEAP Proficiency: N/A *tested less than 10 students
MEAP vs. Select Peer: N/A *tested less than 10 students
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 94%

Points of Pride:
• Featured on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” twice.
• Planning school-wide expeditions.
• Created unique and comprehensive food curriculum.

“This school is too good to be true. This is what education should look like.”
— PARENT, DETROIT ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

DETROIT ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

11224 Kercheval, Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 823-0799
F (313) 823-0342
www.nh-schools.com/schools/detroitenterprise

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2004
Enrollment: 523
School Leader: Ms. Chanavia Patterson
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Steven Wade*, Katherine Grisson, Alicia Miller, David Rudolph

MEAP Proficiency: 36%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +8%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 93%

Points of Pride:
• Academic growth rate of 133% from 2013 to 2014.
• Introduced smartphone app for parents.
• Celebrating 10 years of operation.
DETROIT MERIT CHARTER ACADEMY
1091 Alter Rd., Detroit, MI 48215
T (313) 331-3328
F (313) 331-3278
www.nhaschools.com/schools/detroitmerit

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2002
Enrollment: 720
School Leader: Ms. Sandra Martin
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Glenn Clark*, William Beddoes, Robert Farhat, Jerik Ramsey, Paul Schaap

MEAP Proficiency: 54%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +25%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 91%

Points of Pride:
• “College Bound Scholars” program places students in high-quality high schools.
• Offers many after school activities.
• Created strong bonds with community foundations.

“I couldn’t have chosen a better school.”
– PARENT, DETROIT PREMIER ACADEMY

DETROIT PREMIER ACADEMY
7781 Asbury Park, Detroit, MI 48228
T (313) 945-1472
F (313) 945-1744
www.detroitpremier.heritageacademies.com

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2004
Enrollment: 730
School Leader: Mr. James Kinsey
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Renee Shepherd*, John Sloan Jr., Christine Wade, Arecia Williams, Teressa Williams

MEAP Proficiency: 38%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +10%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 96%

Points of Pride:
• Used martial arts for advanced instruction.
• Curriculum provides moral focus as well as academics.
• Offers website options for students to stay academically engaged at home.
EAST ARBOR CHARTER ACADEMY
6885 Merritt Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
T (734) 484-5506
F (734) 547-3078
www.eastarborcharteracademy.org

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2011
Enrollment: 764

School Leader: Mr. Shawn Leonard
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Kirk Schnaemann*, Vanina Gilmore, Steve Welch, Taisha Fountain

MEAP Proficiency: 62%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +15%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 33%

Points of Pride:
• 170 percent average growth rate over past three years.
• Students provided resources to a school in Africa.
• Strong Youth in Government partnership with Ann Arbor YMCA.

“Endeavor [Charter Academy] is a great place to get an education.”
– PARENT, ENDEAVOR CHARTER ACADEMY

ENDEAVOR CHARTER ACADEMY
380 N. Helmer Rd., Springfield, MI 49037
T (269) 962-9300
F (269) 962-9393
www.nhaschools.com/schools/endeavor

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 625

School Leader: Ms. Angela Wyckoff
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Nola Batch*, Linda Wendt, Erich Henkel, Barbara Rupp

MEAP Proficiency: 55%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +20%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 63%

Points of Pride:
• Invited Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet to play at school.
• Recognizes and rewards students with strong moral behavior.
• Strong partnership with Food Bank of South Central Michigan.
ESCUELA AVANCEMOS!
3811 Cicotte St., Detroit, MI 48210
T (313) 269-0654

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2012 (closed as of April 2014)
Enrollment: 206
School Leader: Ms. Ana Ferguson
Management Company: Sanga Consulting, Inc.
Board Members: Cristina Stamatin*, Khalil Hachem, Zenaida Arraiz-Rivera, Maria Ramirez, Jeffrey Bozell, Monica Barbour

MEAP Proficiency: 17%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -4%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 100%

Points of Pride:
• Offers Spanish instruction to all scholars.
• Inquiry-based math curriculum.
• Strong partnership with the Family Support Center.

“I’m so glad I found Evergreen. This is the best place for my child!”
– PARENT, EVERGREEN ACADEMY

EVERGREEN ACADEMY
2121 Hudson Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008
T (269) 488-6324
F (269) 731-5246
www.evergreen-academy.org

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2012
Enrollment: 46
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Anderson-Rolle
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: James Hettinger*, Kathryn Spiegel, Gerald Hollaway, Nancy Lindahl, Sarah Bryans

MEAP Proficiency: N/A *tested less than 10 students
MEAP vs. Select Peer: N/A *tested less than 10 students
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 59%

Points of Pride:
• Doubled enrollment from 2013 to 2014.
• Added Spanish and art classes.
• Held numerous family events during National School Choice Week.
EXCEL CHARTER ACADEMY

4201 Breton Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
T (616) 281-9339
F (616) 281-6707
www.nhaschools.com/schools/excel

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1995
Enrollment: 755
School Leader: Mr. Dan Bartels
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Andrew DeVries Jr.*, Kris Mauren, Sydion Harvey, Pamela Cuthbertson, Dale Mowry, Patti Zehr, John Bosy

MEAP Proficiency: 68%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +32%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 44%

Points of Pride:
• Completed annual service projects.
• Hosted 100 veterans for special Veterans Day assembly.
• Excellent reading instruction tools, including EBLI.

