

# **School District of Nekoosa 2018-19 Charter School Authorizer Annual Report**

**Section I: Authorizer Information**

<b>Authorizing Entity:</b>	School District of Nekoosa
<b>Authorizer Address:</b>	600 S. Section St. Nekoosa, WI 54457
<b>Authorizer Contact Person:</b>	Terry Whitmore
<b>Contact Person Title:</b>	District Administrator
<b>Contact Person Phone:</b>	715-886-8040
<b>Contact Person Email:</b>	terry_whitmore@nekoosa.k12.wi.us

**Section II: Charter School Information**

<b>Charter Schools Currently Under Contract:</b>			
<b>School Name:</b>	<b>Contract Start Date:</b>	<b>Contract Expiration Date:</b>	<b>Grades Served:</b>
Central Wisconsin STEM Academy (CWSA)	1/15/2019	6/30/2020	6-8
WISE (Wisconsin Individualized Selection of Education) Academy	7/1/2018	6/30/2023	4K-12

<b>Charter Schools Whose Contract was Non-renewed or Revoked:</b>			
<b>School Name:</b>	<b>Contract Start Date:</b>	<b>Date of Non-renewal or Revocation:</b>	<b>Reason for Non-renewal or Revocation:</b>
NA	NA	NA	NA

<b>Charter Schools Currently Under Contract that have not Opened:</b>		
<b>School Name:</b>	<b>Contract Start Date:</b>	<b>Date School will open:</b>
NA	NA	NA

<b>Charter Schools that Closed:</b>		
<b>School Name:</b>	<b>Date of School Closure:</b>	<b>Reason for Closure:</b>
NA	NA	NA

### **Section III: Academic Performance of Charter Schools**

**WISE Description:** WISE Academy is a virtual charter school that offers students the option to learn in a self-paced environment and allows them to customize their education. This option is a great solution for families who want to be totally involved in all aspects of their child(ren)'s education. Additionally, students have the support and resources of the district administration, teaching staff, counseling staff, and pupil services.

**Vision:** Our vision is to empower students to become lifelong learners by guiding them to take ownership of their own learning.

**Mission:** Our mission is to provide individualized learning options for students. Through the process of collaboration, authentic learning that honors a student's interests and needs is accomplished through coursework and projects.

**WISE Academics Description:** WISE Academy allows learning and instruction to take place in the student's home with a curriculum that is based on personalized learning plans. This may be accomplished through project-based and/or homeschool-based curriculums. Online courses and/or providers are also available for families to utilize in grades Kindergarten through 12. Student goals are created and assessed based on their Individualized Learning plan and connected with personal and academic needs.

#### **WISE SLO:**

**Reading - 70% of WISE students participating in STAR Reading will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Reading.**

Students scoring at or above the 50 percentile	26
Total students	35

70% of WISE students participating in STAR Reading will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Reading. Met goal. 74.2% of students scored in the 50 percentile or higher.

**Math - 70% of WISE students participating in STAR Math will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Math.**

Students scoring at or above the 50 percentile	24
Total students	34

70% of WISE students participating in STAR Reading will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Reading. Met goal. 70.5% of students scored in the 50 percentile or higher.

Of WISE seniors pursuing a high school diploma by the end of 2018-19 school year, 100% will graduate.. 100% of students pursuing a high school diploma graduated June 2019.

**CWSA (Central Wisconsin STEM Academy) Description:**

CWSA centers on project based learning with a focus on STEM. Offering one-to-one chromebooks allowed us to provide students the opportunity to work at their own pace and at the same time research independently. Through independent research, our Common Core State Standards in reading and writing are primarily accomplished through the project research and documentation.

Using ALEKS (CWSA's) math curriculum, students were able to move through topics and complete the curriculum individually with guided assistance from their teachers. This results in several students moving up into the next grade level content - some doing so by second semester. For students who struggle, CWSA provides opportunities to work in small groups, in dedicated rooms, and with teachers for assistance. Students that find math challenging will also be able to understand the practical applications with a deliberate incorporation of math concepts in their projects.

Independently, students had the opportunity to follow their passions and focus their learning in areas of interest. For example, we had one student work on the feasibility of the NELL to



sustain an owl population. In doing the project, we were able to discover that there are currently nesting owls in the NELL. Another group of students took what they learned in Game Design and created their own games as a final product for their projects. We feel it is important for students to have the opportunity to pursue these passions in a way that leads them to greater understanding. Our challenge is in creating rubrics and assessments that fit every project by focusing on project design and in helping find contacts and resources that students can access.

**CWSA’s SLO/Academics Description:**

STAR Reading:

The average of the median SGPs for each class grades 4-8 at CWSA was 62.8. During the 2015-16 school year this number was 50.8. The 2016-17 SGP exceeded the 2015-16 school by 12.

- Two years ago, the average median SGP for grades 4-7 was 45.75. Last year the average median SGP for Grades 4-8 was 50.8. This year was the highest in three years at 62.8.
- Last year grades 4 & 6 had a median SGP of 34 & 27. This year, relatively the same groups of students scored 88 and 60 which is a drastic improvement.

The table below compares the same groups of students from last year to this year. Each grade level’s average median SGP increased except for this year’s 8th grade compared to the same group of last year’s 7th grade. I was unable to compare last year’s 8th grade to their performance at the high school this year.

Grade	2015-16	Grade	2016-17
4	34	5	88
5	27	6	44
6	55	7	60
7	62	8	54
8	76	NA	

The contract between CWSA and the Nekoosa School District references the STAR test as one way to measure pupil progress.

Grade 4 is a concern. A disproportionate number of students fell into the lower third (1 to 20) for the median SGP. Students in 4th grade are experiencing their first year with this math curriculum and probably their first online math experience.

The highest SGP came from the 8th grade class, the second highest in the 7th grade, as the grade levels go down, so do their scores.

The CWSA grade 8 students were the bright spot last year as well with a 62.

STAR Math:

The table below compares the same groups of students from last year to this year. Each grade level's average median SGP increased. I was unable to compare last year's 8th grade to their performance at the high school this year.

Grade	2015-16	Grade	2016-17
4	44	5	49.5
5	49	6	52
6	43	7	63
7	37	8	68
8	92	NA	

**Section IV: Financial Performance of Charter Schools**

There are no financial performance standards stipulated in the Charter contracts.

**Section V: Other Contract Terms and Expectations (Optional)**

NA

**Section VI: Authorizer Operating Costs**

To date, the District has not traced this information and therefore it has not been included in the financial statements.

**Section VII: Services Provided to Charter Schools**

See completed Schedule of Charter School Authorizer Services and Costs.

**School District of Nekoosa  
Schedule of Charter School Authorizer Operating Costs  
Fiscal Year Ending (insert date)**

<b>Operating Activity</b>	<b>WUFAR Object Code</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Employee Salaries	100	
Employee Benefits	200	
Purchased Services	300	
Non-Capital Objects	400	
Capital Objects	500	
Insurance & Judgements	700	
Other (replace Other with an activity name)	900	
Other (replace Other with an activity name)	900	
<b>Total</b>		

**School District of Nekoosa  
Schedule of Charter School Authorizer Services and Costs  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019**

<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>Function Code</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Regular Curriculum	120000	334,117
Special Education	150000	
Health Services	214000	
Psychological Services	215000	
Curriculum Development	221200	
Instructional Staff Training	221300	964
General Administration	230000	
Building Administration	240000	6,072
Business Services	252000	
General Operations	253000	
Pupil Transportation	256000	
Technology	266000	
Other Services (replace Other with a Service)		
<b>Total</b>		<b>341,153</b>