



# **TRIO WOLF CREEK**

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DISTANCE LEARNING CHARTER

[www.triowolfcreek.com](http://www.triowolfcreek.com)

**This report uses data collected over the period of  
7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020**

**TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School #4095**  
**2019-2020**  
**Student Accountability Report**

**Student Accountability Report respectfully submitted: December 8, 2020, to the TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School Board of Directors, the MN Department of Education, and our authorizing agent of Chisago Lakes Public Schools.**

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**1. SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

**Mission “To provide students with a personalized and flexible online education that will prepare them for future success”.**

**Vision “To motivate and empower students to reach their full potential”.**

Our mission is reviewed annually for accuracy at the board of directors’ retreat. During various board meetings, the board of directors reviewed the mission and vision statements for accuracy. This work has brought about conversations that have allowed us to examine our identity as a charter school.

In addition to our mission driving decision-making at our school, we use our motto of “Learning Anytime - Anywhere” to help ensure that we are making quality online learning opportunities available for all students who attend our charter school.

**SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

Our school is based on a “small community” school philosophy. The maximum number of students at full capacity will be about 205 students. Our philosophy includes the belief that each student, even if they have not been successful in another school setting, will make significant progress with us. This progress will be led by one caring individual who helps them in academic, as well as non-academic, areas of their lives. This caring individual is called a Learning Manager and is the center of the model on which we base our educational program. Learning Managers use what is referred to as an IGP (Individual Graduation Plan) to help students gain credits, create standardized test score goals, create short-term and long-term goals, and to think about their future.

Our small school philosophy is shown in our student-to-teacher ratio of approximately twenty-four students per Learning Manager. This ratio is used for the advisor portion of the school program, but most core academic classes are below the enrollment number of 25 students and the small class size creates opportunities for individualization and differentiation for student needs. We also believe that small numbers allow each Learning Manager to build a long-lasting relationship with each of their students. It is the Wolf Creek belief that each student must begin to make progress from where they begin, and that progress will be self-paced for each individual. It is also our belief that all learning starts with a relationship and that students will work harder when they know someone at their school really cares about their future success. Taking the time to build on the Learning Manager model can be difficult to do even in a virtual environment but we know the payoff of true student success is worth all the time spent on non-academic areas. Some of our former students have seen their graduation dates pass where others graduate early. We work with each student on an individual basis, starting from where they came from and taking them to where they want to go.

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Our school philosophy is embedded in day-to-day interactions with students, parents, staff, and the community; as well as being evident in all working documents for our school. Our philosophy is reflected by the governing body of our school board in all financial decisions.

We work with the larger online learning community in the state and across the nation to help ensure that we are providing research-based educational practices for our students. Our charter school is a member of both the MNOLA Minnesota Online Learning Alliance (MNOLA) and the MN Association of Charter Schools (MACS). We are also a member of MAAP or the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs and recently joined the National Coalition of Public Independent Charter Schools. Our work with these organizations and membership in all these organizations shows our commitment to research-based virtual strategies and accountability as a charter school that will help improve student achievement now and in the future.

In addition, we are also a fully accredited online entity through Advanced Education now referred to as Cognita and bearing the NCA (North Central Accreditation) seal. We pride ourselves on being one of the first online learning programs in the state and one of the most respected. We are not the largest online learning program, nor do we enroll the most students, but we feel that we truly touch each student who enrolls with us.

## **HISTORY**

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning was established in 1996 and was first a part of the public school system in the Chisago Lakes School District. From the beginning, the program was focused on using innovative ways to teach students by leveraging the latest technology. We were one of the first online learning programs in the state of Minnesota and continue to be a leader in online learning policy innovations in the state.

In our first three years, we were a part of Chisago Lakes Schools. We operated with the distinction of being executed by a state grant called TRIO (Technology Regional Integration Organization). When the grant ended we were a “school within a school program” for Chisago Lakes for several years. It became apparent that working within the confines of the public school did not always work for us in terms of true innovation. Eventually, the decision to become a charter school became clear. In 2002 we officially opened as a charter school that is sponsored or authorized by Chisago Lakes Schools. This sponsoring arrangement was beneficial to the Wolf Creek Charter School as we first began as a charter school entity. Our charter school has experienced a sponsoring/authorizing relationship unlike any other in the state. For example, our sponsor has aided us by providing invaluable financial, as well as, leadership consultation while still allowing us to be an autonomous entity. We have evolved from an alternative program into a highly successful charter school. In addition, we have expanded from a handful of students to serving several hundred students during a school year. There are those that don’t see the benefits of a local school district authorizing a local charter school that resides within their boundaries, but Chisago Lakes Schools learned many lessons in the late 1990s when another charter school

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called Summit School for the Arts opened within the borders of Chisago Lakes Schools. At that time Chisago Lakes did not authorize this charter school, but by state law still had to provide transportation to their students and work together on resident special education IEPs and student services. Due to complete mismanagement and legal problems, this charter school was closed in spring 2000. After that unpleasant experience, Chisago Lakes Schools decided that if any other charter schools wanted to open up and serve a majority of Chisago Lakes resident students that they would be involved in some way in ensuring that all legal and ethical protocols were occurring. They believed that as a public school district themselves, they had a lot of experience to provide to a charter school as an entity responsible for overseeing all of these mechanisms within the charter school itself, and they had a passion to not allow another poorly run charter school to affect so many of their students. This rationale for becoming an authorizer is admirable and has allowed Chisago Lakes School and Wolf Creek to forge a new frontier in authorizing that has the highest degrees of accountability and respect from both parties. As allowed in Minnesota law, Chisago Lakes Schools does provide some services to Wolf Creek at a charge that is competitive and goes through a rigorous process set out in statute. In addition, the charter school is responsible for notifying the commissioner of the MN Department of Education that our authorizer may be bidding on services, which is done each and every time these services go out for bid. Once again this service agreement shows that the charter school is the customer and holds the service provider accountable for providing quality services in a timely manner.