“The school is always being progressive with learning ideas.”
– PARENT, EXCEL CHARTER ACADEMY

FAXON LANGUAGE IMMERSION ACADEMY

28555 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
T (866) 606-2721
F N/A
www.faxonacademy.com

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2012
Enrollment: 90
School Leader: Ms. Rosie Cohen
Management Company: P.I.E. Management, LLC
Board Members: Paul Potts*, Terence Goff, Michelle Jones

MEAP Proficiency: 26%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: 0%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 24%

Points of Pride:
• Students show excellent achievement growth.
• Dedication to respectful school culture.
• Wonderful staff members.
FOREST ACADEMY
5196 Comstock Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49048
T (269) 488-2315
F (269) 488-2317
www.forest-academy.org

Grades: K–6
Opened: 2011
Enrollment: 196
School Leader: Ms. Amanda Brown
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Nancy Murray*, Dave Nieuwenhuis, Kimberly Lamp, Whitney Wilkins

MEAP Proficiency: 53%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +9%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 56%

Points of Pride:
• 10:1 ratio of students to teachers.
• Monthly focus on character traits.
• Students demonstrate leadership through Bully Buster program.

“I am thankful for my teachers at Global Heights Academy.”
– STUDENT, GLOBAL HEIGHTS ACADEMY

GLOBAL HEIGHTS ACADEMY
23713 Joy Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
T (313) 624-3400
F (313) 624-3401
www.globalheights.gee-edu.com

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2010
Enrollment: 221
School Leader: Mr. Shawn Robson
Management Company: Global Educational Excellence
Board Members: Hussein Mahmoud*, Ehab Samaha, Ahmed Muaedh, Mohammad Bouhamdan, Eman Naura

MEAP Proficiency: 21%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -7%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 100%

Points of Pride:
• Named a 2013 State of Michigan “Reward School.”
• 20 percent increase in enrollment from 2012 to 2013.
• Established a firm atmosphere of structure and learning.
GRAND RIVER PREPARATORY
HIGH SCHOOL
650 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49548
T (616) 261-1800
F (616) 261-1853
www.grandriverprep.com

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2008
Enrollment: 604

School Leader: Mr. Jason Bannister
Management Company: Prep Net, LLC
Board Members: Andrew DeViss Jr.*, Kris Mauren, Sydeon Harvey, Pamela Cuthbertson, Dale Moey, Patti Zehr, John Bocy

ACT: 21.4
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 52%

Points of Pride:
• Average ACT score of 21.4.
• Offer 16 Advanced Placement courses.
• Ranked as one of the most challenging high schools in the nation by the Washington Post.

“I’ve been at Hanley for six years, and I love how the teachers care for their students.”
– STUDENT, HANLEY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

HANLEY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
2400 Denton St., Hamtramck, MI 48212
T (313) 872-9080
F (313) 872-9113
www.hanleyacademy.com

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2005
Enrollment: 610

School Leader: Ms. Shameka McPherson
Management Company: The Romine Group
Board Members: Jeffrey Lab*, Chaffaye Carter, Richard Kaufman, Stella Szczesny, Farrokh Nassirpour

MEAP Proficiency: 44%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +6%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 100%

Points of Pride:
• Offers National Honor Society for all grades.
• Recipient of 21st Century Grant.
• Located in new facility in Hamtramck.
HENRY FORD ACADEMY:
SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE STUDIES
ELEMENTARY

10225 3rd St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 826-1159
F N/A
www.schoolforcreativestudies.org

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2012
Enrollment: 390
School Leader: Mr. Seth Petty
Management Company: Henry Ford Learning Institute
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Giuseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter
MEAP Proficiency: 31%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +4%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 87%
Points of Pride:
• Inclusive family atmosphere.
• Design thinking as a process that develops creativity and innovation.

“All students can benefit from such a positive, collaborative environment.”
– PARENT, HENRY FORD ACADEMY: SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE STUDIES MIDDLE/HIGH

HENRY FORD ACADEMY:
SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE STUDIES
MIDDLE/HIGH

485 W. Milwaukee St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 481-4000
F (313) 481-4001
www.schoolforcreativestudies.org

Grades: 6–12
Opened: 2009
Enrollment: 791
School Leader: Mr. Curtis Lewis
Management Company: Creative Urban Education
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Giuseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter
ACT: 15.8
MEAP Proficiency: 26%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -1%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 81%
Points of Pride:
• First-place winner in the Scholastic Art Contest.
KNAPP CHARTER ACADEMY

1759 Leffingwell Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49525
T (616) 364-1100
F (616) 364-9780
www.nhaschools.com/schools/knapp

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1997
Enrollment: 785
School Leader: Mr. Dave Turcotte
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Keith Lang*, Elaine Meredith, Michael Golder, Cheryl Elmer, Zoe Wilson

MEAP Proficiency: 59%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +24%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 57%

Points of Pride:
• High MEAP scores.
• School is fully enrolled.
• Continuously partake in professional development toward Common Core curriculum.

“The teachers and staff do a very good job making the students feel safe, special, and included.”

