

**School District of Nekoosa 2019-20 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.<br>Nekoosa, WI 54457 |
| <b>Authorizer Contact Person:</b> | Terry Whitmore                          |
| <b>Contact Person Title:</b>      | District Administrator                  |
| <b>Contact Person Phone:</b>      | 715-886-8000                            |
| <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                   | 6/30/2025                        | 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   |

| Charter Schools Currently Under Contract that have not Opened: |                      |                        |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|
| School Name:   | Contract Start Date: | Date School will open: |
| NA   | NA                   | NA                     |

| Charter Schools that Closed: |                         |                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| School Name:                 | Date of School Closure: | Reason for Closure: |
| 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.

**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   | 37 |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Total students   | 42   |
| 70% of WISE students participating in STAR Reading will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Reading.         | Met goal. 88% of students scored in the 50 percentile or higher.     |
| <b>Math - 70% of WISE students participating in STAR Math will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Math.</b> |  |
| Students scoring at or above the 50 percentile   | 36   |
| Total students   | 42   |
| 70% of WISE students participating in STAR Reading will achieve at or above the 50 percentile in STAR Reading.         | Met goal. 85.7% 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 2020. |

**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:**

**State Report Card**

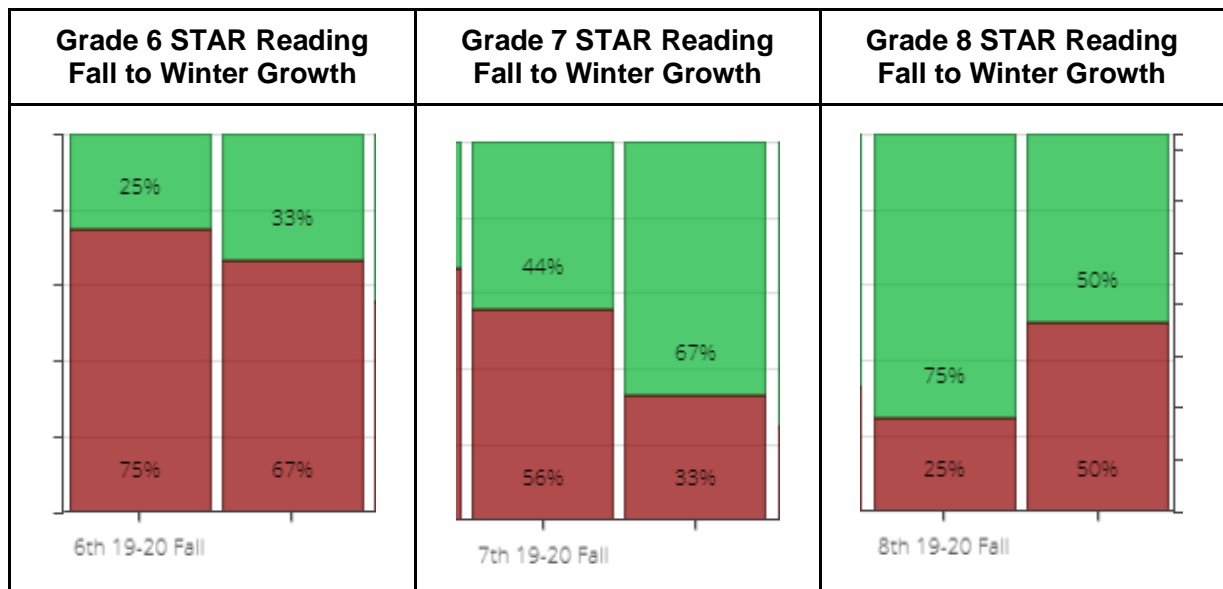
Academic achievement at Central Wisconsin STEM Academy is very strong. In the most recent year for which state report cards were issued (2018-19) all areas scored were above state averages, as seen in the table below.

|                                      | CWSA Rating | State Average |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Student Achievement                  | 68.0        | 61.3          |
| School Growth                        | 67.9        | 66.0          |
| On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness | 99.3        | 85.5          |

These achievements yielded an overall composite score of 74.3, which earned a rating of *Exceeds Expectations*.