As many public schools and other entities stop being authorizing agents, it is felt by Wolf Creek that Chisago Lakes Schools should be applauded for their efforts in this area.

For additional information on school history please see Appendix Pages.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR SCHOOL**

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning is an online learning high school serving grades 9-12. We are the only hybrid online high school in the State of Minnesota and feel that we are producing a quality online curriculum for students while still allowing them flexibility.

Many high school students in full-time online schools lack the motivation to get the work completed completely online at a distance, so our hybrid model has an option for students to work 20% of the time in our lab space for more structure and support. The other work is independent and can be completed from home. This work can be completed using a variety of materials, including a personal computer with internet access, educational websites, and online curriculum, etc. Most students complete their work at their home, but other students may complete work at a public library or other location.

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*COVID 19 Pandemic Notations:*

*With the change for all in the educational arena to combat the COVID 19 pandemic, Wolf Creek was uniquely prepared to administer a curriculum that was created to be delivered in a virtual setting. Our staff were very comfortable working as online teachers. We did suspend our campus option in March of 2020 during the pandemic and quickly pivoted to a 100% virtual option by providing virtual campus check-ins on Google Hangouts, academic support in various ways, and social and emotional supports at various levels. Our mental health and administrative supports quickly moved to telehealth options and were able to fully serve students in the spring of 2020.*

Students in our program are most successful if they are independent and self-motivated. When we encounter a student who does not possess these qualifications, their Learning Manager will work with them to personalize the course to accommodate their needs. These students may require weekly, or even daily, goals. Each student works on an individual plan to meet their individual goals. Weekly monitoring by parents is also crucial to student success. Parent involvement is essential for success as an online learner even in the high school grades. We try to involve parents in a variety of ways through communication at conference meetings, open houses, newsletters, charter school board, and committee meetings, telephone and email communications.

**MN Department of Education Certification**

We are also an approved provider of online learning courses in the state of Minnesota, as designated by the Minnesota Department of Education. The documents submitted to the state of Minnesota to continue this certification show Wolf Creek as a highly stable and reliable online entity with good standing on all required reports to MDE. We underwent a thorough three-year evaluation during the 2019-2020 school year. We are awaiting the results of the evaluation from MDE at this time.

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**II. AUTHORIZER INFORMATION**

Authorizer Name: Chisago Lakes Schools ISD #2144

Authorizer Liaison: Sarah Schmidt

sschmidt@isd2144.org or 651-213-2005

Contract expiration: December 30, 2021.

Chisago Lakes Schools is an approved authorizer through a rigorous MDE process. They currently only authorize our charter school and provide a great deal of oversight. They attend monthly board meetings several times per year and stay in close contact with school policies via the board minutes and meetings. An annual site visit, which includes an interview with staff and students, occurs each year, and constant reporting via documents, such as this annual report, are provided on a monthly basis to the authorizer. The authorizer remains committed to its responsibility to ensure quality academic improvements for all students in the charter school shown through a multiple measure approach.

Our sponsor Chisago Lakes Schools ISD #2144 has been supportive of all of our efforts as a charter school. Chisago Lakes Schools did complete a rigorous process with MDE to become a certified authorizer and takes this responsibility very seriously. They are currently preparing to undergo another five-year review process called MAPES or the MN Authorizer Performance Evaluation System to continue as an authorizing agent. This process will begin in the summer of 2020. All necessary information on our sponsor agreement was submitted to MDE in a timely manner.

We have a very close relationship with our sponsoring agent due to the fact that we contract with them for specific services which include:

Business services

Payroll services

Technology services

Special Education services-including Director and School Psychologist

All legislative requirements were fulfilled to contract with our authorizer as described in the 2009 changes to the charter school law when the services contract expired on June 30, 2022. All documents on adherence are available from the charter school director for review purposes upon written request.

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**SCHOOL FINANCE**

Director of Business Services  
Robyn Vosberg-Torgerson  
(651)213-2901  
rvosberg-torgerson@isd2144.org

Chisago Lakes Schools, ISD #2144  
29678 Karmel Avenue  
Chisago City, MN 55013

Wolf Creek maintains a healthy fund balance and has shown to have a track record of superior fiscal management. Please see fiscal documents located in the appendix of this report for more detail on financial matters.

[Annual Financial Report - 6/30/2020 - Management Letter](#)

**AUDIT INFORMATION**

**ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP**

*Certified Public Accountants & Consultants*  
5201 Eden Avenue, Suite 370  
Edina, Minnesota 55436  
952.715.3017 Direct Line  
952.835.9090 Phone  
952.835.3261 Fax  
[www.aemcpas.com](http://www.aemcpas.com)

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**III. ENROLLMENT/ATTRITION**

<b>Grades</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
9th	24	16	16	15	23
10th	33	39	41	41	33
11th	63	70	81	82	61
12th	66	65	63	61	64
12 (plus)	23	28	22	23	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>208</b>

\*2014-2015 includes Full time, OLL, and Tuition students enrolled on May 29, 2015

\*2015-2016 includes Full time, OLL, and Tuition students enrolled on Jun 3, 2016

\*2016-2017 includes Full time, OLL, and Tuition students enrolled on May 26, 2017

\*2017-2018 includes Full time, OLL, and Tuition students enrolled on Jun 1, 2018

\*2019-2020 included Full-time, OLL, and Tuition students enrolled on June 3, 2020

**Notes:**

It is important to note that the snapshot shows a one day timestamp of student numbers, but that our student enrollment numbers fluctuate quite a bit throughout the year. We served 270 full-time students in 2019-2020. In addition, we served 72 supplemental students, and one student paid tuition in order to take courses with us. Looking at a day in time snapshot is needed based on our Synergy student data system, but does not tell the entire story of all the students served at Wolf Creek this year.

