



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**2024-2025
Office of Charter Schools
Authorizer Accountability Report**





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Nondiscrimination Statement

Ball State University is committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in education and employment. Further, the University is committed to the pursuit of excellence by prohibiting unlawful discrimination and providing equal opportunity to individuals without regard to race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, disability, genetic information, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, age, protected veteran status, or any other legally protected status. For BSU's complete policy, [click here](#).

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENGAGEMENT

Ball State University serves as the largest public university authorizer of charter schools in Indiana, with 16 schools throughout the state, serving over 15,000 students during 2024-25. Our portfolio of charter schools reaches every corner of the state, representing diverse communities and needs

As an authorizer since 2003, Ball State University's Office of Charter Schools (OCS) continues its work to become a model for how an authorizer can improve its policies and practices, thereby improving the quality of schooling opportunities for students throughout Indiana. In 2011, OCS worked with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) to improve authorizing practices across the board for OCS and nationwide. OCS has continued to work with NACSA, our fellow Indiana authorizers, the Indiana Department of Education, and authorizers nationwide to improve authorizing practices nationwide and improve the charter school sector's performance in our state.

Our oversight of charter schools includes evaluating the academic, financial, and organizational performance of each school we monitor. Both the internal OCS staff at Ball State, as well as third-party external evaluators, conduct this work. Both perspectives provide us with a thorough look at a school's performance, and within the context of each school's unique community. OCS continues its work to become a model for how an authorizer can drastically improve its policies and practices. As we work with state partners to improve the performance and accountability of charter schools, we also serve as an advocate for all schools alongside traditional public schools.

Teachers College's mission is dedicated to the development of future and current teachers and educational leaders who are responsive to diversity and the contextual foundations of teaching, learning and human development. OCS supports this mission by authorizing charter schools that meet the needs of the communities they serve. Each charter school is unique in its purpose and within the context of its broader community.

OCS is committed to assisting and supporting its charter schools and has put in place mechanisms and strategies to provide this assistance to its charter schools with the goal of improving student academic achievement and thereby increasing the percentage of Ball State authorized charters meeting or exceeding performance standards. As parents and communities continue to call for high quality educational options, Ball State University remains committed to meeting their needs, as do the many dedicated charter school administrators, teachers, staff, and volunteers who serve on school boards, assist in the classrooms, and otherwise advance these public schools on behalf of their students.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra Lowery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kendra Lowery
Associate Dean for Engagement
Ball State University

PURPOSE OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Indiana Code 20-24-9 requires charter school authorizers to submit an annual report to the Indiana State Board of Education for informational and research purposes. Reports are due by December 31 for the preceding school year.

In accordance with this requirement, the Ball State University Office of Charter Schools (OCS) publishes an annual accountability report summarizing the performance of its authorized charter schools. This document represents OCS’s seventeenth annual accountability report.

This report provides a snapshot of the academic and financial performance of each Ball State–authorized charter school that operated during the 2024–2025 school year, as well as an overview of the performance of the Ball State charter portfolio. The report includes information on school missions and instructional models; student demographics; state assessment results; and results from annual financial audits.

Student achievement data are drawn from Indiana’s statewide assessment system and are reported at the school level, consistent with publicly available data and authorizer reporting practices.



OVERVIEW

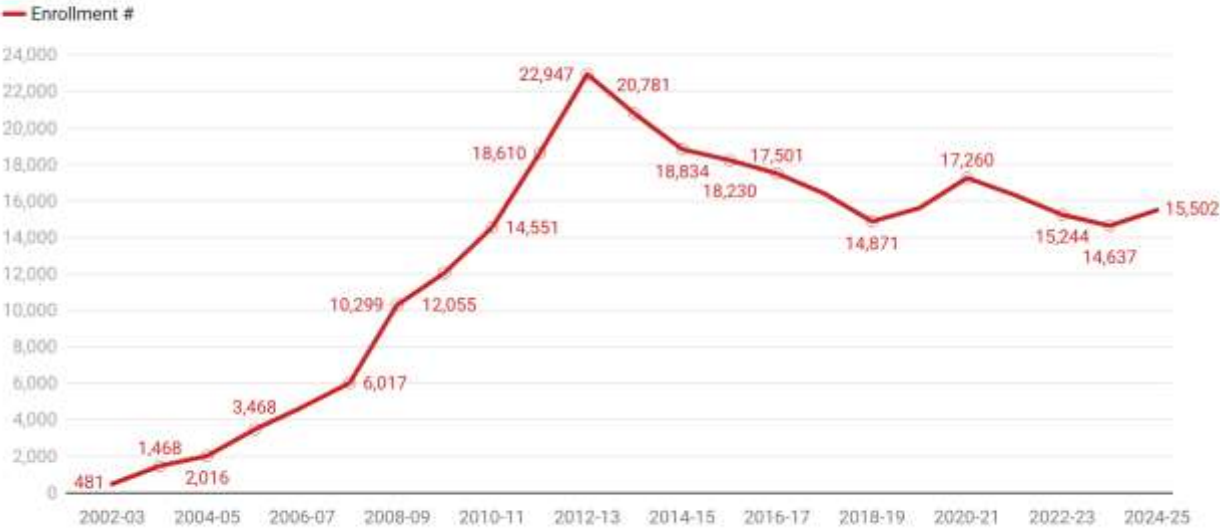
What are Charter Schools?

