



STATE OF INDIANA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

B56347

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

Telephone: (317) 232-2513
Fax: (317) 232-4711
Web Site: www.in.gov/sboa

January 28, 2021


Charter School Board
East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
4030 West 5th Ave
Gary, IN 46406

We have reviewed the audit report of East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc. d/b/a Gary Middle College West which was opined upon by Crowe LLP, Independent Public Accountants, for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Per the *Independent Auditor's Report* the financial statements included in the report present fairly the financial condition of East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc. d/b/a Gary Middle College West, Inc. as of June 30, 2020 and the results of its operations for the period then ended, on the basis of accounting described in the report.

In our opinion, Crowe LLP prepared the audit report in accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of Accounts.

In addition to the report presented herein, a Supplemental Audit Report for East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc. d/b/a Gary Middle College West, was prepared in accordance with the guidelines established by the State Board of Accounts.

The Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report and the Supplemental Audit Report are filed in our office as a matter of public record.


Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

CONTENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	3
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES.....	4
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS.....	5
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	6
OTHER REPORT.....	12

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc.
Gary, Indiana

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc. d/b/a Gary Middle College West (the School), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

(Continued)

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Gary Middle College West as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the School has adopted, ASU 2018-08 – *Not-for Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Crowe LLP

Crowe LLP

Indianapolis, Indiana
January 11, 2021

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 365,500	\$ 15,780
Grants receivable	4,616	228,557
Prepaid expenses	1,108	5,049
Due from management company	-	200
Property and equipment, net	<u>211,498</u>	<u>268,190</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 582,722</u>	<u>\$ 517,776</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 24,397	\$ 42,677
Deferred revenue	6,737	-
Due to management company	<u>4,836</u>	<u>8,317</u>
Total liabilities	35,970	50,994
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	<u>546,752</u>	<u>466,782</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 582,722</u>	<u>\$ 517,776</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
Years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Public support and revenues		
Federal grants	\$ 98,392	\$ 414,901
State and local grants	935,104	871,467
Other revenue	872	-
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	<u>(1,342)</u>
Total revenue and support	<u>1,034,368</u>	<u>1,285,026</u>
Expenses		
Education services	850,034	646,667
Management and general	<u>104,364</u>	<u>145,338</u>
Total expenses	<u>954,398</u>	<u>792,005</u>
Change in net assets	79,970	493,021
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>466,782</u>	<u>(26,239)</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 546,752</u>	<u>\$ 466,782</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
Years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 79,970	\$ 493,021
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation	62,935	57,930
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	1,342
Change in assets and liabilities		
Grants receivable	223,941	(197,703)
Prepaid expenses	3,941	(4,074)
Due to/from management company	(3,281)	8,117
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	(18,280)	(41,064)
Deferred revenue	<u>6,737</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>355,963</u>	<u>317,569</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>(6,243)</u>	<u>(327,462)</u>
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(6,243)</u>	<u>(327,462)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	349,720	(9,893)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>15,780</u>	<u>25,673</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 365,500</u>	<u>\$ 15,780</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Description of Organization: East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc. (the School), doing business as (d/b/a) Gary Middle College West, is a nonprofit corporation established to operate a charter school which opened in August 2018. The School is dedicated to ensure that all students are armed with the skills and tools they will need to not only receive a high school diploma, but also to excel at the collegiate level.

The School was established under the laws of the State of Indiana and operates under a Board of School Directors form of government.

Method of Accounting: The School maintains its accounts on the accrual basis of accounting and prepares its financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Income Taxes: The School is exempt from income taxes on income from related activities under Section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and corresponding state tax law. Accordingly, no provision has been made for federal or state income taxes. Additionally, the School is not considered to be a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The School has adopted applicable guidance with respect to accounting for uncertainty in income taxes. A tax position is recognized as a benefit only if it is “more likely than not” that the tax position would be sustained in a tax examination, with a tax examination being presumed to occur. The amount recognized is the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized on examination. For tax positions not meeting the “more likely than not” test, no tax benefit will be recorded.

The School does not expect the total amount of unrecorded tax benefits to significantly change in the next 12 months. The School recognizes interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. The School did not have any amounts accrued for interest and penalties at June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Use of Estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents: Cash and cash equivalents consist of bank deposits in accounts that are federally insured up to \$250,000. Bank balances may periodically exceed FDIC insured limits. For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, the School considers all highly liquid instruments, if any, purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Grants Receivable: Grants receivable balances consist of amounts billed or billable for services provided or contracted and are due within one year. The School does not accrue interest on any of its grants receivables.