**Tuition Students**

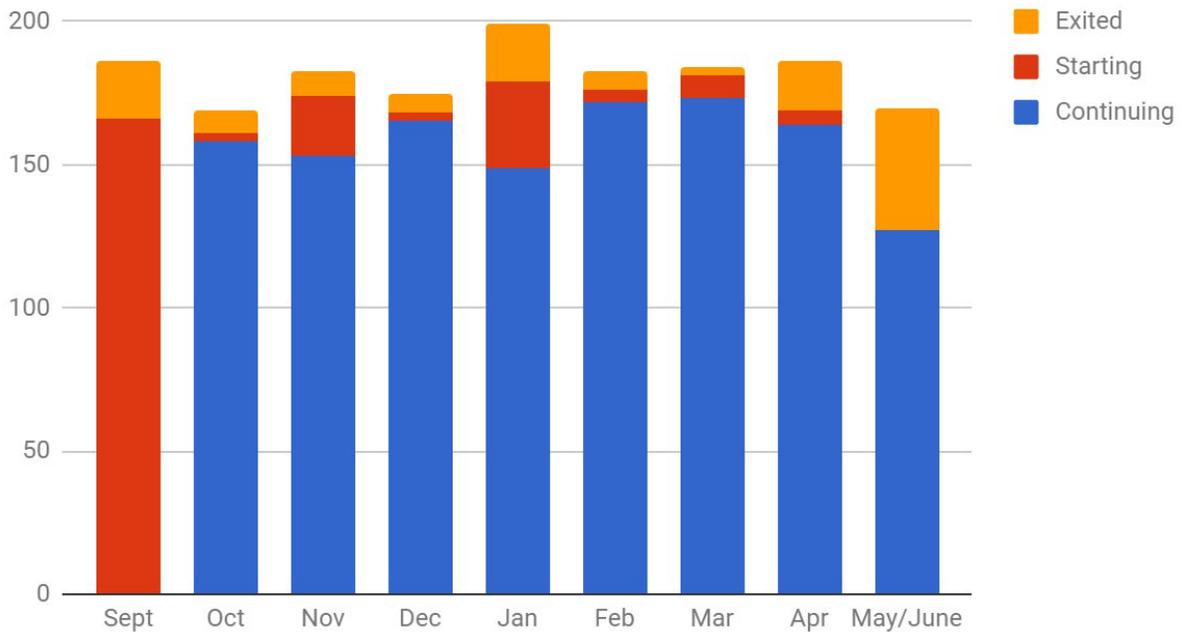
Students pay a \$499 fee per half credit due to no longer being able to generate state aid as they are using their state aid at their enrolling school, but need more courses being so far behind on credits to meet their graduation goal. Tuition based often occurs for seniors in spring term who need a few courses to graduate on time. By offering tuition-based courses, we are allowing these students a chance to earn needed credits and bring those accepted transfer credits back to their enrolling district to be used for graduation purposes. This is a way that Wolf Creek supports students in graduating, but does not earn graduation data points for these students, as the positive data points are earned by the enrolling district and no mention of the part Wolf Creek paid in graduation is mentioned. The exception to this case is students who have aged out with Wolf Creek and are enrolled past the year they turn 21 and, therefore, charged tuition.

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**Attrition Rates:**

The attrition rates are very difficult to calculate based on the fact that many students come to Wolf Creek for a short period of time, or for only a few courses needed at that time. When gathering data we also found that the most common reason for leaving Wolf Creek was that they graduated.

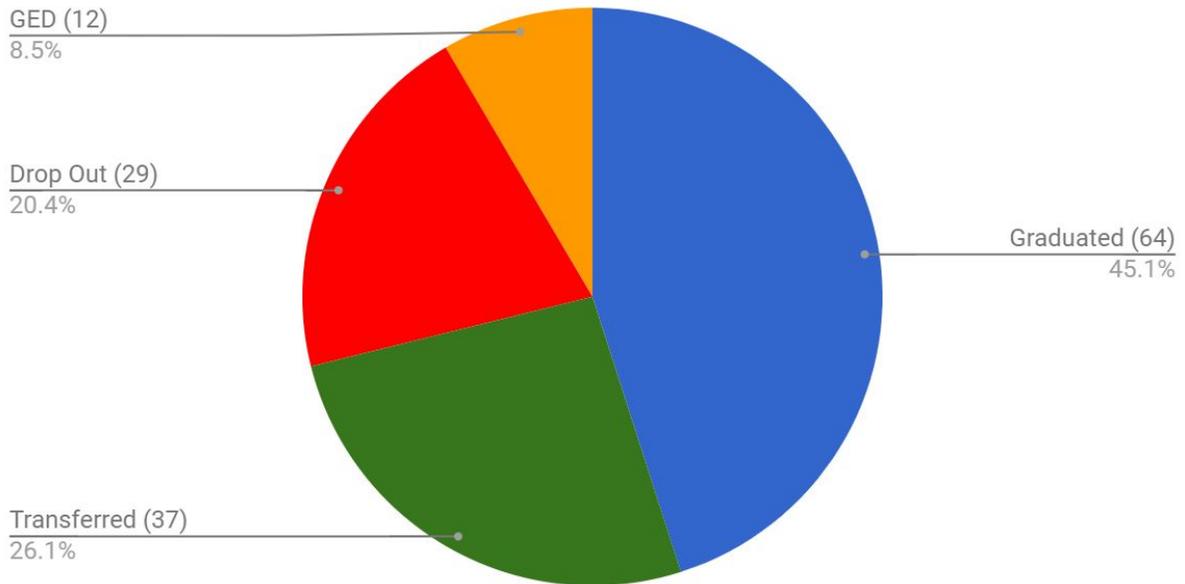
**2019-2020 Full-Time Enrollment**



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**2019-2020 Exit Reasons (Total Enrollment: 270)**

Excludes Summer Only, OLL and Tuition



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**Supplemental Services:**

We are one of the few charter schools that are offering online supplemental services and so we are reporting the supplemental numbers here. Supplemental enrollment means that a student is enrolled in a different Minnesota school district and is taking only a few courses at Wolf Creek to supplement their schedule. The OLL Law in MN says that a student can enroll for up to 50% of their school day with the online learning provider or more if the enrolling school district allows this to occur. Students may be enrolling in this option to supplement a PSEO schedule or to work around a scheduling conflict in a brick and mortar school. Other reasons include needing an abbreviated schedule in a brick and mortar school due to medical reasons or after school activities or being able to fulfill outside obligations such as being a teen parent.