– PARENT, KNAPP CHARTER ACADEMY

LEGACY CHARTER ACADEMY

4900 E. Hildale St., Detroit, MI 48234
T (313) 368-2215
F (313) 432-2807
www.nhaschools.com/schools/legacy

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2010
Enrollment: 698
School Leader: Mr. Letosky Carey
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Peter Stickney*, Carlanda Denham, Susan Crkovski, Ajar Alghali

MEAP Proficiency: 31%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +2%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%

Points of Pride:
• Partnered with Gleaners to provide food for families in need.
• Dedicated and supportive parent atmosphere.
• Partnered with mobile health care services.
LINCOLN-KING ACADEMY

13436 Grove St., Detroit, MI 48235
T (313) 862-2352
F (313) 862-2462
www.lka.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades: K–8
Open: 2012
Enrollment: 544
School Leader: Ms. Carolyn Brown
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: James Ryder*, Steve Londo, Catherine Govan, Marcia Kreger, Gerald Seizert, Kennis Wooten, Michelle Shelton, Shannon Richey

MEAP Proficiency: 25%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -2%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 92%

Points of Pride:
- Highly qualified personnel.
- Technology-infused blended learning model.
- Always looking for new ways to improve teaching and learning processes.

“I’m proud my child is a student here.”
— PARENT, LINCOLN-KING ACADEMY

MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY

19900 McIntyre St., Detroit, MI 48219
T (313) 486-4626
F N/A
www.mca.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades: K–7
Open: 2012
Enrollment: 272
School Leader: Ms. Carolyn Boyer
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: Jeffrey Huebner*, Mindy Barry, Kolly Carter, Tony Cotton, DeAnna Solomon

MEAP Proficiency: 26%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: 0%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 86%

Points of Pride:
- Became an ISO-certified school.
- Technology in every classroom for blended learning.
- High attendance at parent-teacher conferences.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

**METRO CHARTER ACADEMY**

34800 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI 48174  
T (734) 641-3200  
F (734) 641-6530  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/metro

Grades: K–8  
Opened: 2000  
Enrollment: 743  
School Leader: Shelli Wildfong  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Louis Whitlock*, Howard Behr Jr., Greg Foster, Shamin Sanders

MEAP Proficiency: 54%  
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +17%  
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 66%

Points of Pride:
- Entering 15th year of operation.
- Dedicated staff.
- Eighth-grade students participate in college visits.

“Michigan Mathematics and Science Academy teaches values, respect, and tolerance to differences in others.” – PARENT, MICHIGAN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

**MICHIGAN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY**

8155 Ritter Ave., Centerline, MI 48015  
T (586) 920-2163  
F (586) 920-2164  
www.mmsaonline.org

Grades: K-12  
Opened: 2009  
Enrollment: 470  
School Leader: Oguzhan Yildiz  
Management Company: Concept Schools, Inc.  
Board Members: Taulant Kadiu*, Myra Dutton, Abuzer Saglik, Ahmet Ugur, Yeliz Celiker

ACT: 18.1  
MEAP Proficiency: 39%  
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +17%  
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 78%

Points of Pride:
- 100 percent college acceptance for graduates.
- Extracurricular programs based around STEM learning.
- Students read for 20 minutes each morning.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

MICHIGAN VIRTUAL CHARTER ACADEMY
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 190, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
T (616) 309-1600
F (616) 309-1608
www.k12.com/mvca

Grades: K-12
Opened: 2010
Enrollment: 4,000
School Leader: Ms. Cheryl Irvin
Management Company: K12, Inc.
Board Members: Julius Bender Jr.*, Tarolyn Buckles, Marva Foster, Sa’Keenha Odum-Hester, Scott Stangland

ACT: 17.6
MEAP Proficiency: 39%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +9%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 72%

Points of Pride:
• Enrollment growth.
• Adding professional staff.
• Offer new option to families looking for a change.

“It feels like a family here.”
– TEACHER, OAKLAND ACADEMY

OAKLAND ACADEMY
6325 Oakland Dr., Portage, MI 49024
T (269) 324-8951
F (269) 324-8974
www.oakland-academy.org

Grades: K–6
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 231
School Leader: Ms. Shawn Boris
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Charles Simpson*, Therese Searles, Randy Bonzheim, Earl Dalzell, Larry Harris

MEAP Proficiency: 63%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -5%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 28%

Points of Pride:
• Small class sizes.
• Weekly preview and progress reports for parents.
• Added smart boards to classrooms.

* Board President
PARAGON CHARTER ACADEMY
3750 McCain Rd., Jackson, MI 49201
T (517) 750-9500
F (517) 750-9501
www.nhaschools.com/schools/paragon

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 674
School Leader: Mr. Benjamin Kriesch
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Kevin Sykes*, Todd Gale, Joan Boldrey, Andrea Parker, Kathleen Wilcox

MEAP Proficiency: 57%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +19%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 54%

Points of Pride:
• Celebrating 15 years of operation.
• Donated more than 5,000 food items for Thanksgiving food drive.
• Inducted 31 students to Junior National Honor Society.