Allowances: No allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded as of June 30, 2020 and 2019. The allowances are based upon prior experience and management’s analysis of specific receivables and promises to give. Losses are charged off to the reserve when management deems further collection efforts will no longer produce additional recoveries. The School currently considers all receivables to be fully collectible.

(Continued)

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Property and Equipment: Expenditures for property and equipment and items in excess of \$500 which substantially increase the useful lives of existing assets are capitalized at cost or at fair value at date of gift. Repairs and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Depreciation has been computed on straight-line method at rates designed to depreciate the costs of assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Property and equipment	3-7 years
------------------------	-----------

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets: In accordance with GAAP, the School reviews its property and equipment for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. If the fair value is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognized for the difference. As of June 30, 2020 and 2019, management believes that no impairment exists.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments: The carrying value of all the School's financial instruments, which include cash and cash equivalents and accounts payable approximate fair values. Grants receivable are not readily marketable. The School has estimated their fair value to be the carrying value.

Basis of Presentation: The School follows GAAP and reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions – The net asset without donor restrictions class includes general assets and liabilities of the School. The net assets without donor restrictions of the School may be used at the discretion of management to support the School's purposes and operations.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions – The net asset with donor restrictions class includes assets of the School related to gifts and grants with explicit donor-imposed restrictions that have not been met as to specified purpose, or to later periods of time or after specified dates.

The net asset with donor restrictions class also includes assets of the School related to contributions and other inflows of assets whose use by the School is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that neither expire by passage of time nor can be fulfilled or otherwise removed by actions of the School. The School had no net assets with donor restrictions as of June 30, 2020 and 2019.

Federal and State Grants: Support funded by grants is recognized as the School performs the contracted services under various grant agreements. Grant revenue is typically recognized as earned as the eligible expenses are incurred. Some of the School's grant agreements are not on a cost reimbursement basis, and support is recognized when earned. This includes the School's basic grant support from the State which is based on per-pupil funding. Grant expenditures are subject to audit and acceptance by the granting agency and, as a result of such audit, adjustments could be required.

Functional and Allocated Expenses: Expenses have been classified as program services and supporting services based on the actual direct expenditures and estimated cost allocations. Supporting services include management and general activities of the School. The School did not incur any fundraising expenses for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

(Continued)

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Advertising: The School expenses advertising costs as incurred. During 2020 and 2019, expenses totaling \$4,732 and \$40,435 were incurred for advertising.

Recently Adopted Accounting Guidance: In June 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-08 - *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. The amendments in this Update provide a more robust framework to determine when a transaction should be accounted for as a contribution under Subtopic 958-605 or as an exchange transaction accounted for under other guidance (for example, Topic 606). The amendments also provide additional guidance about how to determine whether a contribution is conditional. The School applied the amendments in this ASU for the year ended June 30, 2020 using a full retrospective method of application. There were no material changes to the recognition or presentation of revenue as a result of the application of ASU 2018-08. As a result, no cumulative effect adjustment was recorded upon adoption.

Subsequent Events: Management has performed an analysis of the activities and transactions subsequent to June 30, 2020, to determine the need for any adjustments or disclosures to the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020. Management has performed their analysis through January 11, 2021, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 2 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

At June 30, the carrying value of property and equipment consists of the following:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Property and equipment	\$ 327,201	\$ 320,958
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(115,703)</u>	<u>(52,768)</u>
	<u>\$ 211,498</u>	<u>\$ 268,190</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019 was \$62,935 and \$57,930, respectively.

NOTE 3 - LEASES

On July 1, 2018, the School entered into a six-year building lease agreement maturing on June 30, 2024. The lease requires monthly rent payments of \$6,142 and includes an option to purchase the facility from the landlord at fair market value. Rent expense totaled \$75,000 and \$73,703 for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Future minimum lease payments under operating leases at June 30, 2020, are as follows:

2021	\$ 73,703
2022	73,703
2023	73,703
2024	<u>73,703</u>
	<u>\$ 294,812</u>

(Continued)

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 4 – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The School has a management agreement with the Greater Education Opportunities Foundation, Inc., (GEOF). Under the management agreement, GEOF charges administrative and per student fees in exchange for the management, operation, administration, payroll and accounting services provided. During the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, the School paid GEOF fees of \$101,000 and \$146,598. As part of the management services provided, GEOF acts as the payor of certain operating expenses, which are reimbursed to GEOF by the School. The School's Board retains final authority and responsibility for financial and budgetary commitments. At June 30, 2020 and 2019, the School had a payable to GEOF for \$4,836 and \$2,433, respectively. At June 30, 2020 and 2019, the School had a receivable due from GEOF in the amount of \$0 and \$200, respectively.