One reason for this decline from 06/07 to 07/08 is the legislative changes that allowed supplemental students to only take 50% of their enrolled credits with a certified OLL provider. In previous years many supplemental students took more courses with us and were still considered supplemental students. For more information see the OLL Annual report we submitted to MDE in July of this year.

This is yet another way that Wolf Creek supports students in graduating but does not earn graduation data points for these students as the positive data points are earned by the enrolling district and no mention of the part Wolf Creek played in graduation is mentioned.

**SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT NUMBERS**

2005-06	100 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2006-07	130 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2007-08	43 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2008-09	66 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2009-10	83 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2010-11	84 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2011-12	83 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2012-13	53 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2013-14	71 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2014-15	101 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2015-16	165 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2016-17	125 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2017-18	147 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2018-19	136 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed
2019-20	140 Courses provided on a supplemental basis and passed

Additional Supplemental Student Information:

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- 72 students served in a supplemental or part-time manner
- 149 courses offered in total
- 147 courses passed
- 2 courses resulted in a grade of F (and no state aid was received for these courses)

Our enrollment numbers for the 2019-2020 school year remain steady. We believe this is due to our high-quality curriculum options and the need for today's students to have flexibility in their school day due to a variety of reasons. The charter school had an extensive waiting list for supplemental services in 2019-2020 and had to cap enrollment in popular courses such as American Sign Language (ASL).

For 2019-2020, once again, our most popular supplemental courses were a version of the American Sign Language online courses we offer. We allowed students to experience supplemental offerings that then allowed them to graduate in their home districts and their home districts received the positive graduation mark from MDE, but what we know in talking to supplemental students and their guidance counselors is that without the Wolf Creek supplemental courses they may not have graduated on time at all.

Another unique feature of supplemental course work is that state aid is only assigned to supplemental course work that results in a passing grade in the course. So a student could enroll in a supplemental course at Wolf Creek and use Wolf Creek resources all term but not pass the course, and we have essentially offered them the course at no cost to the enrolling school district. We have helped enrolling school districts to offer courses not offered in their school. Also, we have helped enrolling school districts to provide for students who are sick and hospitalized often or undergoing medical treatments, yet they are still allowed to remain in their home school district and graduate if possible with peers.

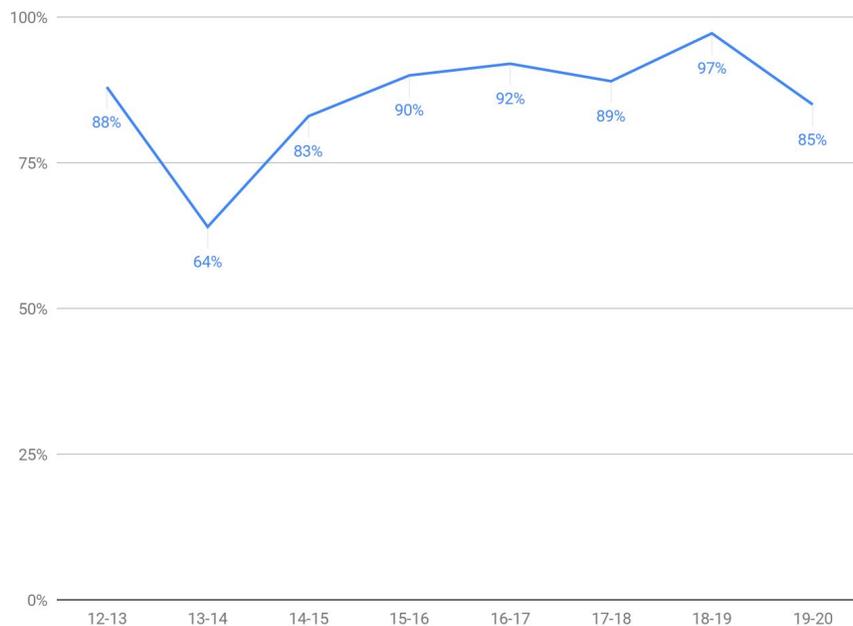
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**GRADUATION DATA**

School years designated	Number of Graduates
2012-13	42
2013-14	24
2014-15	40
2015-16	49
2016-17	55
2017-18	61
2018-19	65
2019-20	55