The staff is clearly committed to the success of each student. If something isn’t working, it’s a team effort to find a solution.” – PARENT, PARAGON CHARTER ACADEMY

REACH CHARTER ACADEMY
25275 Chippendale, Roseville, MI 48066
T (586) 498-9171
F (586) 498-9173
www.nhaschools.com/schools/reach

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2008
Enrollment: 705
School Leader: Ms. Nichole Young
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Jared Dell*, Lynne Morgan-Bernard, Robert Hey, Mushir Khwaja

MEAP Proficiency: 46%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +18%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 69%

Points of Pride:
• Improved MEAP results.
• Very active school board.
• Engaging parent-teacher conferences.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

SOUTH CANTON SCHOLARS CHARTER ACADEMY

3085 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188
T (734) 398-5658
F (734) 547-3077
www.nhaschools.com/schools/southcanton

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2011
Enrollment: 804
School Leader: Ms. Sabrina Terenzi
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Keith Ledbetter*, Kimberly Gaedeke, Adil Iqbal, Melissa Laing, Audrey Robinson

MEAP Proficiency: 76%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +4%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 21%

Points of Pride:
• Earned NHA awards for academic growth and active engagement.
• Collected nearly $1,900 for American Red Cross.
• High state rankings for charter school MEAP results.

“I love being a South Canton Shark!”
– STUDENT, SOUTH CANTON SCHOLARS CHARTER ACADEMY

SOUTHWEST DETROIT LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER ACADEMY

4001 29th St., Detroit, MI 48210
T (313) 782-4422
F (313) 782-4469
www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/sdlca

Grades: K–6
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 300
School Leader: Ms. Latoya Perry
Management Company: Lighthouse Academies, Inc.
Board Members: Julie Feinburg*, Aaren Barndollar, Elizabeth Santos, Cindy Gamboa, Rachele DiMeglio, Ian Wiesner, Trina Scott

MEAP Proficiency: 27%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -1%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 100%

Points of Pride:
• Rigorous academics.
• More than 350 family members have attended school events.
• Develops student social skills with weekly group activities.

*A Board President
SUCCESS MILE ACADEMY

27300 Dequindre Rd., Warren, MI 48092
T (586) 353-2108
F N/A
www.successmileacademy.org

Grades: K–7
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 200
School Leader: Mr. Greg Anglin
Management Company: Charter Schools USA
Board Members: Kurmmell Knox*, Mary Naber, Kenneth Bridgewater, Vaughn Hurst, Glenn McIntosh

MEAP Proficiency: 31%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -13%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 78%

Points of Pride:
• Environment of high student achievement and engagement.
• Diverse student population.
• Newly remodeled facility, including 30,000 sq. ft. gymnasium.

“My school is safe and I'm learning a lot of new things.”
– STUDENT, SUCCESS MILE ACADEMY

TAYLOR PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

9540 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180
T (313) 668-2100
F (313) 668-2101
www.prepnetschools.com/taylor

Grades: 9–11
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 132
School Leader: Ms. Aquan Miles
Management Company: Prep Net, LLC
Board Members: James Orrin*, Tonisha Holloway, Audrey Spalding, Karen Mulligan

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 65%

Points of Pride:
• Offers Advanced Placement courses.
• Adding 11th and 12th grade in upcoming years.
• Visited Grand Rapids to experience ArtPrize®.
TIMBERLAND CHARTER ACADEMY
2574 McLaughlin Rd., Muskegon, MI 49442
T (231) 767-9700
F (231) 767-9710
www.nhschools.com/schools/timberland
Grades: K–8
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 634
School Leader: Ms. Angelia Coleman
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Dorothy Scott*, Stanley Boelkins, Tracey Welsh, Tim Bunnell, Faye Jordan-Brown
MEAP Proficiency: 26%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -2%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 95%
Points of Pride:
• Participate in Be Nice antibullying program.
• Became part of the Muskegon Lumberjacks Reading Caravan.
• Held third annual Taste of Soul Night.

“Great school, great staff, and my children learn so much!”
– PARENT, TIMBERLAND CHARTER ACADEMY

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY — ELLEN THOMPSON CAMPUS
957 Holden St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 874-9800
F (313) 874-9822
www.uprep.com/ellenthompson
Grades: K–5
Opened: 2005
Enrollment: 405
School Leader: Ms. Tamara Johnson
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Giuseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter
MEAP Proficiency: 28%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +1%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 82%
Points of Pride:
• Uses SchoolNet for data analysis and tracking.
• Transitioned to Common Core with unit assessments.
UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY — MARK MURRAY CAMPUS

435 Amsterdam, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 309-0652
F (313) 309-0655
www.uprep.com/markmurray

Grades: K-5
Opened: 2008
Enrollment: 420
School Leader: Ms. Kim Llorens
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter
MEAP Proficiency: 39%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +9%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 76%

Points of Pride:
• Installed “Free Little Libraries” around school grounds.

“The environment is safe and it feels like a family.”
— PARENT, UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY — MARK MURRAY CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

5310 St. Antoine, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 831-0100
F (313) 831-4197
www.uprep.com

Grades: 6-8
Opened: 2000
Enrollment: 412
School Leader: Ms. Alisha Scott
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter
MEAP Proficiency: 38%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +8%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%

Points of Pride:
• Staff and students traveled to Guatemala for service learning trip.
• Participated in MATHCOUNTS math competition.
• Music program students performed at local hospitals.
UNIVERSITY PREP FRATORY
ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

600 Antoinette, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 269-5616
F (313) 874-4510
www.uprep.com

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2003
Enrollment: 530
School Leader: Mr. Dannon Holley
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter

ACT: 16.3
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 81%

Points of Pride:
• First urban school from Detroit to send debate team to national tournament.
• Offers variety of extracurricular athletics.