Charter schools are independent, state-funded, public schools that are open to all students. Students do not pay tuition to attend these schools, which are designed and operated by educators, parents, and community leaders. In Indiana, charter schools may be authorized by a limited number of entities, such as the executive of a consolidated city or a state, public and private universities offering four-year degrees, and a state-wide authorizing board. Ball State has served as an authorizer since 2002.

Through these schools, Ball State University helps expand the educational choices available to Indiana students. Similar to traditional public schools, charter schools are held to high academic standards. Each Ball State-sponsored charter school is required to fulfill the conditions set forth in its charter, as well as to achieve the performance standards set forth in Ball State’s Performance Frameworks, which serve as the accountability plan for all schools sponsored by Ball State. Charter schools must participate in state testing programs, provide open enrollment to all students, hire certified teachers, publish annual reports, and comply with Indiana Access Laws. The educational programs offered in charter schools are often new and innovative approaches to instruction that can be tailored to the specific needs of students. Charter schools are allowed considerable autonomy through the Indiana Charter Law.

Ball State University’s role as Indiana’s first postsecondary charter school authorizer reflected an early commitment to public education innovation, access, and community impact. That commitment continues through a statewide charter portfolio serving students across a wide range of geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic contexts. As Indiana’s largest postsecondary charter authorizer, Ball State oversees schools that collectively serve a more diverse student population than traditional public schools statewide, as illustrated in the chart below.

Enrollment History of BSU Charter School Portfolio



Created with Datawrapper

BALL STATE AUTHORIZED SCHOOLS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

School Name	Year Opened	Grade Range	County	Core Model	24-25 Enrollment	Educational Service Provider* <i>If applicable</i>
Anderson Preparatory Academy	2008	K-12	Madison	Military/Leadership	777	
Aspire Charter Academy	2008	K-8	Lake	Mastery-based & Character Education	684	National Heritage Academies
The Bloomington Project School	2009	K-8	Monroe	Project-based	317	
Canaan Community Academy	2012	K-8	Jefferson	STEM Certified	195	
Community Montessori	2002	K-12	Floyd	Montessori	487	
Discovery Charter School	2010	K-8	Porter	Place-Based Environmental	536	
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School	2006	K-8	Lake	Literacy Rooted/College Prep	495	
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	2005	K-8	Lake	Mastery-based & Leadership	424	Leona Group
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	2005	K-12	Lake	Literacy Rooted/College Prep	1138	
Geist Montessori Academy	2006	K-8	Hancock	Montessori	291	
Hoosier College and Career Academy	2016	7-12	Virtual	Virtual	1484	K12/Stride
Indiana Connections Academy	2012	7-12	Virtual	Virtual	5376	Pearson
Indiana Connections Career Academy	2017	K-6	Virtual	Virtual	942	Pearson
Premier Arts Academy	2023	K-8	Elkhart	Project-Based/Arts Focused	286	
Renaissance Academy Charter School	2007	K-8	LaPorte	Montessori	244	
Rock Creek Community Academy	2010	K-12	Clark	Mastery-based & Character Education	672	

*School Boards using an educational service provider (ESP), for all or part of their instructional programming, must comply with Ball State University's [Policy for Contracting with an Education Service Provider](#).

MAP OF CHARTER SCHOOLS BY COUNTY

2025

CLARK

Rock Creek Community Academy

ELKHART

Premier Arts Academy

FLOYD

Community Montessori

HAMILTON

Options Schools

HANCOCK

Geist Montessori Academy

JEFFERSON

Canaan Community Academy

LAKE

Aspire Charter Academy
 East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School
 East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy
 Gary Lighthouse Charter School