**STAR Benchmark Scores**

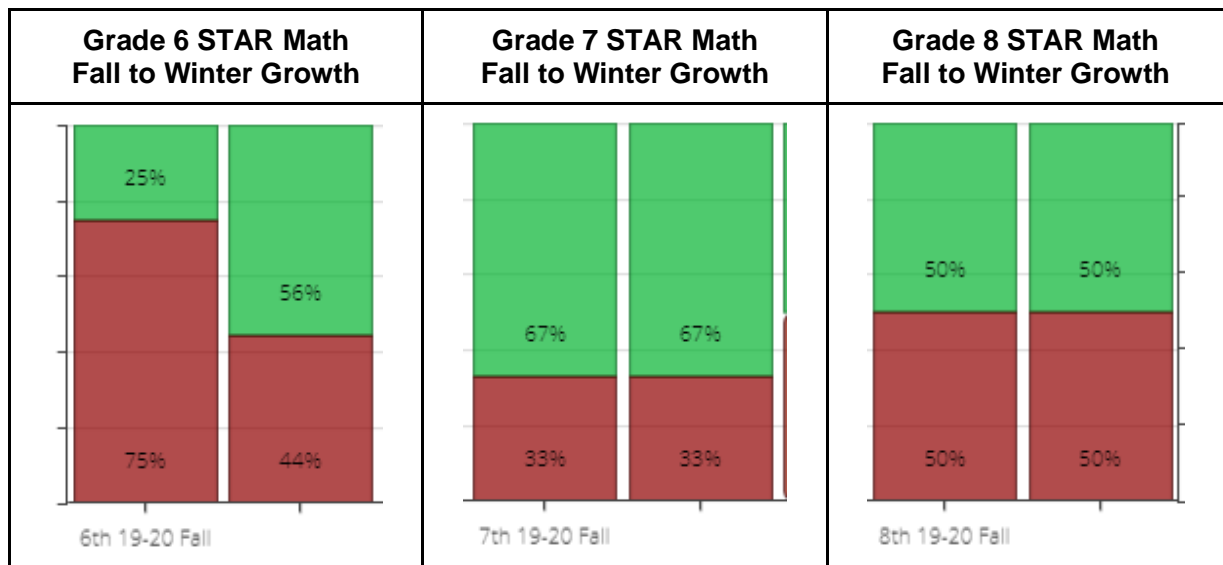
Because no state assessments were administered in 2019-20, our most up-to-date academic achievement scores come from the Fall and Winter administrations of STAR Reading and Math, which are our district’s benchmark measurements.



In the chart above, the green portion indicates the percentage of students in each grade who scored in the 50th percentile nationally or above. While the growth in grade 6 was moderate, extremely strong growth was shown in grade 7. While grade 8 did have a regression in growth,

part of this is because grade 8 started with so many students testing at a high percentile (75% of students) that this is difficult to maintain.

While the growth of the sixth graders is the most concerning of these numbers, because these students had only been in the CWSA program for four months, the minimal growth shown here does not reflect the impact of the CWSA on academic achievement as these students were just starting acclimating to the project-based learning style of teaching and under such circumstances minimal academic growth is to be expected. The fact that seventh and eighth graders who have been working in CWSA for multiple years have shown much stronger initial mastery is a stronger indicator of the overall impact of the CWSA program of study.



In contrast with the STAR Reading scores, the sixth graders demonstrated very strong growth in Math, as may be expected in STEM-focus course of study. Although the growth among both seventh and eighth graders was flat from Fall to Winter, in both cases a high percentage of overall students were proficient to start the year, indicating the overall strength of the program on Math scores for students who have worked within the program for multiple years.

**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)**

| Operating Activity                          | WUFAR Object Code | Cost |
|---|-------------------|------|
| 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, 2020**

| <b>Services Provided</b>                      | <b>Function Code</b> | <b>Cost</b>    |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| Regular Curriculum                            | 120000               | 405,042        |
| Special Education                             | 150000               |                |
| Health Services                               | 214000               |                |
| Psychological Services                        | 215000               |                |
| Curriculum Development                        | 221200               |                |
| Instructional Staff Training                  | 221300               | 705            |
| General Administration                        | 230000               |                |
| Building Administration                       | 240000               | 6,118          |
| Business Services                             | 252000               |                |
| General Operations                            | 253000               |                |
| Pupil Transportation                          | 256000               |                |
| Technology                                    | 266000               |                |
| Other Services (replace Other with a Service) |                      |                |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |                      | <b>411,865</b> |