“This is the type of culture and curriculum I want my child to have.”
– PARENT, UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH ELEMENTARY — MILLER CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH ELEMENTARY — MILLER CAMPUS

2251 Antietam, Detroit, MI 48207
T (313) 782-4400
F N/A
www.uprepsm.com

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2013
Enrollment: 410
School Leader: Ms. Kimberly Phillips
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Cooley, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter

MEAP Proficiency: 33%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +4%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 72%

Points of Pride:
• Building a positive school culture.
• Successful service learning expeditions.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

5100 John R. Rd., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 832-8400
F (313) 833-4816
www.uprepsm.com

Grades: 6–8
Opened: 2008
Enrollment: 473
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Spencer
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Coolsey, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter

MEAP Proficiency: 50%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +20%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 64%

Points of Pride:
• Named Michigan Department of Education Beating the Odds and High Progress school.
• Students traveled internationally to Europe.

“My school is helping me deal with real life issues.”
– STUDENT, UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH HIGH SCHOOL

2664 Franklin St., Detroit, MI 48207
T (313) 393-9166
F (313) 393-9165
www.uprepsm.com

Grades: 9–12
Opened: 2008
Enrollment: 450
School Leader: Ms. Tammy Anderson
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Board Members: Edward Parks*, James Nicholson, Annis Stubbs, Zina Kramer, Keith Coolsey, Denise Lewis, John Cleary, Jerrold Jung, Guiseppe Aristeo, Michael Porter

ACT: 18.4
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 65%

Points of Pride:
• STEM-oriented curriculum.
• Offers the only year-round academic calendar in the county.
• Offers 25 extracurricular activities.
VANDERBILT CHARTER ACADEMY
301 W. 16th St., Holland, MI 49423
T (616) 820-5050
F (616) 820-5051
www.nhaschools.com/schools/vanderbilt

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1996
Enrollment: 447
School Leader: Ms. Holly Hillary
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Sally Zwiep*, Eduardo Amaya, Robert Langejans, Jonathan Brownson

MEAP Proficiency: 54%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: 0%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 70%

Points of Pride:
• Participated in Rachel’s Challenge antibullying program.
• Welcomed students to new school year with big community party.
• Marched in Tulip Time parade for 18th straight year.

“Vanderbilt makes sure each child is equally challenged.”
— PARENT, VANDERBILT CHARTER ACADEMY

VANGUARD CHARTER ACADEMY
1620 52nd St. SW, Wyoming, MI 49519
T (616) 538-3630
F (616) 538-3646
www.nhaschools.com/schools/vanguard

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1996
Enrollment: 768
School Leader: Mr. Daryl Vriesenga
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Jeffrey Walters*, Darlene Kolehouse, Ryan Sieradzki, Kevin Somero

MEAP Proficiency: 68%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +23%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 70%

Points of Pride:
• Transitioned into Dean Model of administration.
• Received NHA award for excellent parent involvement for eighth year in a row.
• Participated in several community service projects.
WALKER CHARTER ACADEMY

1801 3 Mile Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49544
T (616) 785-2700
F (616) 785-0894
www.nhaschools.com/schools/walker

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1997
Enrollment: 766
School Leader: Mr. Steve Bagley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Philip Catlett*, Ross Luurtsema, Robert Schellenberg, David Zoller
MEAP Proficiency: 66%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +31%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 36%

Points of Pride:
• Received NHA award for highest percentage of parent satisfaction.
• Four teachers were recognized as National Teachers of Excellence.
• Students raised more than $12,000 for community agencies.

“I love the feeling of community that is within the school.”
– PARENT, WALKER CHARTER ACADEMY

WARRENDALE CHARTER ACADEMY

19400 Sawyer, Detroit, MI 48228
T (313) 240-4200
F (313) 240-4203
www.nhaschools.com/schools/warrendale

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2001
Enrollment: 703
School Leader: Mr. Vondra Glass
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Ron Lockett*, Carl Jackson II, Lamont Corbin, Vanaurd Williams
MEAP Proficiency: 35%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +7%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 98%

Points of Pride:
• Excellent teacher collaboration.
• Instruction grouping and the use of two staff members in each room.
• Improved student behaviors overall.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON-PARKS ACADEMY
11685 Appleton Rd., Redford, MI 48239
T (313) 592-6061
F (313) 242-5156
www.washington-parksacademy.org

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2009
Enrollment: 618
School Leader: Mr. Scott Cairo
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: James Ryder Jr.*, Marcia Kreger, Shannon Richey, Kennis Wooten, Michelle Shelton, Gerald Seizert, Steven Londo, Catherine Govan

MEAP Proficiency: 32%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +5%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 79%

Points of Pride:
• Added 60 tablets to classrooms.
• Debate team won four rounds of debate at the Detroit Urban Debate League.
• Invite community leaders to meet with students and participate in class activities.