MADISON

Anderson Preparatory Academy

MONROE

The Bloomington Project School

LA PORTE

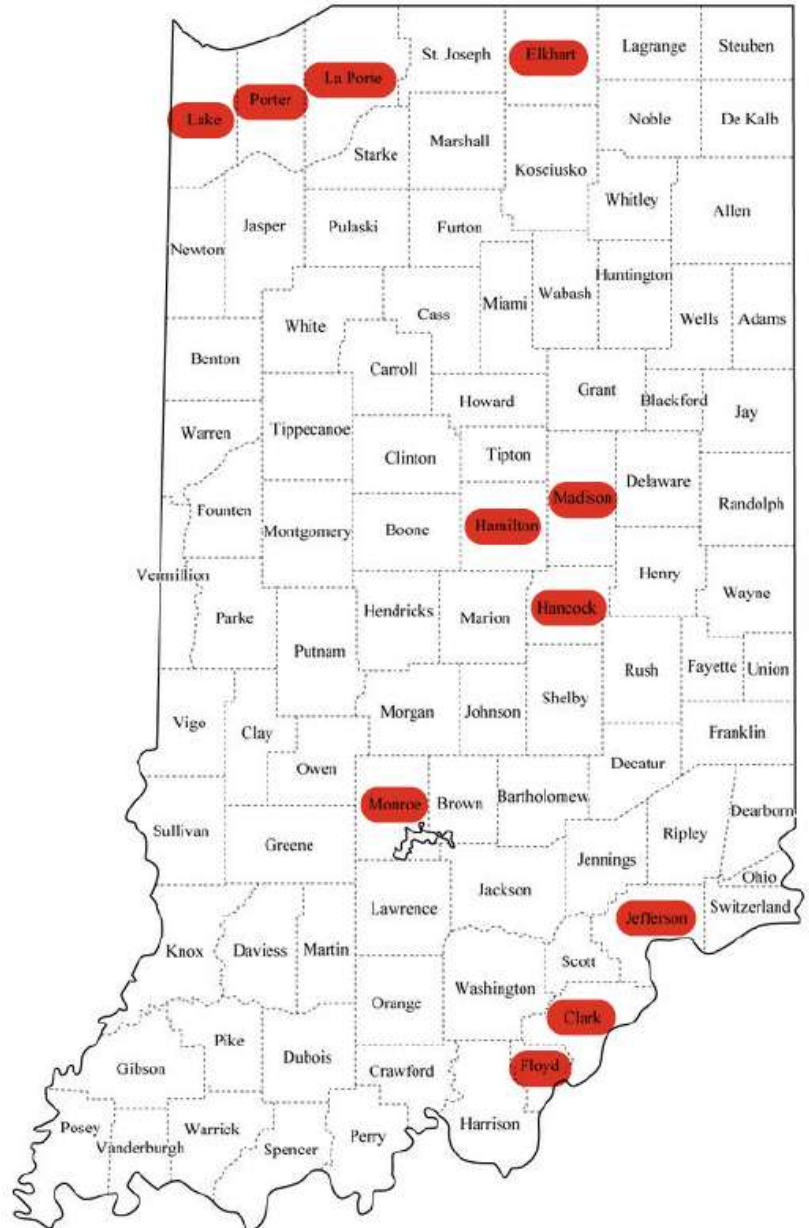
Renaissance Academy

PORTER

Discovery Charter School
 Neighbors Vista High School

VIRTUAL

Hoosier College and Career Academy
 Indiana Connections Academy
 Indiana Connections Career Academy



AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Indiana Educational Excellence Awards Gala

The **Indiana Educational Excellence Awards Gala** celebrates top educators, schools, and districts, awarding over millions in grants to promote excellence in literacy, STEM, and community collaboration.

Three BSU authorized schools received recognition in 2024 and 2025. We congratulate these schools and educators for their exceptional service to their students and communities.

East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy *Excellence in Academic Gains*

This award recognizes school corporations or charter schools across Indiana that have made the most progress in improving achievement for all students.



Hoosier College and Career Academy *Collaborative Educator Excellence Award* **Jennifer Brunett**

This award recognizes outstanding collaboration and contribution to student success statewide.

Geist Montessori Academy *Promising Educator Excellence Award* **Elise Anderson**

Recognizing educators with one to five years of experience who proactively engage in professional development and seek out opportunities to learn from other educators.





2025 A-Game Awards

The National Charter Schools Institute honored outstanding contributors from across the national charter school and authorizer community.

Our own **Dr. Jamie Garwood** was nominated for two awards, the *Pioneer Award* and *Dissemination Champion*. Jamie received the **Dissemination Champion** award for amplifying the conversation around redefining school quality and accountability nationwide.



Purple Star Schools

We'd also like to recognize BSU charter schools designated as Purple Star Schools.

The Indiana Purple Star School designation honors schools that have displayed a significant commitment to service members, veterans, and students and families connected to our nation's military. The Purple Star School Designation is valid for a three-year time period.