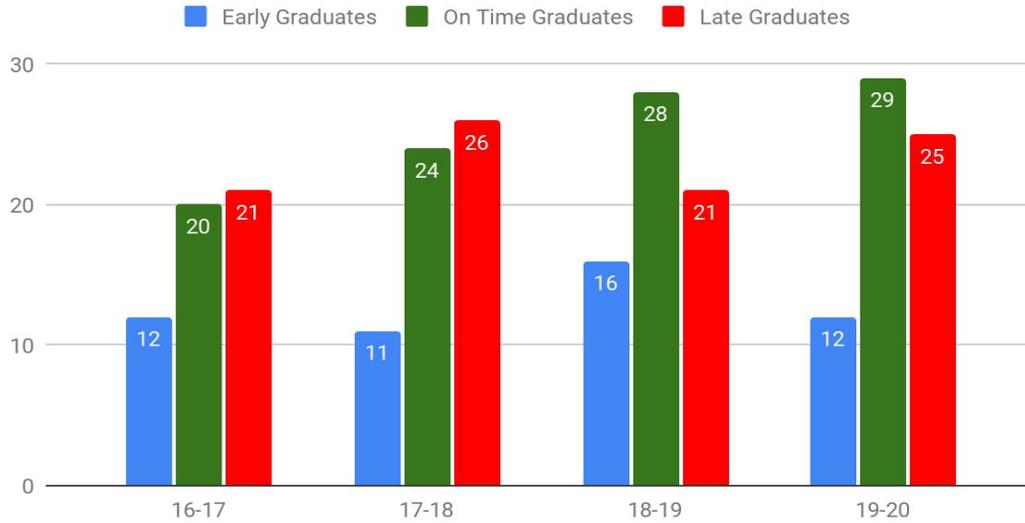
The number of graduates does fluctuate due to the number of seniors on track to graduate when they come to us and those that makeup credits with us. Each and every student who graduates is an indicator of our success. Wolf Creek also believes that the ESSA changes to graduation rate will more clearly show our success with graduates.

**Wolf Creek: On Track Graduates (Enrolled on Oct 1 with 19 Credits)**

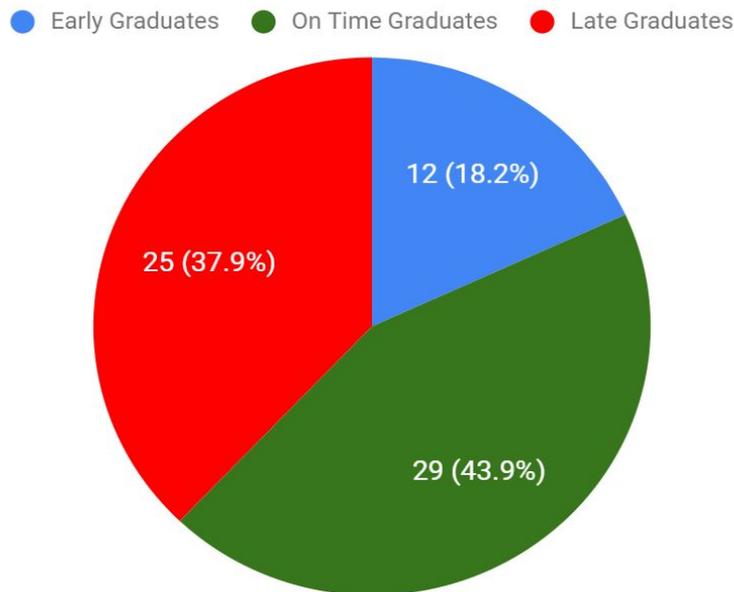


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**Early, On-Time, and Late Graduates by Year**



**19-20 Graduates**



**Admissions Data**

We did not have a waiting list for the 2019-2020 school years except for OLL students and application materials can be found in the appendix section of this document.

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Criteria	Student Percentage								
Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	14% (decrease of 2% from previous year)								
English Language Learners	0%								
Special Education Students	25 students (down 26% from previous year's data)								
At-Risk Students	79% of full-time students								
Ethnicity Statistics	By student number								
Am Indian	3								
Asian	3								
Hispanic	6								
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2								
Black	3								
2 or More	9								
*combining all starred categories above	26								
White	310								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>336</b>								
Gender									
Male	37%								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">F/T</th> <th style="width: 25%;">OLL</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Tuition</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">114</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	F/T	OLL	Tuition	Total	114	10	1	125	(decreased 6% from last year)
F/T	OLL	Tuition	Total						
114	10	1	125						
Female	63%								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">F/T</th> <th style="width: 25%;">OLL</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Tuition</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">149</td> <td style="text-align: center;">62</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">211</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	F/T	OLL	Tuition	Total	149	62	0	211	
F/T	OLL	Tuition	Total						
149	62	0	211						

\* This data was gathered using MN statute definitions in a gathering process conducted each year. We deal with a variety of factors that influence this at-risk definition including being behind peers academically and having a past poor school academic record which can result in gaps in learning. We worked as a staff to gather more data on our at-risk population this year and were surprised to find the following data points.

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From data collected in October of 2019 we know that, of 186 full-time enrolled students, 87% had at least one risk factor assigned to them. In February of 2020, of 194 full-time students, 83% had at least one risk factor assigned to them. See the table below for data points.

<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>October 2019 Student Count (186)</b>	<b>October 2019 Percentage</b>	<b>February 2020 Student Count (194)</b>	<b>February 2020 Percentage</b>
Below Grade Level	87	47%	96	49%
Behind in Credits	126	68%	119	61%
Parent or Pregnant	3	2%	1	1%
Assessed Chemically Dependent	4	2%	7	4%
Excluded or Expelled	0	0%	1	1%
Victim of Physical or Sexual Abuse	1	1%	1	1%
Mental Health Problems	34	18%	38	19%
Homelessness	1	1%	1	1%
English Second Language	1	1%	1	1%
Withdrawn or Truant	36	19%	29	15%

October 2019 Average of 1.5 At-Risk Factors per student

February 2020 Average of 1.6 At-Risk Factors per student

Free and reduced populations increased slightly from the previous year in eligibility. This is due to more students coming to lab to participate in the lunch program and due to the fact that students who filled out the form were eligible to take the ACT test for free this past year. This is the first year that the ACT test was not free when administered at Wolf Creek. As an online school, we find it difficult to show families the need for this paperwork if students are not coming to lab or needed lunch price modifications so this was an added incentive for all families to fill out the form. We continue to work to have all students, whether they take lunch at school or not, complete the paperwork so that good data can be used for title funding and other purposes.