“You have freedom with the arts. You’re not locked in a classroom all day. There are lots of hands-on, fun stuff to do.” – STUDENT, WMAAA

WEST MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ACADEMICS
17350 Hazel St., Spring Lake, MI 49456
T (616) 844-9961
F (616) 844-9941
www.wmaaa.com

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1996
Enrollment: 450
School Leader: Ms. Catherine Cantu
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: James Butler*, Carrie-Ann Tulloch, Marcia Rappleye, John Weaver, Leon Stille, Jamie LeRoux, John Hayes

MEAP Proficiency: 68%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -5%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 31%

Points of Pride:
• Became AdvancED accredited.
• Ranked in the 93rd percentile in Michigan Top to Bottom rankings.
• One of five districts in Michigan to utilize the AVID curriculum.
WILLIAM C. ABNEY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY
1435 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503
T (616) 454-5541
F (616) 454-5598
www.thewcaa.org

Grades: K–5
Opened: 1998
Enrollment: 391
School Leader: Ms. Genene Rhodes
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Jathan Austin*, Michael Daniels, David Wilson, Frank Berrodin, Daniel Calabrese

MEAP Proficiency: 27%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -7%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 90%

Points of Pride:
- Participated in Jump Rope for Heart.
- Students entered artwork into ArtPrize®.
- Partnered with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital pediatric residents.

“Bishop William C. Abney had a dream for a school that promotes lifelong learners. The students here keep his legacy alive.” – TEACHER, WILLIAM C. ABNEY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY

WILLIAM C. ABNEY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL
256 Alger St., Grand Rapids, MI 49507
T (616) 301-2810
F (616) 454-5598
www.thewcaa.org

Grades: 6–8
Opened: 2011
Enrollment: 151
School Leader: Mr. Markeith Large
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Jathan Austin*, Michael Daniels, David Wilson, Frank Berrodin, Daniel Calabrese

MEAP Proficiency: 23%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: -9%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 94%

Points of Pride:
- Improved test scores.
- Improved student behavior.
- Worked with community organization to prepare dinner for homeless families.
WINDEMERE PARK CHARTER ACADEMY

3100 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917
T (517) 327-0700
F (517) 327-0800
www.nhaschools.com/schools/windemerepark

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1999
Enrollment: 718
School Leader: Ms. Yvonne Thomas
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Teresa Reid*, Randy Umfleet, Andrew Kilpatrick, David Smith, Emily Carney

MEAP Proficiency: 60%
MEAP vs. Select Peer: +24%
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 53%

Points of Pride:
• Writing and math scores continue to improve.
• Teacher won $1,000 from OfficeMax® to fill class with new supplies.
• Distributing our WPCA Alumni Scholarship.

“My child has turned from a D student to an honor roll student.”
– PARENT, WINDEMERE PARK CHARTER ACADEMY

* Board President
As the GVSU CSO celebrates 20 years of authorizing charter schools, it also looks forward to a future of measured growth in the number of schools it authorizes and the opportunities those schools will provide for even more Michigan students.

CANTON PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

Address: 46610 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48188
Grades: 9–10 (year 1); 9–12 (full)
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: PrepNet
School District: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Program Summary: Canton Preparatory High School is a college preparatory high school that will employ a powerful combination of quality leadership, a rigorous college-prep curriculum, and an emphasis on high personal achievement, healthy personal growth, and character development for every student.

“GVSU continues to provide tremendous assistance in working toward the opening of the school along with setting high educational standards. The high standards and values set by GVSU will provide the young people attending our school with an exceptional future.”

– CARL BERRY, BOARD PRESIDENT, CANTON PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY MUSKEGON

Address: 125 Catherine Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
Grades: 9–12
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: Self-managed
School District: Muskegon Public Schools
Program Summary: Covenant House Academies start with a strong philosophy that puts the needs of the students first. The academies motivate students by providing a clear, defined path to achieving their educational goals. The ultimate mission of Covenant House Academies is to improve the life of prospective students who have previously been school dropouts, homeless, or otherwise at risk.

“GVSU is the ideal partner to assist the Early Career Academy in fulfilling its mission as a career focused charter high school in which students can earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree concurrently.”

– DAVID CATALANO, EARLY CAREER ACADEMY AT ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

EARLY CAREER ACADEMY

Address: 1522 East Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48083
Grades: 11 (year 1); 11–12 (full)
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: ESI Service Corp.
School District: Troy School District
Program Summary: Early Career Academy is a career-focused high school, for grades 11 and 12, in which students can earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning an associate's degree in either network systems administration or software development from ITT Technical Institute.
GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

Address: 28111 Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152
Grades: K–5 (year 1); K–8 (full)
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
School District: Clarenceville School District

Program Summary: Grand River Academy’s mission is to provide a high quality K–8 education that places each student on the path to college readiness. The school will achieve this through implementation of a rigorous curriculum, data-driven instruction, a professional development program designed to help teachers become the best they can be, and creation of a school culture that provides a safe and nurturing learning environment designed to help students develop the skills and personal qualities important for success in life.

NEW PARADIGM COLLEGE PREP

Address: 2450 S. Beatrice, Detroit, MI 48217
Grades: PreK–2 (year 1); PreK–12 (full)
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: New Paradigm for Education
School District: Detroit Public Schools

Program Summary: The mission of New Paradigm College Prep is to prepare students for a future as global citizens and successful lifelong learners. Utilizing a proven research-based curriculum, academic development will be achieved in a dignified and supportive environment that incorporates family, staff, and community partnerships in pursuit of educational excellence.