The following schools are currently Purple Star Schools:

- Anderson Preparatory Academy
- Geist
- Discovery
- Rock Creek

Closed or Transferred Schools

School Name	Location/Area	School Opening Yr	Status
21st Century Charter School at Gary	Gary	2005-06	Authorized by ICSB effective 7/1/2022
Campagna Academy Charter School	Schererville	2002-03	School closed at end of contract 6/30/2012 per board decision
Cardinal Academy of Muncie, IN	Muncie	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - charter surrendered
Career Academy of South Bend	South Bend	2011-12	Non-renewed - authorized by Trine effective 7/1/2013
Charter School of the Dunes	Gary	2003-04	Non-renewed - authorized by Calumet effective 7/1/2013
Dr. Robert H. Faulkner Academy	Marion	2008-09	Closed effective September 1, 2019, by Board vote
Fall Creek Academy	Indianapolis	2012-13	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2015
Gary Middle College	Gary	2012-13	Authorized by ICSB effective 7/1/2021
Hammond Academy for Science and Technology	Hammond	2009-10	Withdrew renewal application - authorized by Calumet effective 7/1/2015
Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology	Schererville	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - charter surrendered
HIM by HER Collegiate School for the Arts	Indianapolis	2020-21	School closed effective 1/20/2023 per board decision
Hoosier Academies Virtual Charter School (K-12)	Statewide Virtual	2012-13	Did not seek renewal per board decision - Closed 6/30/2018
Hoosier Academy- Muncie	Muncie	2008-10	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2013
Hoosier Academy-Indianapolis	Indianapolis	2008-09	School closed effective 9/1/2023 per board decision
Imagine Bridge Academy	Fort Wayne	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - charter surrendered
Imagine Indiana Life Sciences Academy East Indy	Indianapolis	2008-09	Non-renewed-Closed 6/30/2013s
Imagine Indiana Life Sciences Academy West	Indianapolis	2009-10	Authorized by Trine effective 7/1/2014; subsequently closed by Trine
Imagine Master Academy	Fort Wayne	2007-08	Non-renewed converted to private voucher school effective 7/1/2013
Imagine Schools on Broadway	Fort Wayne	2008-09	Non-renewed converted to private voucher school effective 7/1/2013
Indiana Math and Science Academy Charter School - Gary Campus	Gary	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - charter surrendered
Indiana Math and Science Academy Charter School - Indianapolis Campus	Indianapolis	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - charter surrendered
Indiana Math and Science Academy Charter School West	Indianapolis	2007-08	Authorized by Mayor's Office effective 7/1/2014
Inspire Academy	Muncie	2013-14	Authorized by Trine effective 7/1/2023
Irvington Community School	Indianapolis	2002-03	Authorized by Mayor's Office effective 7/1/2009
Kenneth Christmon Leadership Academy (formerly Galileo Charter School)	Richmond	2005-06	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2013

Lakeside Charter Academy, Inc.	East Chicago	Never opened - charter surrendered	Never opened - Charter surrendered
LEAD College Preparatory Academy (formerly KIPP Lead College Prep Charter School)	Gary	2006-07	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2013
Mays Community Academy	Rush County	2015-24	Authorized by Grace College effective 7/1/2023
Neighbors' New Vista High School	Portage	2012-25	Merged with Options- effective 7/1/2025
New Community School	Lafayette	2002-03	Closed effective 12/21/2016 per board decision
Options Charter School - Noblesville	Noblesville	2006-24	Authorized by Trine effective 12/31/2024
Options Indiana (Virtual)	Statewide Virtual	2021-24	Authorized by Trine effective 12/31/2024
Options Westfield (formerly Options - Carmel)	Westfield	2004-24	Authorized by Trine effective 12/31/2024
Rural Community Academy	Sullivan County	2002-03	School closed at end of contract 6/30/2023 per board decision
The International School of Columbus	Columbus	2009-10	Closed effective 10/25/2013 per board decision
Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Charter School	Gary	2003-04	Non-renewed - authorized by Trine effective 7/1/2016
Timothy L. Johnson Academy	Fort Wayne	2002-03	Non-renewed - authorized by Trine effective 7/1/2013
University Heights Preparatory Academy	Indianapolis	2012-13	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2015
Urban Brightest Community Academy	Ft. Wayne	2003-04	Charter Revoked 2004
Veritas Academy	South Bend	2002-03	Closed effective 6/30/2017 per by board decision
West Gary Lighthouse	Gary	2007-07	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2013
Xavier School of Excellence	South Bend	2009-10	Non-renewed - Closed 6/30/2018

Student Demographics

Ball State authorizes schools across urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout Indiana, ensuring statewide access to high-quality public-school options. Collectively, Ball State–authorized schools serve students from a wide range of socioeconomic, linguistic, and learning needs, reflecting the diversity of Indiana’s public-school population.

The table below highlights key student population characteristics for Ball State’s charter portfolio in comparison to statewide public-school averages.