The School periodically has receivables and payables with other charter schools managed by GEOF for shared costs. At June 30, 2020 and 2019, the School had a payable to GEO Prep Academy of Greater Baton Rouge, a separate charter school managed by GEOF for \$0 and \$5,884, respectively.

The School also has a select number of employees that work for multiple charter schools managed by GEOF. As opposed to an employee receiving multiple checks from different locations these employees are paid by Gary Middle College, Inc. and then reimbursed by the School for their portion of the employee's salary expense. As of June 30, 2020 and 2019 the School paid reimbursements of \$165,058 and \$5,728, respectively.

The School also leases the building disclosed in Note 3 from Gary Middle College, Inc., a separate charter school managed by GEOF.

NOTE 5 - CHARTER AGREEMENT

The School operates under a charter granted by Indiana Charter School Board (ICSB). As the sponsoring organization, ICSB exercises certain oversight responsibilities. Under this charter, the School has agreed to pay ICSB a monthly administrative fee equal to the amount set forth and approved by the Board in the Annual Budget each year. Payments under this charter agreement were \$3,091 and \$825 for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLANS

The School's faculty and certain administrative employees are participants in a 403(b) tax deferred annuity retirement plan. All participants may contribute to the plan. There were no employer matching contributions to the plan for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019.

The School participates in the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS). INPRS includes both the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) and the Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF). PERF is a defined benefit pension plan. PERF is a cost sharing multi-employer public employee retirement system, which provides retirement benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The contribution requirements of the plan members for PERF are established by the Board of Trustees of INPRS. TRF is a defined benefit pension plan. TRF is a cost-sharing multi-employer public employee retirement system, which provides retirement benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The School employees are required to contribute three percent of their annual covered salary. The School is required to contribute an actuarially determined rate determined annually for PERF and TRF. The School's expense for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019 were \$9,166 and \$7,196, respectively.

(Continued)

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 7 - FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES BY NATURE

The statements of activities reports certain categories of expenses attributable to the program and supporting functions of the School. Functions include program expense for education services and management and general activities. The table below presents these functional expenses by their natural classification for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019:

	2020		
	Education Services	Management and General	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 347,122	\$ -	\$ 347,122
Student support and supplies	63,907	-	63,907
Office and operation expense	43,479	-	43,479
Depreciation expense	62,935	-	62,935
Building and grounds	161,535	-	161,535
Service contracts	171,056	104,364	275,420
Total expenses	\$ 850,034	\$ 104,364	\$ 954,398

	2019		
	Education Services	Management and General	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 245,494	\$ -	\$ 245,494
Student support and supplies	40,532	-	40,532
Office and operation expense	71,521	-	71,521
Depreciation expense	57,930	-	57,930
Building and grounds	127,441	-	127,441
Service contracts	103,749	145,338	249,087
Total expenses	\$ 646,667	\$ 145,338	\$ 792,005

NOTE 8 - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

The School's financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date for general expenditure are as follows:

	2020	2019
Financial assets at year-end:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 365,500	\$ 15,780
Grants receivable	4,616	228,557
Due from management company	-	200
Total financial assets	\$ 370,116	\$ 244,537

As part of the School's liquidity management, the School invests its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due.

(Continued)

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2020 and 2019

NOTE 9 – COVID-19 IMPACT

In December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus surfaced and spread around the world, with resulting business and social disruption. The coronavirus was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020. In response to the pandemic and in compliance with various state and local ordinances, the School moved to online instruction from March 30, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The operations and business results of the School could be materially adversely affected in the future. In addition, significant estimates as disclosed in Note 1, such as the allowance for doubtful accounts, may be materially adversely impacted by national, state and local events designed to contain the coronavirus. In August 2020, the School re-opened to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The School was awarded an allocation of the Education Stabilization Relief Fund through the CARES Act totaling \$18,330. As of June 30, 2020, the School had incurred expenditures of \$1,513. This balance has yet to be received by the School and is currently being shown as a grant receivable and federal grant revenue as of June 30, 2020. The remaining \$16,817 of the award is expected to be expended and recognized during fiscal year 2021.

EAST CHICAGO FOCUS ACADEMY, INC.
d/b/a Gary Middle College West
OTHER REPORT
June 30, 2020 and 2019

The reports presented herein were prepared in addition to another official report prepared for the School as listed below:

Indiana State Board of Accounts Compliance Report of East Chicago Focus Academy, Inc.

The above report contains the results of compliance testing required by the Indiana State Board of Accounts under its *Guidelines for the Audits of Charter Schools Performed by Private Examiners* pertaining to matters addressing is *Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Indiana Charter Schools*.