

Charter School Authorizing Program

FY 2025 Authorizer Income and Expense Report

(Statutory Reference: Minn. Stat. § 124E.05, subd 8 - Authorizer Statement of Expenditures)

Background

Per Minnesota Statutes, 124E.05, subd 8: By September 30 of each year, an authorizer shall submit to the commissioner a statement of income and expenditures related to chartering activities during the previous school year ending June 30. A copy of the statement shall be given to all schools chartered by the authorizer. Statements of income and expenditures serve multiple purposes. They provide transparency regarding the use of public funds, inform charter schools regarding the value of authorizer services and provide accurate information to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the State Legislature about the actual costs of authorizing.

Executive Summary

In 2000, Volunteers of America of Minnesota (VOA-MN) became the first non-profit charter school authorizer in the nation. The VOA-MN Charter School Authorizing Program envisions a society composed of all students achieving maximum learning while serving others. The VOA-MN Authorizing Program mission is to guide our authorized charter schools to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement with service to others.

VOA-MN has maintained a modest growth plan for authorizing new schools and approving school transfers. Smart-growth has always been our model. In FY25, VOA-MN authorized 18 charter schools with the successful opening of Heartland Lakes Community School in fall 2024.

Over the years, VOA-MN has cultivated a charter school authorizing model that extends well beyond the compliance-focused framework outlined in state statute. Our approach is rooted in proactive engagement and a commitment to adding value to the schools we authorize. Through the VOA-MN Charter School Authorizing Program, we closely monitor academic performance, financial health, board governance, and operational compliance. This is accomplished through regular communication, site visits, board meeting observations, and monthly reviews of financial and governance documents.

When concerns arise, we respond swiftly—partnering with school boards and leadership teams to problem-solve and connect them with relevant resources. In addition to oversight, we routinely provide technical assistance as part of our authorizing role, fostering collaboration across our portfolio of schools. Our emphasis on shared learning is exemplified by the Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference, promoted by VOA-MN, which continues to grow in both participation and popularity.

The VOA-MN Charter School Authorizing Program is a member of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS), and Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA).

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (FY25), Authorizer VOA-MN received \$455,767 in **income** attributable to authorizing fees and \$53,907 in **income** attributable to the Annual Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (FY25), Authorizer VOA-MN had \$390,155 in related **expenses** for chartering activities and \$64,554 in **expenses** attributable to the Annual Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, Authorizer VOA-MN had a budget surplus of \$65,612 attributable to authorizing activities and a deficit of \$10,647 attributable to the Annual Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference.

Authorizer VOA-MN FY25 Income and Expense Report Details

(FY25 Authorizer Fee Amounts Include FY24 Adjustments)

INCOME

	School Name	Amount Collected	Notes
1	Athlos Academy of St. Cloud St. Cloud, MN	\$26,363	FY25 Authorizer Fee
2	Athlos Leadership Academy Brooklyn Park, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
3	Birch Grove Community School Tofte, MN	\$7,281	FY25 Authorizer Fee
4	Bluffview Montessori School Winona, MN	\$23,979	FY25 Authorizer Fee
5	FIT Academy Apple Valley, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
6	Harbor City International School Duluth, MN	\$24,129	FY25 Authorizer Fee
7	Heartland Lakes Community School Park Rapids, MN	\$8,847	FY25 Authorizer Fee
8	Kaleidoscope Charter School Otsego, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
9	KIPP: Stand Academy Minneapolis, MN	\$26,213	FY25 Authorizer Fee
10	Lakes International Language Academy Forest Lake, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
11	Naytahwaush Community Charter School Naytahwaush, MN	\$14,623	FY25 Authorizer Fee
12	New Century School St. Paul, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
13	PACT Charter School Ramsey, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
14	Schoolcraft Learning Community Bemidji, MN	\$22,087	FY25 Authorizer Fee
15	Southside Family Charter School, Minneapolis, MN	\$13,130	FY25 Authorizer Fee
16	Spectrum High School Elk River, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
17	Twin Lakes STEM Academy Brooklyn Center, MN	\$26,999	FY25 Authorizer Fee
18	TrekNorth Junior and Senior High School Bemidji, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
19	Woodbury Leadership Academy Woodbury, MN	\$29,124	FY25 Authorizer Fee
Total FY25 Authorizer Fees Collected		\$455,767	
FY25 Annual Conference Fees/Donations		\$53,907	
FY25 TOTAL REVENUE		\$509,674	
Salaries		\$99,410	
Other Employee Benefits		\$25,148	Health, Life, LTD
Payroll Taxes		\$6,785	
Workers Comp Insurance		\$326	
Professional Fees		\$162,486	Independent Contractors; Governance Analyst/Constituent Services, Financial Analyst, Academic Analyst, Program Assistant, Field Representative / New School development Lead, Special Education Programs Analyst. Liability insurance, property insurance

Membership Dues	\$6,005	
Technology	\$600	Telephone/Cell Phone/Technology
Professional Fees	\$4,508	Legal
Transportation	\$6,410	Travel for a minimum of two site visits and two board meetings per year to 19 schools, plus charter school application an expansion interviews and the annual conference in Bemidji, MN, plus additional leadership meetings as needed.
Conferences and Meetings	\$6,479	Meals and lodging for two site visits and two board meetings per year to 19 schools, plus charter school application & expansion interviews and the annual conference in Bemidji, MN, plus additional school management meeting meals as needed.
Office Supplies	\$3,161	
Professional Development	\$0	
Bank and Credit Card Fees	\$701	
Administrative Support	\$67,617	
Other Operating Expenses	519	Program Food, Volunteer Stipends, Organizational Dues
FY25 Annual Conference	\$64,554	
Total Expenses	\$454,709	

Report Prepared By:

Stephanie Olsen, Program Manager
VOA-MN Charter School Authorizing Program

Rochel Perna, Financial Analyst
VOA-MN Charter School Authorizing Program