School Name	# of Minority Students	% of Minority Students	# Received Free/Reduced Lunch	% Received Free/Reduced Lunch	# Identified for Special Ed Services	% Identified for Special Ed Services	# English Language Learners	% English Language Learners
State Average (Public Schools)	38%		47%		15.9%		9.5%	
BSU Portfolio Average	43%		51.7%		17.8%		3.9	
Anderson Preparatory Academy	462	59.5%	508	65.4%	161	20.7%	86	11.1%
Aspire Charter Academy	682	99.7%	657	96.1%	71	10.4%	16	2.3
The Bloomington Project School	67	21.2%	108	34.1%	73	23%	0	0
Canaan Community Academy	11	5.6%	38	19.5%	60	30.8%	0	0
Community Montessori	90	18.5%	101	20.7%	135	27.7	2	0.4
Discovery Charter School	193	36.0%	213	39.7%	81	15.1%	6	1.1
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School	492	99.4%	490	99.0%	37	7.5%	103	20.8
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	421	99.3%	270	63.7%	48	11.3%	105	24.8
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	1124	98.8%	1125	98.9%	111	9.8%	37	3.3
Geist Montessori Academy	90	30.9%	7	2.4%	34	11.7%	14	4.8
Hoosier College and Career Academy	493	33.2%	752	50.7%	289	19.5%	44	3
Indiana Connections Academy	1381	25.7%	2225	41.4%	1092	20.3%	99	1.8
Indiana Connections Career Academy	289	30.7%	404	42.9%	154	16.3%	14	1.5
Neighbors' New Vistas High School	62	44.6%	70	50.4%	28	20.1%	3	2.2
Premier Arts Academy	140	49%	167	58.4%	50	17.5	26	9.1
Renaissance Academy Charter School	60	24.6%	67	27.5%	15	6.1%	3	1.2
Rock Creek Community Academy	178	26.5%	295	43.9%	146	21.7%	9	1.3

2024-2025 ATTENDANCE AND EXPULSIONS

School Name	Attendance Rate*	# of Students Expelled
Anderson Preparatory Academy	91.8%	0
Aspire Charter Academy	92.4%	5
The Bloomington Project School	91.3%	0
Canaan Community Academy	90.7%	0
Community Montessori Inc	93.3%	1
Discovery Charter School	93.7%	1
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School	89.4%	0
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	92.9%	0
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	90.2%	6
Geist Montessori Academy	94.4%	0
Hoosier College and Career Academy	95.7%	0
Indiana Connections Academy	96.6%	0
Indiana Connections Career Academy	97.0%	0
Neighbors' New Vistas High School	57.4%	Not Available
Options Schools	91%	0
Premier Arts Academy	94.5%	0
Renaissance Academy Charter School	96.0%	0
Rock Creek Community Academy	94.5%	0

Virtual Charter Schools' Attendance Methodology

Indiana Connections Academy records attendance weekly based on documented student engagement rather than physical presence. Attendance reports are generated each Monday and reflect student participation from the prior week. Students earn attendance credit by logging in and completing at least one lesson each school day, with lesson completion serving as the primary measure of engagement. Each lesson typically represents approximately one hour of instructional time, though this may vary based on subject and rigor. To receive full attendance credit for the week, students are expected to complete all assigned lessons by Sunday at midnight, generally reflecting 25–30 hours of instructional activity.

Attendance is further verified through multiple measures, including evidence of recent academic activity, student communication with the school, Learning Coach–reported instructional hours, and demonstrated pacing toward course completion. Reported attendance data are regularly monitored to ensure accuracy and compliance with state instructional time requirements.

Hoosier College and Career Academy defines attendance as documented online learning time and active instructional engagement, in alignment with Indiana Code 20-33-2 and state compulsory attendance requirements. Middle and high school students are expected to complete a minimum of six (6) hours per day of active learning, which may include time spent in the Online Learning System (OLS), participation in live or synchronous sessions, engagement in asynchronous instructional activities, and demonstrated academic progress.

Student attendance and engagement are monitored daily through platform activity, participation in live sessions, and documented communication with families. The school partners with families to support consistent engagement and compliance with state requirements. Absences are categorized as excused, exempt, or unexcused in accordance with state law and school policy. Students who accumulate ten (10) or more unexcused absences may be classified as habitually truant and subject to withdrawal under Indiana virtual charter school statutes. Consistent with Indiana law, failure to ensure a dependent's required school attendance may constitute educational neglect (IC 35-46-1-4).