PATHWAYS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Address: 2260 Midbury St., Detroit MI 48034
Grades: K–5 (year 1); K–12 (full)
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2014
Management Company: Pathways Global Institutes
School District: Detroit Public Schools

Program Summary: Pathways Global Leadership Academy (PGLA) is aimed at putting metropolitan Detroit students on a college trajectory. PGLA places rigor, relationships, and relevance at the center of its teaching and learning. Students will master essential skills and content, take ownership of their learning, and think boldly while addressing complex academic and community issues.

NEW SCHOOL PIPELINE

“Pathways inspires independent thinkers who will embrace the sense of leadership, efficacy and civic responsibility necessary to create a legacy which will be transferred from generation to generation.”
– PGLA VISION STATEMENT

“The mission of the GVSU Charter Schools Office to enhance student learning by providing oversight, compliance, and professional development to our charter schools embodies the purpose of National Heritage Academies to better educate more children. I look forward to being a member of this team as Grand River Academy prepares to open.”
– ALAN HARPER, PRINCIPAL, GRAND RIVER ACADEMY

“We believe that the GVSU CSO’s long-standing history and experience in authorizing charter schools will be a tremendous asset to our commitment of producing and operating high-performing schools for Detroit’s children.”
– RALPH C. BLAND, NEW PARADIGM FOR EDUCATION
EAGLE’S NEST ACADEMY

Address: 5005 Cloverlawn Dr., Flint, MI 48504
Grades: K–3 (year 1); K–6 (full)
Management Company: North Flint Reinvestment Corporation, Inc.
School District: Flint Community Schools

Program Summary: It is the mission of Eagle’s Nest Academy to provide students with a safe atmosphere that supports and promotes growth in all academic areas in a way that enables students to be self-motivated scholars who will be successful at all levels of education and productive citizens of a diverse society. Eagle’s Nest will be devoted to developing independence in students by building confidence, competence, self-esteem, and respect for others.

“The Eagle’s Nest Academy team is excited about the educational partnership that has been established with GVSU. We have high standards for the scholars that will walk through the doors of Eagle’s Nest. We are elated our authorizer shares our core values and out-of-the-box approach to learning. There is a positive synergy that exists and we can’t wait to open our doors in Fall 2015!”

– REGINALD G. FLYNN, FOUNDER, EAGLE’S NEST ACADEMY

PARTNERSHIP PARK ACADEMY

Address: 209 E. Washington, Ste. 100, Jackson, MI 49201
Grades: K–3 (year 1); K–5 (full)
Management Company: Expeditionary Learning
School District: Jackson Public Schools

Program Summary: Partnership Park Academy is a small, urban primary school that will be based on the Expeditionary Learning curriculum. All students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become independent, effective thinkers, and responsible citizens.

“We are pleased and honored to join with GVSU to create a unique school that will serve the children and families of the community of Jackson. GVSU’s commitment to excellence for all is a challenge that we embrace with great anticipation.”

– DON TASSIE, FOUNDER, PARTNERSHIP PARK ACADEMY
Grand Valley-authorized charter schools add measurable value to students, neighborhoods, and the state. The office's rigorous performance expectations establish school cultures focused on improving student outcomes. Systematic financial, operational, and performance analyses are conducted regularly to drive performance and improvement at the portfolio and school building levels.
DATA

TOTAL K-12 ENROLLMENT FOR 2013-2014

31,820

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

- Kindergarten: 10.46%
- 1st Grade: 9.48%
- 2nd Grade: 9.31%
- 3rd Grade: 9.26%
- 4th Grade: 8.92%
- 5th Grade: 8.49%
- 6th Grade: 8.60%
- 7th Grade: 8.55%
- 8th Grade: 8.46%
- 9th Grade: 6.76%
- 10th Grade: 5.09%
- 11th Grade: 3.81%
- 12th Grade: 2.78%

DEMOGRAPHIC ENROLLMENT

- African American: 48.37%
- White: 36.38%
- Hispanic: 6.74%
- Asian American: 4.53%
- Multiracial: 3.51%
- American Indian: 0.37%
- Hawaiian: 0.09%

ENROLLMENT BY OPERATOR

- Advance Educational Services: 1.42%
- American Charter Education Services: 0.35%
- Charter HR Educational Services: 3.6%
- Charter Schools USA: 0.65%
- Concept Schools: 4.46%
- Cornerstone Charter Schools: 4.74%
- Cornerstone Schools: 0.40%
- Creative Urban Education, Inc.: 3.74%
- Detroit 90/90: 5.96%
- Expeditionary Learning: 0.11%
- Foundation for Behavioral Resources: 2.06%
- Global Educational Excellence: 0.69%
- HR Charter Consulting LLC: 2.13%
- K12 Inc.: 13.57%
- Lighthouse Academies, Inc.: 0.94%
- National Heritage Academies: 46.29%
- PrepNet, LLC: 0.45%
- Romine Group: 1.90%
- Sage Consulting, Inc.: 0.64%
- Self-managed: 1.77%
- Youth Vision Solution: 3.14%
DATA