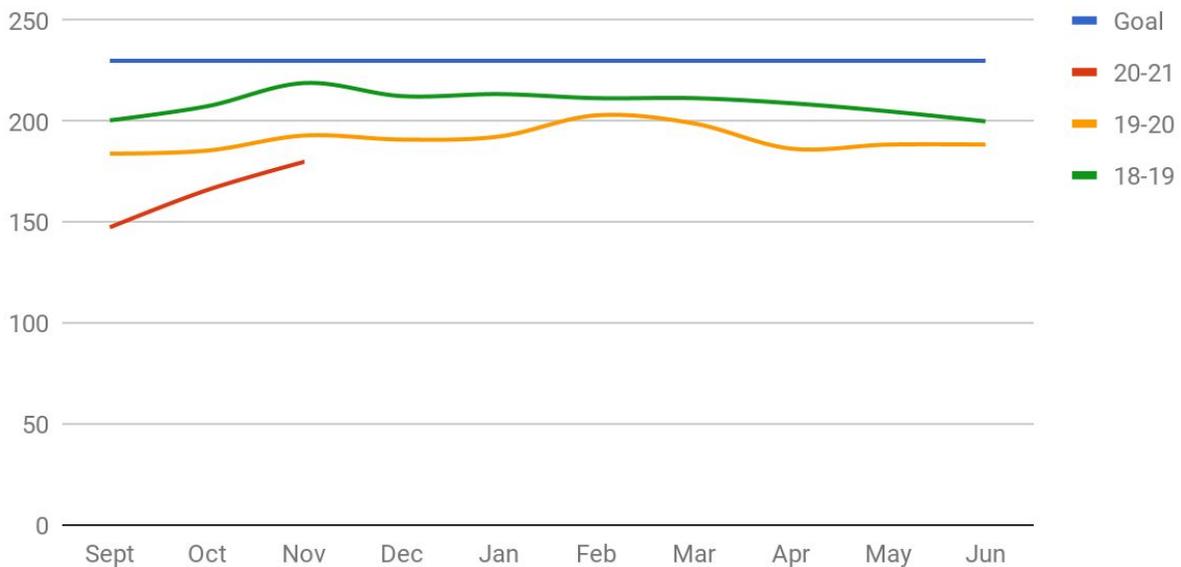
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Our Ethnicity data continues to show that we have a majority white student population, as identified on the enrollment forms on a voluntary basis by families.

Below is a graph of enrollment reported at our board meetings which shows that our enrollment in 18-19 (green line) was consistently higher than in 19-20 (yellow line). Enrollment continues to increase in 20-21 as shown by the red line.

### Wolf Creek Enrollment Reported at Board Mtgs vs Goal

Total Adjusted with Parttime Counted as Half (Goal: 230)



Additional graphs are shown at the link below that are a snapshot of enrollment from November 2019 that was shared with our authorizer in August of 2020.

[Enrollment Graphs based on Enrollment at end of Term 1.](#)

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**IV. TEACHING STAFF INFORMATION - Licensed teachers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>File #</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Years at TWC</b>	<b>19-20 Status*</b>
Tracy Quarnstrom Director	349108	Social Studies	18	R
Hanna Coleman	435602	Chemistry	9	NR
Brenda Swanson Dean of Students	348443	Life Sciences	18	R
Hannah Edblad	480564	Special Education	6	R
Shelli Matheson	479604	Mathematics	7	R
Lindsay Miller	940310	Guidance Counselor	3	NR
Martha Airhart	308543	Special Education LD EBD Waiver	8	NR
Chloe Jackson	489757	Language Arts	3	R
Meagan Rathbun	474415	Language Arts	7	NR
Lindsay Coppernoll	437249	Life Sciences	13	R
Sandra Flint	421010	Mathematics	15	R
Chris Wallin	398607	Phy Ed & Health	4	R
Becki Olseen	444919	Social Studies	10	R

\*R = Returning; NR = Not Returning

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**Wolf Creek is well aware that continuity in staff is important for students and online program success and we are striving for that at all times.**

Wolf Creek continues to work hard to implement mentor programs and to create written staff manuals in the past years for a better retention program at our charter school. It is acknowledged that it is difficult to retain staff when we are known as a highly reputable school and other online schools attempt to take staff from us on a regular basis, especially start-up online schools.

**Management and Administration**

Tracy L. Quarnstrom is the Director of the Wolf Creek Online High School and has been the director since the opening of the school in June of 2002. The continuity of leadership in the charter school has led to amazing results for the school. Tracy does hold both a Minnesota K12 principal license and superintendent licensure, both obtained from Hamline University. It is the belief of the charter school that the knowledge obtained with these degrees has greatly benefited the charter school in many ways.

*Professional Development Plan for Charter School Director is not required due to Director Tracy L. Quarnstrom having superintendent licensure with the State of Minnesota. Please consult file folder number 349108.*

Brenda A. Swanson, also a founding charter board member, has served as the Dean of Students with the charter school since its opening in June of 2002.

Both Quarnstrom and Swanson hold valid teaching licenses in content areas and continue to be vital teaching expertise to the charter school. Location for file folder numbers and other needed information is found in the staff information chart on the previous page.

Looking at other charter schools and turnover rates in the administration makes this a unique situation in this charter school environment.

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**V. GOVERNANCE**

There were eight board members for 2019-2020. Our school board is usually made up of nine members, however one parent representative position is currently vacant. Each board member is referred to as a director of our school board. Along with board membership, the following officers are elected at the annual meeting each year from among those duly elected.

Jeff Vitali	Chairperson & Community-at-Large Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to a 2-year position (non-staff or non-parent required for this position)
Sandy Flint	Secretary/Treasurer, Officer, and Teacher Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to a 2-year position (must be a teacher at the charter school)
Brenda Swanson	Dean of Students	Ex-officio Representative
Greg Paine	Community-at-Large Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to a 1-year position (non-staff or non-parent required for this position)
Jennifer Lake	Community-at-Large Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to a 1-year position
OPEN	Parent Representative	Vacant 1-year position (must be a parent with a student enrolled in the charter school)
Meagan Rathbun	Full-Time Teacher Representative	Elected February 19, 2019, to a 2-year position (must be a teacher at the charter school)
Catherine Veith-Bruno	Parent Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to a 1-year position (must be a parent with a student enrolled in the charter school)
Becki Olseen	Full-Time Teacher Representative	Elected February 19, 2019, to a 2-year position (must be a teacher at charter school)
Sue Frame	Vice-Chair & Community-at-Large Representative	Elected February 11, 2020, to 1-year position
Tracy Quarnstrom	TRIO Director	Ex-officio Representative
Robin Vosberg-Torgerson	Director of Business Services	Chisago Lakes ISD #2144/TRIO Charter School #4095
Sarah Schmidt/ Darci Peckman-Krueger	Authorizer Representative	Authorizer Representative - Chisago Lakes ISD #2144

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*For access to biographies, please visit our website at [www.triowolfcreek.com](http://www.triowolfcreek.com).*

The 2019-2020 board election was certified on February 11, 2020.

Based on school board minutes, the board had an average attendance of 96% for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Board meets once a month, usually on the second Tuesday of the month and for a period of approximately two hours in duration. It is acknowledged that from time to time, board members need to miss meetings. Some members were excused from meetings for required board training or other needed school business.

Wolf Creek's Board is highly committed to attending and participating in meetings and they are thanked for their commitment to Wolf Creek in this manner.

To view all minutes and up to date board information, please visit our school board link at [www.triowolfcreek.com](http://www.triowolfcreek.com).

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**VI. ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**Reading data for MCA testing for 10th-grade students: No testing due to COVID-19**

**Math data for MCA testing for 11th-grade students: No testing due to COVID-19**

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**MMR Rating for 2015**

*One important note for test data above is that due to MARRS data entry error some of our students were not properly entered into the SERVVS system on October 1st of 2017. This error was noticed in the spring of 2018 and reported immediately to MDE Personnel. The data has since been entered but is not reflected in the charts above.*

Wolf Creek was designated as a Focus School in previous years based on test data. We also anticipated being labeled as a school in need of support from the Regional Centers for Excellence in the fall of 2018. Our only designated cell was in the area of graduation rates and so we were not assigned to work with a regional center for excellence this year. We are working with MAAP MN Association Alternative Programs, MACS MN Association of Charter Schools, and MDE MN Department of Education to allow small charter schools who do not have valid test data based on student mobility, small cells for comparison, and other data measures to use other multiple measures of accountability in the future. Our authorizer, Chisago Lakes Schools is very interested in working with us to determine other ways to measure our success that include, but are not exclusively based on standardized test scores.

**Notes on Graduation Rate:**

The majority of Wolf Creek students enroll at the charter school behind on credits. This means that they may have spent years in another public school and fallen behind, but once they walk in the doors of Wolf Creek, we are now held accountable for not graduating them on time.

Example: A senior who is two years behind on credits enrolls at Wolf Creek in April of his senior year and does not graduate due to the credit deficiency. This is a negative score for Wolf Creek alone and not the public high school where the student was given courses for over three years with no success. This unfair measure of graduation rates is what we are working with various organizations to fix in the future. All we ask for is a fair playing field to show our successes.

Wolf Creek continues to strive to improve our academic performance on all required statewide testing measures, but at the same time, Wolf Creek would like to acknowledge that the number of students taking these measures at Wolf Creek is at times not a large enough pool of students to conduct reliable statistical analysis for comparison purposes with other schools or even year to year data within Wolf Creek numbers.

We will continue to strive to create a flexible and personalized pathway to an accredited high school diploma for our students and families who choose Wolf Creek as their high school option.

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**VI. Innovative Practices**

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School offers the best of traditional high schools with the best of technology-based educational options for students in Minnesota.

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School continues to grow and develop itself as a model for online hybrid programming across the state and the nation. Here are just a few of the ways we are improving and using innovation to advance student academic success.

ADSIS funds obtained in the summer of 2012 and the full program began in the fall of 2012, with continued improvements during the 2019-2020 school years.

Again, during the 2019-2020 school years, ADSIS funds were dedicated to supporting under-achieving general education students in grades 9-11 in the area of math. Students were identified based on MAP test scores. Student support consisted of an on-campus math lab offered every Tuesday and Thursday and virtual math tutoring through Google Hangouts. In addition, some students received additional math support and instruction through ALEKS, either integrated into their core math class or by taking Math Intervention as a math elective. Students received one-to-one tutoring of both on topic and prerequisite skills and small group sessions. Students also received virtual tutoring supports from Wolf Creek math teachers in small groups and one-on-one settings. Virtual tutoring sessions help students fill in skills gaps, understand prerequisite skills, review course performance, and supplement topics in individual student's math classes.

**ADSIS 2019-2020**

Number of students identified for ADSIS	19 students
Hours of direct math intervention instruction	230.7 hours

In addition, starting in the 2016-17 school year full-time an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow worked with students who were not able to work independently from home to ensure academic success in a variety of ways. These measures during the 2016-2017 school years included additional check-ins via electronic and face-to-face means, more lab hours required on campus, and enrollment in the course entitled PACT. PACT stands for Positive Adult/Student Connection Team and uses specific lessons designed to help them achieve success as independent learners and other check-ins throughout the week.

The 2019-2020 school years also marked the fourth year of a new intervention using an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow for check-ins with students who might be facing truancy interventions. This specialist uses a court-based intervention system as well as a certified check and connect the curriculum on campus.

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The 2019-20 school year also brought an increased need for more interventions on campus and online in a variety of ways. Increased mental health supports were utilized on campus as the needs of students in these areas continues to grow. We utilized the school-based mental health services of TSA or Therapeutic Services Agency more in recent school years and saw an increased need for such services. We also continue to contract with Family Based Therapy and Associates in order to have a therapist on campus on Tuesday and Thursday morning for check-ins that are not billed to insurance. This allows students who utilize mental health supports outside of campus to have a check-in on campus to allow for school to be more accessible. This check-in approach helps students with anxiety, which is also increasing for our student body.

We are very proud that we feel we have upgraded and streamlined our intervention services from truancy, Title 1, ADSIS, Promise Fellow Supports, Learning Manager Model Supports, County Services, and various other methods to get students to school in any way possible.

**Campus option**

We are the only high school online program in the State of MN to offer a regular weekly campus option that allows local students to come to a physical space for reliable Internet and face to face time with highly qualified licensed instructors.

Special Education programming in an online arena has caused us to use virtual meeting spaces and work with students within the due process requirements of special education while still being very innovative around how to deliver these services on an anytime-anywhere basis to our 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners.

**Wolf Creek employs a number of innovative practices**

- Wolf Creek is the state's only fully hybrid high school model. We believe that we are a leader in creating a quality online curriculum, as well as offering high-quality special education services in an online setting.
- Wolf Creek has worked to implement a young parenting class series with valid research methods due to the needs of our at-risk teen parent population. Working in coordination with Chisago County Health and Human Services we offer our young parents a variety of services to meet their needs.
- Wolf Creek has worked to implement mental health needs for at-risk students. Most occur in a face-to-face model at this time, but work continues to surface around other methods of needed counseling for online students. We offer a variety of free mental health options on campus for students that are unheard of in the public school arena.
- The learning manager model is a truly innovative and effective practice that is used throughout the Wolf Creek School and is emulated in other online settings.
- Utilizing an online Advisory and Ramp Up to Readiness Curriculum options to fulfill the promise of the WBWF report submitted to MDE each year.

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**VII. PROGRAM CHALLENGES**

Our largest challenge is the mobility of students.

Another area of concern for at-risk students continues to be the completion rate of courses and the amount of time that students are committed to working productively as online learners. Using the hybrid model and finding a balance between requiring students to come into lab and allowing them the flexibility of online learning is always a challenge. It is the belief at Wolf Creek that this is not only a challenge for us but for all OLL providers. We will continue to strive each and every day to reach students who have not been able to find academic success in other school settings.

**VIII. OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

Wolf Creek is a very effective organization. From our school board to our business management services you can see the traits of an effective organization at Wolf Creek. We work with our authorizer Chisago Lakes Schools and a number of reputable consultants in the charter school world to have needed consultations and advice. We are members of MSBA and MACS in good standing. We serve the online community as a beacon of accountability and reputable practices. We are in good standing with the MN Department of Education for all reports and records requested or needed from MDE. All documents in this report offer evidence of the efficiency of the organization.

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**FUTURE PLANS - Strategic Plan from Board Agenda**

**Strategic Plan Initiatives:**

1. Meeting enrollment numbers to fulfill the needs of students and Wolf Creek’s capacity through marketing efforts.
2. Curriculum review and continued enhancement toward achieving goals of engaging, flexible, differentiated, and personalized learning. To achieve this we will offer high-quality professional development to all staff members.
3. Engaging parents as partners in their student’s academic progress.

**Quality Compensation Goals**

The percentage of all students enrolled in grade 10 at TRIO Wolf Creek who are proficient on the Reading tests (MCA and MTAS) will increase from 48.0% in 2019 to 53.0% in 2020.	The percentage of all students in grades 9-10 at TRIO Wolf Creek who meet or exceed their fall to spring individual RIT Growth Projection on the NWEA MAP in Reading will increase from 63.6% in spring 2019 to 68.6% in spring 2020.
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**Above all else, our ultimate goal is that:**

***We will continue to strive to be seen as the most reputable and accountable online entity in the state of Minnesota through all documents submitted to MDE and our authorizer.***

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**Hope Survey Data**

The Hope Survey documents student responses to 5 support areas:

- Engagement
- Autonomy
- Belongingness
- Goal Orientation
- Academic Press

**Results:** [Hope Survey Results Wolf Creek 2020](#)

There are areas where Wolf Creek is very strong, and areas where we can improve.

For questions pertaining to the Hope Survey, please contact the Charter School Director Tracy L. Quarnstrom.

**Budget Data Sheets**

For questions on the budget documents, please contact our current business manager, Robin Vosberg-Torgerson at [rvosberg-torgerson@isd2144.org](mailto:rvosberg-torgerson@isd2144.org)

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**Board Training Dates and Attendance**

October 8, 2019 - CharterSource provided to all board members. Webinars include training on the formation of affiliated building companies.  
Full board in attendance

June 2020 - New Board Member, Catherine Veith-Bruno (parent representative) completed MACS training: Charter School Governance-Role and Responsibilities, Charter School Finances-A Public Trust, and Employment in Charter Schools.

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**Q Comp Goals**

During the 2019-20 school year, our school-wide goal was changed from the MCA test to a combination of MCA & NWEA's MAP test with the goal of meeting their growth goal for mathematics. Below is the Annual Report.

**Q Comp Annual Report:** [Quality Compensation Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

**Additional References**

Link to 1920 WBWF [Template](#)

Link to **Audit Information** FY Ending June 30, 2020: [Audit](#); [Management Letter](#)  
*(Audit performed by Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP)*

**Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. Please report errors to the Charter School Director Tracy L. Quarnstrom at [tquarnstrom@wolfcreekhs.org](mailto:tquarnstrom@wolfcreekhs.org).