Performance on State Assessments

2024-2025 ILEARN and IREAD

School Name	ELA		Math		IREAD	
	School Pass% At or Above Proficiency	District Pass% At or Above Proficiency	School Pass% At or Above Proficiency	District Pass% At or Above Proficiency	School IREAD Pass%	District IREAD Pass% At or Above Proficiency
Anderson Preparatory Academy	10.6%	18.7%	5.5%	19.1%	56.8%	73.2%
Aspire Charter Academy	30.6%	10.4%	21.6%	7.0%	71.8%	55.4%
Bloomington Project School	57.5%	49.5%	47.7%	50.2%	88.4%	86.8%
Canaan Community Academy	24.8%	40.0%	18.2%	37.0%	61.5%	95.0%
Community Montessori Inc	36.8%	50.2%	17.2%	50.3%	70.0%	88.6%
Discovery Charter School	49.4%	62.3%	44.0%	66.9%	91.9%	95.5%
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter	13.7%	14.8%	10.9%	13.0%	69.2%	62.6%
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	26.9%	14.8%	29.9%	13.0%	75.6%	62.6%
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	18.1%	10.4%	8.5%	7.0%	79.1%	55.4%
Geist Montessori Academy	46.9%	62.5%	31.3%	66.3%	94.9%	96.0%
Hoosier College and Career Academy	21.1%	40.6%	4.4%	25.7%	N/A	87.3%
Indiana Connections Academy	26.9%	40.6%	10.6%	42.1%	72.7%	87.3%
Indiana Connections Career Academy	31.3%	40.6%	15.3%	42.1%	N/A	87.3%
Options Schools	20.0%	40.6%	3.6%	42.1%	N/A	87.3%
Premier Arts Academy	25.6%	40.6%	17.9%	42.1%	80.0%	80.9%
Renaissance Academy Charter School	47.2%	24.1%	41.0%	25.2%	96.4%	93.3%
Rock Creek Community Academy	36.7%	40.2%	30.7%	48.5%	91.9%	62.7%
Statewide	40.6%		42.1%		87.3%	

Indiana High School Requirements

Beginning in spring 2022, Indiana administered the SAT statewide to all high school juniors as the required accountability assessment. Under Indiana Code (IC) 20-32-5.1-7(d), the SAT now serves as the state’s primary high school assessment and fulfills both state and federal accountability requirements. The SAT is also required for compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and must be administered to all juniors unless an approved alternate assessment applies.

Graduation Rate: Indiana Code 20-26-13 defines the graduation rate as the percentage of students who earn a regular high school diploma within four years of entering grade 9, adjusted for students who transfer into or out of the cohort in accordance with state guidelines.

Diploma Strength: Diploma Strength is calculated as the percentage of graduates in the grade 12 cohort who earn one of the following diploma designations: Core 40, Academic Honors, Technical Honors, Academic and Technical Honors, or International Baccalaureate. This measure is determined by dividing the number of graduates earning one of these designations by the total number of graduates in the cohort.

School Name	% of Students Meeting SAT Benchmark		Graduation Rate %	Diploma Strength (Core 40 or higher)
	Evidence-based Reading and Writing (EBRW)	Math		
Anderson Preparatory Academy	33.3%	13.3%	89.7%	94.1%
Community Montessori	75.8%	21.2%	100%	100%
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	14%	2.6%	82.4%	100%
Hoosier College and Career Academy	19.9%	4%	72.2%	95.8%
Indiana Connections Academy	43.6	13.5%	75.1%	68.3%
Indiana Connections Career Academy	40.8%	9.5%	84.8%	Not Available
Neighbors' New Vistas High School	28.1%	9.4%	16.6%	Not Available
Rock Creek Community Academy	45%	17.5%	100%	100%
Indiana Statewide	54.5%	25.4%	98.1%	91.3%

2024-2025 School Renewals

Ball State University's charter renewal process is a rigorous, evidence-based review designed to ensure accountability while supporting continuous improvement. Renewal decisions are informed by multiple years of academic, organizational, and financial performance data aligned to the Ball State Performance Frameworks; a comprehensive renewal application; and an on-site school visit that includes classroom observations, stakeholder interviews, and a public community meeting.

Guided by research-based frameworks—the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement and Indicators of Distress—the process results in a renewal determination that considers both demonstrated outcomes and the school's capacity to sustain student success in the next charter term.

During the 2024-25 school year, the following schools applied for and were awarded a renewal contract.

[Aspire Charter Academy](#) (3-Year Renewal)

[East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School](#) (5-Year Renewal)

[Neighbors' New Vistas High School](#) (3-Year Renewal)

The Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools issues notice of the University's intent to renew or non-renew the Charter by March 1 of the last academic year before expiration of the current term of the Charter. The Organizer may appeal the decision of the Executive Director not to renew the Organizer's charter. In such an event, following receipt and review of the Hearing Panel's recommendation, the President of the University shall issue final notice of the University's intent to renew or non-renew the Charter.

2024-2025 Charter Proposals

During the 2024-25 Proposal Cycle, one application was received from **Urban Act Academy (Anderson)**, but was withdrawn in 2024-25, with the intent to submit in the following proposal cycle.