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieve Charter Academy</td>
<td>5.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbor Academy</td>
<td>9.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black River Public School</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byrnes Center Charter School</td>
<td>12.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler Woods Charter Academy</td>
<td>10.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comercedale High School</td>
<td>18.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Detroit - East Side</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Detroit - Southwest Site</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids</td>
<td>9.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12)</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Charter Academy PK-6</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Achievement Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Enterprise Academy</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Merit Charter Academy</td>
<td>10.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Premium Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Arbor Charter Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Charter Academy</td>
<td>7.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escuela Avancemos</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Academy</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel Charter Academy</td>
<td>7.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel Charter Academy - Grand River Prep School</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facon Language Immersion Academy</td>
<td>15.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Academy</td>
<td>10.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Heights Academy</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies (PSAD) - Middle/High</td>
<td>10.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies - Elementary</td>
<td>10.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knaap Charter Academy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln-King Academy</td>
<td>9.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medison-Care Academy</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Washington-Parks Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics</td>
<td>11.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Albay Academy - Middle School</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Albay Academy Elementary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windemere Park Charter Academy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FRL AVERAGE

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<tr>
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<td>9.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GVSU CHARTER SCHOOLS RECEIVE ON AVERAGE $70 LESS PER PUPIL THAN THEIR HOST DISTRICT

GVSU AVERAGE

9.63%

*N/A: Fewer than 5 students
### ENROLLMENT BY REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Region</td>
<td>5,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek/Lakeshore Region</td>
<td>2,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo Region</td>
<td>2,074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midstate Region</td>
<td>4,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide/Detroit Region</td>
<td>4,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyber Region</td>
<td>16,463</td>
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### NUMBER OF SCHOOLS LAUNCHED ANNUALLY

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Elementary Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NUMBER OF SCHOOLS PER GRADE LEVEL

- **Elementary Schools**: 47
- **Middle Schools**: 40
- **High Schools**: 17
GRAD RATE VS. MICHIGAN AVERAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Dropout Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black River Public School</td>
<td>93.67%</td>
<td>2.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Preparatory Academy (PSAD) - High School</td>
<td>93.39%</td>
<td>1.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron Center Charter School</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12)</td>
<td>82.76%</td>
<td>10.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Academy - School for Creative Studies</td>
<td>81.61%</td>
<td>10.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel Charter Academy - Grand River Prep School</td>
<td>75.26%</td>
<td>14.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Virtual Charter Academy</td>
<td>28.57%</td>
<td>26.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVSU AVERAGE</td>
<td>76.94%</td>
<td>10.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE AVERAGE</td>
<td>65.11%</td>
<td>13.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduation and dropout rates for schools in portfolio 3 years or more

ACT AVERAGE

GVSU ACT average for schools in portfolio 3 years or more

7 OUT OF 9 SCHOOLS PERFORMED AS WELL OR BETTER ON THE ACT IN 2014 COMPARED TO 2013
All Grand Valley State University charter school students in grades 2–8 take the Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to determine math, reading, and language usage instructional levels. When administered multiple times throughout the year, the test provides a remarkably accurate measure of student growth (gains). Below indicates the median gain percentiles for all GVSU-authorized schools in grades 2–8 for reading, math, and language usage for the 2013-14 school year. The GVSU CSO contract standard for NWEA growth is the 50th percentile.

“We utilize the NWEA data to identify specific learning goals for each student, develop targeted instructional strategies that are implemented in each classroom, and monitor their progress through each testing cycle, three times per year.”

Shawn Leonard, Principal, East Arbor Charter Academy
At Grand Valley State University, we keep class sizes small to provide students with individual instruction from highly qualified faculty members who teach all of our classes. It's just one of the reasons we are one of The Princeton Review's "Best in the Midwest."

Here's more about why Grand Valley has increased its number of graduates by an amount greater than any other Michigan public university — and why students from across the state and around the world are choosing to start their grand adventures at Grand Valley.

• Grand Valley is recognized as one of "America's Top Colleges" by Forbes.
• For the 18th year in a row, Grand Valley was named one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc.
• Grand Valley was named a "Green College" and listed as one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada in The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2014 Edition.
• Grand Valley State University’s Seidman College of Business is named one of "The Best 295 Business Schools" for 2014 by The Princeton Review.
• Grand Valley is a good investment for the state. Nearly 90 percent of recent graduates are employed or pursuing advanced degrees; of those working, 86 percent are employed in Michigan.

• Grand Valley is ranked 5th among U.S. master's degree-granting institutions for total number of study abroad students, according to the Institute of International Education in New York. During the 2012-2013 academic year, Grand Valley had more than 700 students study abroad.

• Grand Valley attracts the best and the brightest. The middle 50 percent of Grand Valley’s Fall 2013 entering class earned high school GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 3.8 and ACT scores of 21 to 26.

• Students across Michigan are seeking a Grand Valley education. The top six counties of origin for incoming students are Kent, Livingston, Ottawa, Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb.

• Grand Valley has earned first or second in the Directors’ Cup for being the best NCAA Division II athletic program in the nation 13 straight years.

• During the 2012-2013 academic year, Grand Valley students performed more than one million community service hours through the Community Service Learning Center, classroom assignments, student organizations, and personal volunteer work.

• Grand Valley’s libraries have employed the first commercial adoption worldwide of a Web discovery service, which simplifies the task of searching the libraries’ more than 250 databases.

• During the 2013-2014 academic year, students received more than $253 million in financial aid, with more than $74 million in scholarships and grant assistance.