Financial Audits for Each Charter School

OCS monitors the fiscal viability of each authorized charter school through an annual, accrual-based financial audit conducted by an independent accounting firm, as required under the Charter Agreement (Section 8.07). Ball State University is the only charter school authorizer in Indiana that uses its authorizer oversight fee to contract for a single external auditor on behalf of all its authorized schools. This model ensures a consistent, rigorous approach to fiscal review across the portfolio and eliminates the need for schools to independently procure and pay for separate audits in addition to authorizer fees, as is required by other authorizers.

The University currently contracts with **CliftonLarsonAllen LLP** to conduct annual audits for all Ball State–authorized charter schools. The most recent contract extends through June 30, 2026, covering audits for fiscal year 2025. Audit reports are submitted to the Indiana State Board of Accounts by December 31, with copies provided to the Indiana State Board of Education by January 31.

All Ball State–authorized charter schools must comply with the Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Indiana Charter Schools and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). Auditors test each school’s compliance with the Manual, as issued by the Indiana State Board of Accounts, as well as applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

- Anderson Preparatory Academy
- Aspire Charter Academy
- The Bloomington Project School
- Canaan Community Academy
- Community Montessori, Inc.
- Discovery Charter School
- East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy
- Geist Montessori Academy
- Hoosier College and Career Academy
- Indiana Online Learning Options, Inc. (for Indiana Connections Academy and Indiana Connections Career Academy)
- Lighthouse Academies of Northwest Indiana (for East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School and Gary Lighthouse Charter School)
- Neighbors' New Vistas High School
- Options Schools
- Premier Arts Academy
- Renaissance Academy Charter School
- Rock Creek Community Academy

See Appendix for copies of audit reports for each charter school for the year ended June 30, 2025

Commitment to Quality Authorizing

23 Years of Experience

Ball State Office of Charter Schools (OCS) is a member and active partner in NACSA, the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and participated in the development of the initial NACSA standards in 2011. Since then, OCS has continued to contribute to the profession of authorizing and development of best practices. OCS participates in a group of over 40 university authorizers nationwide to share and improve practices. OCS also recently contributed to research on distressed charter schools with ***WestEd & National Charter School Resource Center*** and is helping present those findings nationwide. OCS staff has also presented authorizing practices at conferences hosted by NACSA, Society for Research on Educational (SREE) and the National Charter Schools Institute.

Standards of Quality Authorizing

In compliance with *IC 20-24-2.2-1.5*, Ball State University's Office of Charter Schools (OCS) has adopted and implements nationally recognized standards of quality charter school authorizing, including Performance Frameworks for academic, organizational, and financial performance. The Ball State University (BSU) charter contract, per *IC 20-24-4-1*, outlines all essential aspects of school operation, including the school's mission, organizational documents, operational policies, educational programming plans, as well as OCS's methods of assessing accountability.

In addition to academic monitoring, schools must submit annual organizational compliance documentation (e.g., staffing matrices, financial reports, governance documents, operational policies), as well as annual budgets and quarterly financial statements to monitor financial stability. Board members rosters and meeting schedules are reviewed for adherence to bylaws, term limits, background checks, and Indiana Open Door Law requirements. OCS observes multiple board meetings a year to monitor board performance and stewardship. Annually submitted staffing matrices ensure proper staff licensing and background checks.

Performance Frameworks for Charter School Oversight

In compliance with IC 20-24-2.2-1.5 and nationally recognized authorizing standards.



Ball State University's Office of Charter Schools has adopted and implements nationally recognized standards of quality charter school authorizing, including Performance Frameworks for academic, organizational, and financial performance, in accordance with IC 20-24-2.2-1.5.

OCS provides ongoing oversight and actionable feedback to its schools through a structured review process, including site visits conducted midway through each charter contract and a comprehensive evaluation prior to renewal decisions. Following the midterm review, OCS delivers a board presentation that highlights key considerations to support continuous improvement in academic, organizational, and financial performance ahead of the school's renewal application.

Structured Review Process

OCS provides ongoing oversight and actionable feedback through site visits midway through each charter contract and a comprehensive evaluation prior to renewal decisions.



Following the midterm review, OCS delivers a board presentation that highlights key considerations to support continuous improvement in academic, organizational, and financial performance ahead of the school's renewal application.

Technical Support



OCS balances respect for school independence with its responsibility under Indiana charter law to provide oversight and enforce accountability. Where appropriate, OCS provides technical support to schools without infringing on the autonomy of schools. Annually, OCS provides various trainings on Board Governance, Financial Management, Indiana Open Door Law, and emerging issues in education.

In 2025, OCS developed a comprehensive compliance workbook that consolidates all applicable Indiana and federal requirements into a single, accessible tool for its charter schools. The workbook includes a compliance checklist, highlights new Indiana code for the upcoming school year, and integrates OCS's academic, organizational, and financial performance frameworks to support real-time, data-informed monitoring.

IC 20-24-6-5 requires that 90% of full-time teachers and school service providers hold, or be actively pursuing, an Indiana teaching license. To support compliance across its authorized charter schools, OCS fully funds tuition and fees for educators pursuing licensure and possibly a master's degree through Ball State University's four-semester Transition to Teaching program. Over the past year, approximately 20 teachers have participated in this pathway, strengthening the licensed-teacher pipeline across the portfolio.

To support schools in meeting Ball State University charter contract requirements, the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) partners with a third-party certificate of insurance tracking and issuance service that not only monitors insurance documentation for compliance, but also provides schools with expert review and feedback to strengthen coverage, reduce administrative burden, and proactively manage risk.

2024-25 Administrative Fees Received

Indiana law (IC 20-24-7-3) authorizes all charter school authorizers to assess an administrative fee of up to three percent (3%) of the basic tuition support received by the charter schools they oversee. These fees support authorizers' statutory responsibilities for charter school oversight, accountability, and monitoring.

Basic tuition support is the core state funding provided through Indiana's school funding formula. It reflects general, per-pupil state support and excludes federal funds and funding targeted to specific student needs, such as special education services, English learner (EL) programs, and other categorical or grant-based funding. Administrative fees are calculated solely on this basic tuition support amount.

Per Ball State policy, Charter schools operating under a seven-year charter agreement are assessed for a reduced administrative fee of two percent (2%). Ball State University grants seven-year charters only to schools with a demonstrated record of strong academic

performance and sound fiscal and governance practices. Because these schools require less intensive oversight, the reduced fee reflects both their sustained performance and the lower level of monitoring required by the Office of Charter Schools.

The chart below reflects the administrative fees collected from each Ball State–authorized charter school during the 2024–25 fiscal year.

Anderson Preparatory Academy	\$180,869.31
Aspire Charter Academy	\$182,017.89
The Bloomington Project School*	\$44,234.13
Canaan Community Academy	\$46,335.34
Community Montessori	\$65,510.64
Discovery Charter School*	\$75,120.73
East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School	\$83,357.06
East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy	\$70,502.95
Gary Lighthouse Charter School	\$201,647.49
Geist Montessori Academy	\$62,825.81
Hoosier College and Career Academy	\$319,485.85
Indiana Connections Academy	\$1,037,014.44
Indiana Connections Career Academy	\$174,071.30
Neighbors' New Vistas High School	\$31,453.24
Options Charter Schools	\$102,498.04
Premier Arts Academy	\$62,478.56
Renaissance Academy Charter School	\$35,381.07
Rock Creek Community Academy*	\$92,993.31
Total 2024-2025 Administrative Fees	\$2,867,797.16

The Office of Charter Schools (OCS) has a staff of six full-time employees. In addition, when necessary, OCS contracts with external experts who are not employees of the University. The University provides office space, access to legal counsel, media consultation, and other university resources and personnel. In addition, OCS provides the following benefits to all its schools:

- Board Training
- Annual Fiscal Audits
- Third-party certificate of insurance tracking and issuance service
- Application Review
- Transition to Teaching tuition
- Charter School Closure Procedures
- A secure cloud-based document management system
- Staff support with expertise in education, finance, special education, school startup and governance

The chart below reflects the amounts of those expenditures during the 2024-25 fiscal year:

Expenditure	Amount
Salaries (7 full-time)	\$710,115.96
Benefits	\$224,320.32
Airfare	\$1,738.88
National Association of Charter School Authorizers Membership	\$5,500.00
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (charter school audits)	\$468,261.70
Computer Purchase/Rental/Repair/Maintenance	
Conference/Facilities Rentals and Meals	\$59.15
Consultants	\$5361.28
Employee Per Diem Expense	\$3,147.00
In State Lodging Expense	3,633.80
ITS (insurance tracking services)	\$677.00
Mileage Personal Vehicle / Ground Transportation	\$6,029.11
Minor Computer Equipment	\$524.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$300.00
Office Supplies	\$295.60
Educational Equipment	\$5,606.00
Out of State Lodging Expense	\$3,619.79
Postage/FedEx/UPS	\$308.30
Print and Duplication on Campus	\$147.91
Conference Registration Fees	\$2380.00
Transition to Teaching Scholarships	\$57,012.50
Telephone/Cellphone/Network Charges	\$2016.00
Purchasing Supplies	\$452.11
University Overhead and Support Services	\$998,290.00
Total 2024-25 Expenses	\$2,499,796.41

The Ball State University Office of Charter Schools is pleased to provide this Accountability Report along with additional information regarding data summarized in this report online: www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter