

2019

## 2019 School Performance Report: Innovation in Learning

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cso\\_performance\\_reports](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cso_performance_reports)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### ScholarWorks Citation

Grand Valley State University, "2019 School Performance Report: Innovation in Learning" (2019). *School Performance Reports*. 6.

[https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cso\\_performance\\_reports/6](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cso_performance_reports/6)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Charter School Office at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in School Performance Reports by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).



2019

# SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

INNOVATION IN LEARNING



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
OFFICE



Grand Valley State University  
Charter Schools Office

# School Performance Report

Section One: School Community

Page 7

Section Two: Academic Excellence

Page 17

Section Three: Financial Sustainability

Page 27







**Robert T. Kimball, Ed.D.**  
**Associate Vice President**  
**for Charter Schools**



**Thomas J. Haas, Ph.D.**  
**President, July 2006-June 2019**  
**Grand Valley State University**

Dear Friends:

One of the seven values we live by at Grand Valley State University is community. At our core, that's what we are — a community of scholars and learners.

The schools that we charter are part of this community. Grand Valley is one of approximately 45 colleges or universities in the nation that serves as an authorizer of public charter schools. We are also one of the nation's largest, with 76 schools serving 36,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Our commitment to each of these K-12 students is unique. It is one where they have an opportunity to be a "Laker for a Lifetime." Their education in the Grand Valley community can start the moment they begin kindergarten, continue through their high school and college graduations, and beyond.

This commitment extends to approximately 3,500 teachers and staff, and more than 300 publicly appointed charter board members, who are welcomed to our campuses for continued learning and celebrations of their successes.

Indeed, very few other universities in the nation offer this same commitment.

The School Performance Report shows how well our K-12 community is doing. It brings light to schools that have become beacons in their neighborhoods — as well as those that need some additional guidance. In short, it shows how Grand Valley is helping students develop the skills they need to realize and reach their full potential in life.

Lastly, as you read this report, please know that our hearts are warm with gratitude because you have chosen to be part of our community. It is through our shared work that we keep growing to help more kids, together. Thank you for all you do.

Robert T. Kimball, Ed.D.

Thomas J. Haas, Ph.D.

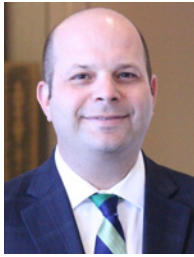


## Our Staff

### Leadership



**Rob Kimball, Ed.D.**  
Associate Vice  
President for  
Charter Schools



**Don Cooper**  
Deputy Director for  
Charter Schools



**Alyson Murphy**  
Director of  
Governance and  
Compliance



**Wendy Miller**  
Director of School  
Support

### School Support



**Elliot Avis**  
School Support  
Specialist



**Jayme Lesperance**  
Manager of Teacher  
Development



**Jeff Maxwell**  
School Support  
Specialist



**Cindy Shinsky**  
Affiliate Faculty,  
GVSU College  
of Education  
(Special Education  
Specialist)



**Alissa Thelen**  
Instructional  
Leadership  
Specialist



**Jill Weber**  
Reading Specialist

### Governance Support



**Bill Barker**  
School Consultant



**Rajeshri Gandhi  
Bhatia**  
School Consultant



**Matt Cawood, Ph.D.**  
School Consultant



**Cheryl Edwards-  
Cannon**  
School Consultant



**Danielle North**  
School Consultant



**J.D. Smith, Ph.D.**  
School Consultant

### External Affairs



**Michael Cousins**  
Communications  
and Technology  
Specialist



**Barry Hall II**  
Manager of Charter  
through College  
Programs



**Maria Montoya**  
Manager of School  
and Community  
Partnerships  
(Detroit)



**Ram Ravikumar**  
Data Analyst



**Amirah Vosburgh**  
Manager of School  
and Community  
Partnerships  
(Grand Rapids)



**Sarah Constable**  
Secretary



**Sherri Hall**  
Executive Assistant

### General Operations



## Mission

Grand Valley State University authorizes charter schools to join together professors, practitioners, policymakers, and communities (3P+C) in new ways to solve problems in education.

## Vision

We strive to be the model university authorizer by accessing the university's collective resources and diversity to contribute to the enrichment and constant improvement of all Grand Valley State University-authorized schools.

## Values

At Grand Valley State University's Charter Schools Office, the primary focus is understanding complex problems in the GVSU network of schools, facilitating the design of solutions, and advancing remarkable change in teaching and learning. Our mission, vision, and strategic outcomes reflect the seven core values. These core values provide a foundation and framework for all of the Charter Schools Office's decision-making processes:

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Inquisitiveness
- Inclusiveness
- Sense of community
- Sustainability
- Innovation

## Members of the Board of Trustees – Grand Valley State University

### **Victor M. Cardenas**

Novi, MI  
2015-2022

### **Randall S. Damstra**

Ada, MI  
2017-2024

### **Elizabeth C. Emmitt**

Byron Center, MI  
2019-2026

### **Susan M. Jandernoa**

West Olive, MI  
2019-2026

### **Mary L. Kramer**, Chair

Detroit, MI  
2013-2020

### **John G. Russell**

East Lansing, MI  
2013-2020

### **Megan S. Sall**, Vice Chair

Grand Rapids, MI  
2015-2022

### **Kate Pew Wolters**

Grand Rapids, MI  
2017-2024

### **Philomena V. Mantella**

Ex Officio

### **Donna Brooks**

Honorary Life Member

### **Dorothy A. Johnson**

Honorary Life Member

### **John C. Kennedy**

Honorary Life Member

## Charter School Advisory Committee

### **Thomas Butcher, J.D.**

Vice President and  
General Counsel, GVSU

### **James N. Goenner, Ph.D.**

President and CEO, National  
Charter Schools Institute

### **Susan M. Jandernoa**

Board of Trustees, GVSU

### **Robert T. Kimball, Ed.D.**

Associate Vice President for  
Charter Schools, GVSU

### **Mary L. Kramer**

Board of Trustees, GVSU

### **Sherril Soman, Ph.D.**

Interim Dean, College of  
Education, GVSU

### **Punita Thurman**

Program Director,  
The Skillman Foundation





## LAKER EFFECT

The Laker Effect is the collective impact of the diverse Grand Valley community on individual students, West Michigan, our state, and beyond. The Laker Effect is a force for positive change.

Lakers are driven by our passion for learning and using that knowledge for the common good. We make a difference by focusing on others and making lasting contributions.


The Laker Effect embodies these values and sets us apart as leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs, and advocates who help shape the future.

# 4

CAMPUSES





A photograph of three students in a modern building with large glass windows. A young woman with long brown hair is sitting on a wooden ledge in the background, holding a notebook. In the foreground, a young man with short dark hair and a beard is sitting at a table, looking towards the right. A young woman with long brown hair is sitting next to him, smiling and gesturing with her hands. There is a clear plastic cup with a yellow straw on the table in front of the man. The background shows a large glass wall with a grid pattern.

**24,677**  
STUDENTS



**300+**  
AREAS OF STUDY



# 1

## SECTION ONE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

This year officially marked the 25-year anniversary of when the bill proposing the creation of charter schools in Michigan was signed into law. Grand Valley State University was on the forefront of the charter school movement, authorizing three schools around Grand Rapids that served approximately 350 students in 1995. Since that inaugural year, Grand Valley has partnered with the community — parents, teachers, public officials, organizations — to establish innovative educational options that provide choices to families across the state.

In this section, you will learn about the students our schools serve, the educators and unique services provided in each building, and the dedicated community members who volunteer to serve on our schools' governing boards.

### Our Students

During the 2018-2019 school year, more than 36,000 students enrolled in a GVSU-chartered school. The total student population in GVSU-chartered schools has grown steadily each year, as more and more parents are exploring innovative educational opportunities for their children.

Approximately 30 percent of the students in our portfolio of schools were enrolled in a school within the city of Detroit. A similar number of students in the portfolio enrolled in a school in Metro Detroit (28 percent). Other communities that house a significant percentage of our students include Grand Rapids (15 percent), the nearby school districts that border Lake Michigan (8 percent), and the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo area (4 percent).

Smaller percentages of our students can be found in other mid-state communities like Lansing, Jackson, Hillsdale, Traverse City, Big Rapids, and Flint. By the start of the 2019-2020 school year, GVSU-chartered schools will also serve students who live in Saginaw.

# 36,294

**K-12 Total Enrollment  
2018-2019**



Checking the work at UPA Middle School



Studying for the test at Byron Center Charter School



## GVSU By the Numbers 2018-2019

Students have the unique opportunity to attend a GVSU-chartered school from the time they start kindergarten to the moment they celebrate their high school graduation. This is because GVSU's portfolio of public charter schools is designed to serve all grades through a variety of school options. No matter what process students select, Grand Valley has the ability to assist them every step of the way.

Nearly 80 percent of students enrolled in a GVSU-chartered school in 2018-2019 were in elementary or middle school grades, while the rest were of high-school standing.

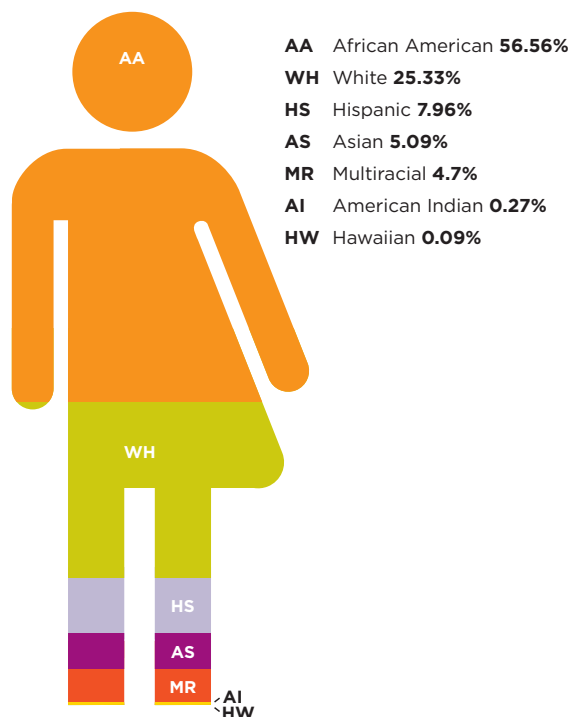
Grand Valley also proudly invites all students into its charter schools. Like traditional public schools, charters cannot select the students they want, and must give an equal opportunity to all families seeking a choice for their child's education. Our schools welcome all types of learners, including special education and English Language Learners (ELL). Charter schools are for the public and work diligently to accommodate every child in our buildings, as well as those who are eager to join.

The table on page 11 provides an in-depth look at the major services each school's student population is receiving and how our schools collectively compare to the state averages.

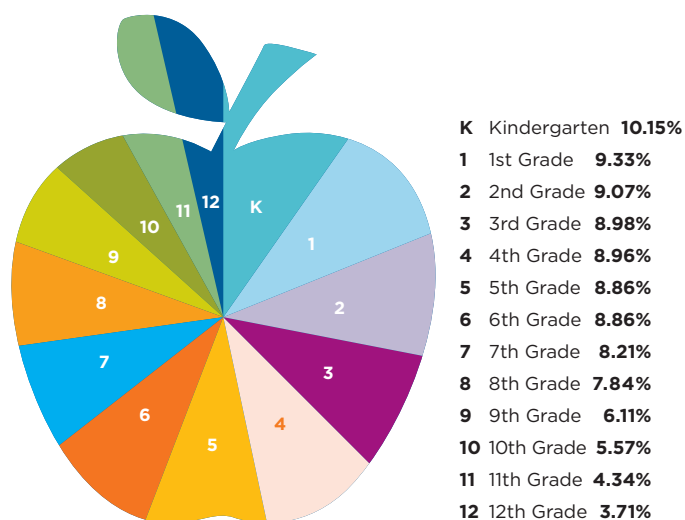


Exploring the world at East Arbor Charter Academy

## Demographic Enrollment



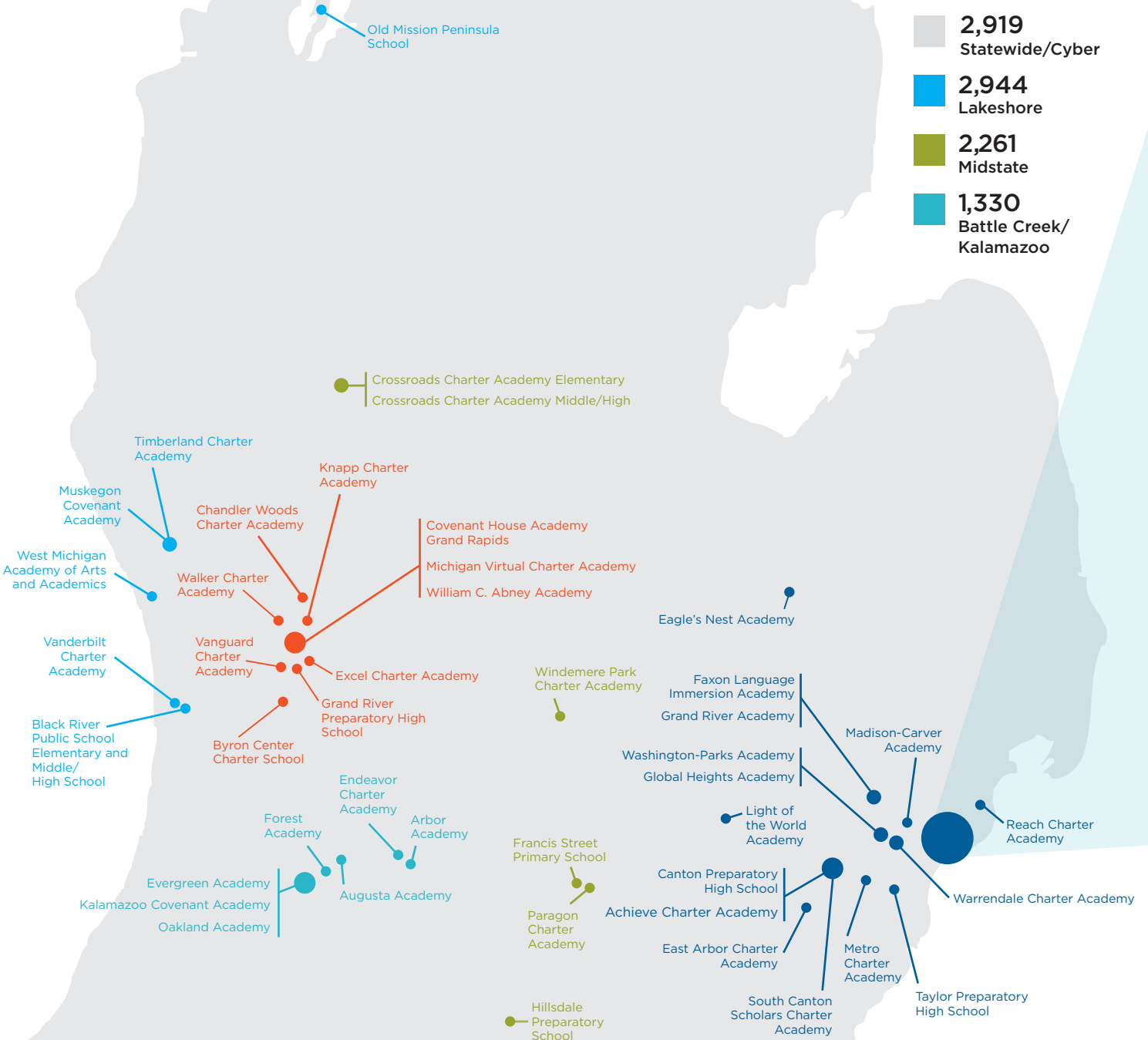
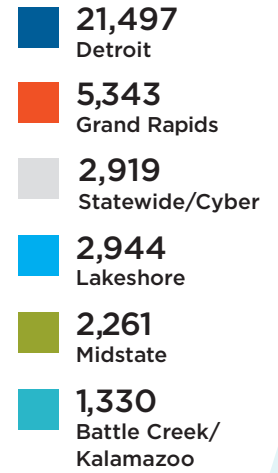
## Enrollment By Grade

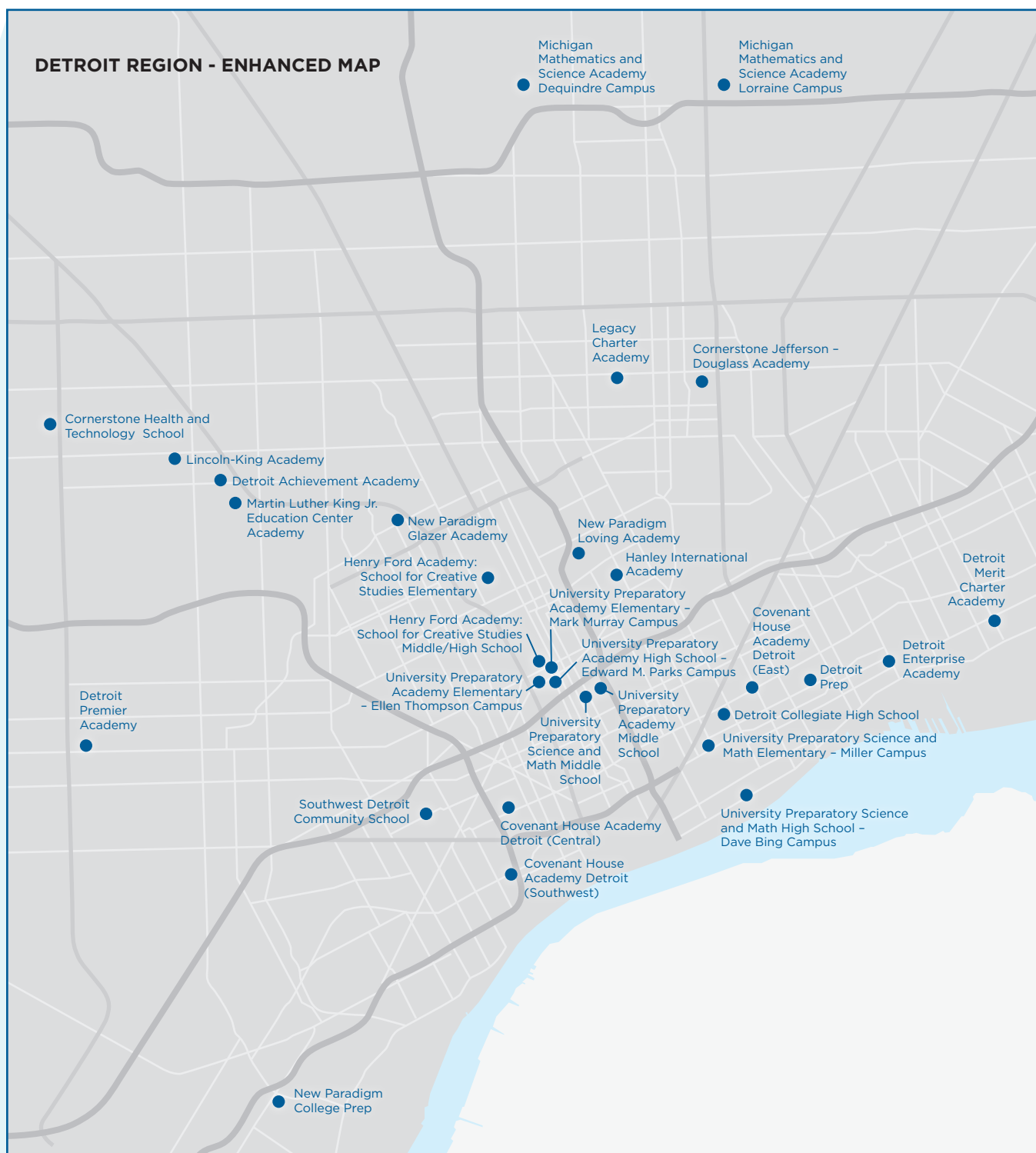




## Grand Valley Charter Schools Locations and Enrollment by Region

### 2018-2019 Enrollment by Region







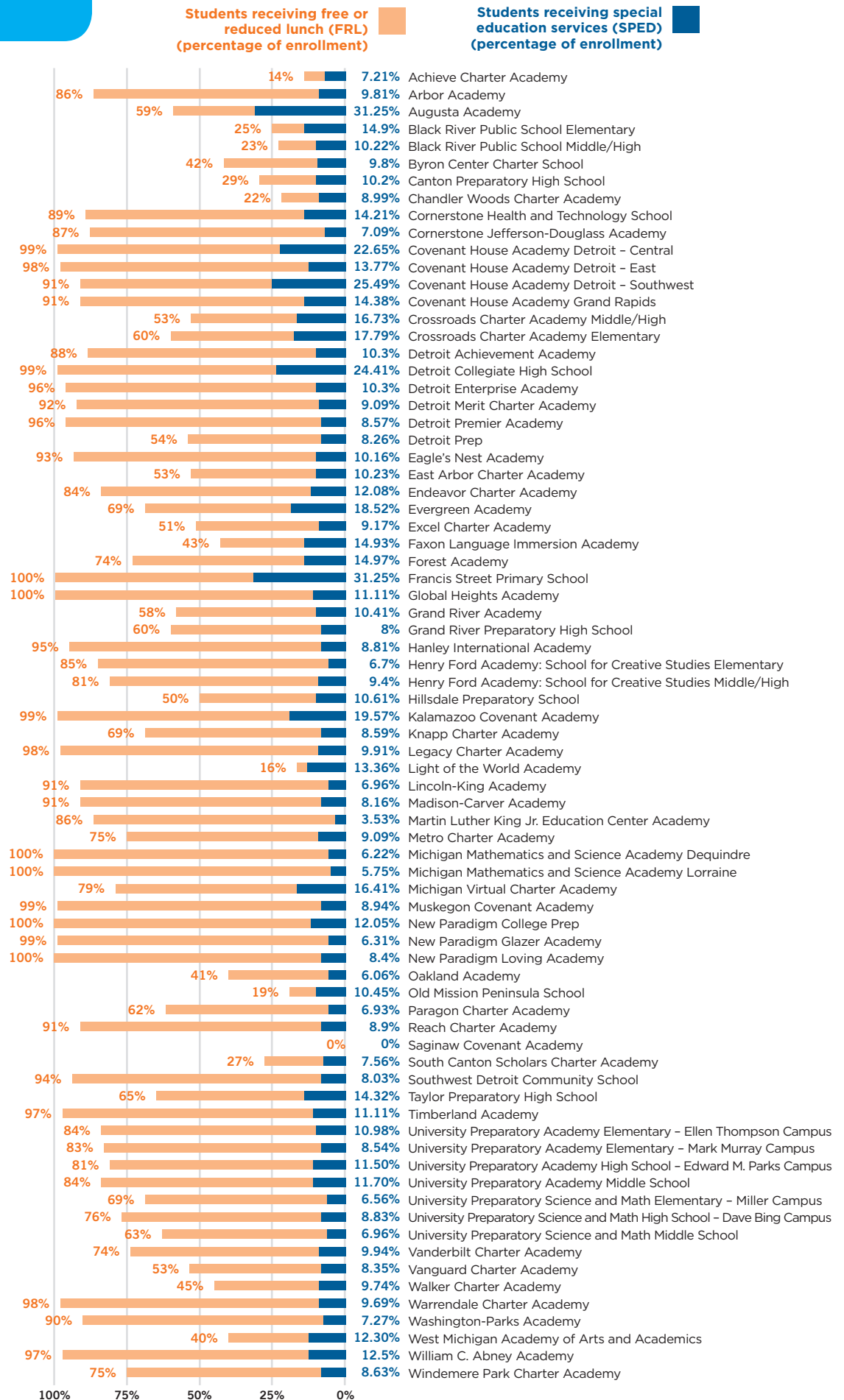
## Our 2018-2019 Student Population: A School-by-School View

**73%**  
GVSU-chartered Schools FRL Average

**50%**  
Michigan FRL Average

**10.35%**  
GVSU-chartered Schools SPED Average

**12.69%**  
Michigan SPED Average



3,375

**Teachers and Staff Members in  
GVSU-chartered Schools**

20

**Schools Offering  
Early Childhood  
Programs**

9

**Schools Offering  
Transportation**



Celebrating a new charter school with the Old Mission Peninsula community.

## Our Schools

During the 2018-2019 school year, Grand Valley authorized 76 active charter schools, and the GVSU Charter Schools Office (CSO) was working with five other approved applicants as they navigated the charter school start-up phases.

When an application is submitted to Grand Valley for a charter, the GVSU CSO meticulously investigates the proposed location for the school. We ensure the proposed school will be the right fit for the community it will serve. Families can benefit from a charter school operator establishing a school that is seen 1) as an improvement upon existing options, 2) as one that offers innovative learning opportunities, or 3) as one that opens a new, innovative program that can't be found nearby.

We also are proud to charter schools that offer services that may not normally be provided by other charter schools in Michigan. Some GVSU-chartered schools include early education classrooms for young learners, offering educational activities for children ages three through five to prepare them for kindergarten.

Though all of our schools work to ensure transportation is never a barrier, some provide transportation assistance to students, a benefit that many other charter school students do not receive.

Of course, good schools become highly sought options by combining innovative resources with caring, hard-working adults. From recess aides and bus drivers to deans and principals, there are nearly 3,400 people working in GVSU-chartered schools who are guiding students through their academic journeys.

76

**Total GVSU-chartered  
Schools in 2018-2019**



## Our School Boards

Governing each GVSU-chartered school are publicly appointed officials who have dedicated their time and knowledge to serve on the school board. Effective board leadership is essential in successfully achieving better student outcomes because board members set the vision, provide focus, and guide each school as it strives to fulfill its mission.

Fifty-nine separate school boards governed Grand Valley's charter schools in the 2018-2019 school year. Some of these boards govern multiple schools, but many oversee just one. Concentrating attention on just a small number of schools gives board members an enhanced ability to work closely with the school leadership to execute their vision for the school. It also allows the board members to enhance their relationship with the school by developing stronger connections with the students.

A deep connection to the schools they govern is essential for board members to effectively lead. It's a common characteristic that unites board members who have different backgrounds. It is not unusual to find a late-career professional (who no longer has school-age children) working alongside a stay-at-home father (who has three children enrolled in the school). Such diversity in backgrounds allows the school board members to examine decisions through a number of lenses and ultimately make the best choices for the community.

Many of GVSU-chartered schools are fortunate to have board members who have served their school for multiple terms. Once board members are eligible for reappointment, it is common to see many stay with the school for successive terms. By the end of the 2018-2019 school year, there will be 21 board members who have served at a GVSU-chartered school for at least 15 consecutive years.



Knapp Charter Academy board member Cheryl Elmer (left), poses with the GVSU CSO's Cheryl Edwards-Cannon after receiving an award commemorating her 20 years of service.

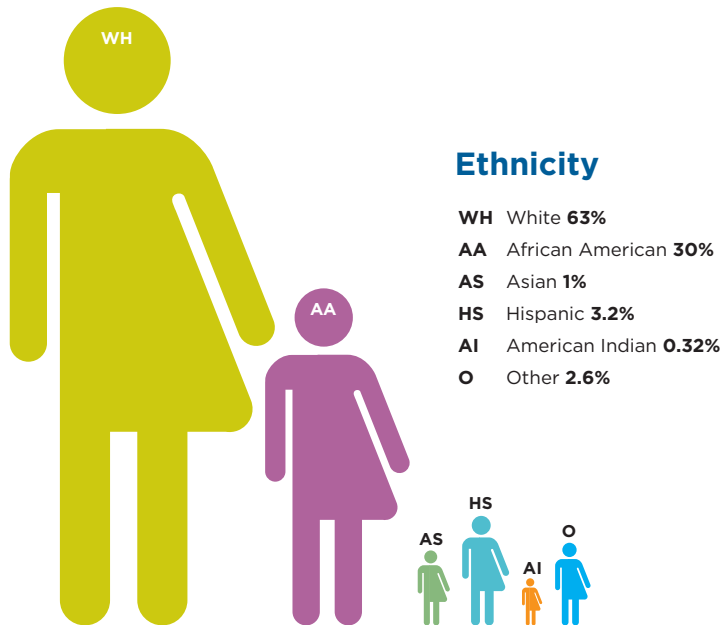


Board members from various schools chat at the 2019 Board Reception in Detroit.

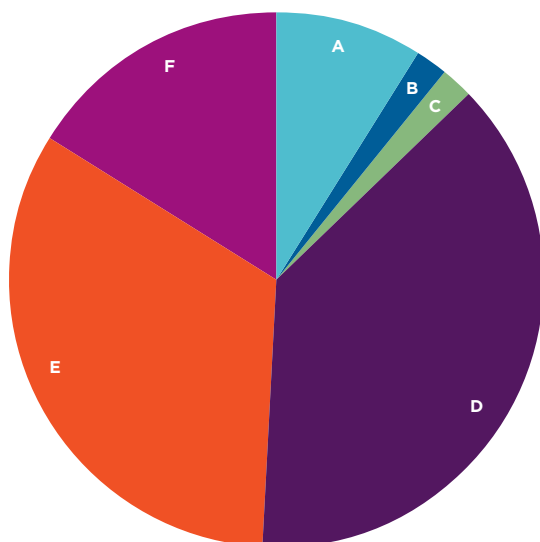


## School Board Members 2018-2019

### Length of Service



### Age



### Degrees

- A** High school diploma **9%**
- B** Associate **2%**
- C** Trade **2%**
- D** Bachelor **38%**
- E** Master **33%**
- F** Doctorate **16%**



## Dedication to Education: Board Member Spotlights

Successful school stewardship starts with community members who volunteer their time to serve on school boards. These publicly appointed leaders are dedicated to improving student outcomes and strengthening their community for future generations.

We sat down with a handful of board members who govern GVSU-chartered schools to learn a little about their roles and what drives them to help students.

***“We were determined to keep the school alive.”***

**SUSIE SHIPMAN**

### Susie Shipman Old Mission Peninsula School

Susie Shipman is the school board secretary at Old Mission Peninsula School (OMPS), a charter school located near Traverse City. The OMPS story is a unique one. In 2018, the school transitioned from a traditional public school to a GVSU-chartered school. To Susie, the change was imperative for her community, and she was eager to be a part of it.

Prior to becoming a board member at OMPS, Susie was part of the Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization started by community members to help OMPS with the transition. “We were determined to ensure the school was kept alive,” she said. Once that decision was made, there was no turning back. “We had every intention of opening OMPS in 2018,” she said. “Our tagline was ‘How hard can it be?’, but there was no time to not be moving forward.”

While the outcome of OMPS’s decision to become a charter school makes it seem like an easy transition, Susie noted that it may not have been possible without the right vision or support. “This process was like being on a bullet train,” she said with a laugh, “so you always need to remember why you are doing the work you are doing — the students. A great staff and board membership is also integral to success of the team. It’s important to find people whose intentions are pure and selfless.”



***“I want to keep showing [Hispanic students] that they can be successful, even when life gets tough.”***

**ED AMAYA**

### Ed Amaya Vanderbilt Charter Academy

Ed Amaya has long served the Holland community, both as the owner of Kenowa Industries and the vice president of the school board at Vanderbilt Charter Academy. He has served on the board since 2006, remaining close to the school that has seemingly always been a part of his life.

Ed grew up two blocks away from the school (though it was not a school when he was a kid). After starting a family, Ed and his wife enrolled their sons into Vanderbilt so they could attend the same school. Ed’s dedication to Vanderbilt led to an invitation for him to join the board as a “parent rep.” He accepted and has remained on the board since then.

Ed said he has stayed on the board because he wants to be a role model for Hispanic students. He does so by being visible at school activities like field days, talent shows, and field trips. “I want to keep showing them that they can be successful, even when life seems tough,” he said. Ed and a small number of his employees also dedicated time to help build Vanderbilt’s playground, one of the highlights of Ed’s time at Vanderbilt. “There are a lot of great things going on at Vanderbilt,” he said, “so I’m proud to continue being a board member there.”





## Ed Parks

### Public School Academies of Detroit

Prior to turning his attention to K-12 education, Ed Parks was helping transform Plante Moran into the international firm it is today. Little did he know, those decades of leadership experiences would suit him well as he became part of a team that has developed a significant school network in Detroit.

Ed was part of the founding board of University Preparatory Academy Middle School, the first Detroit 90/90 school that opened in 2000. He has served various roles on the board, now known as the Public School Academies of Detroit board, which provides guidance for 11 Detroit 90/90 schools. He has remained on the board because of all the potential he sees in students. "They're inspiring," he said, "and we've found that if you change a student's life, you start changing other lives as well."

Ed advises any person who is considering becoming a board member to ensure they can put in the time needed to fulfill the role. If so, then there are great rewards, he said. For Ed, his reward comes annually when graduation ceremonies take place. "It's just such a celebration, and you realize how important it is to the students and families," he said. "You never get over it."

***"We've found that if you change a student's life, you start changing other lives as well."***

**ED  
PARKS**



## Chaffaye Carter

### Hanley International Academy

When Chaffaye Carter was first approached to be a board member for Hanley International Academy, she was hesitant to accept the offer. "I just wasn't sure what exactly I would bring to the table," she said. What she brought — and still brings — was something no other board member could offer: the perspective of a parent with kids at the school.

Chaffaye has been a part of the Hanley board since 2006. She currently serves as the vice president and previously held the role of treasurer. Her time on the board is something she now cherishes. "I love being there and learning what it takes to make a school function," she said. She uses her experience and knowledge to help other parents better understand the 'why' behind certain board and leadership decisions. She also can "see the school through her kids' eyes" and understand how those decisions are impacting students.

Her background plays a vital part in a school that is so focused on diversity and community. "Hanley is very focused on bringing everybody together," she said. "I've seen so many good things come to the school thanks to ideas and support stemming from different people. It's nice, especially in the world today when people seem so separate from each other. I like it when everybody works to get along."

***"I love being there and learning what it takes to make a school function."***

**CHAFFAYE  
CARTER**



## SECTION TWO

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

One of the most important responsibilities that charter school authorizers have is ensuring that the students in their portfolio of schools are growing as learners. The success of students and schools can't be determined by a single measurement, so Grand Valley uses multiple performance indicators to monitor how much students know and how quickly they are academically growing over the course of a school year. The abundance of data also helps GVSU-chartered schools set appropriate achievement goals that are achievable and will drive better outcomes.

In this section, we present the most recent school-by-school data from a variety of state tests, graduation data, and growth data derived from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) exam.

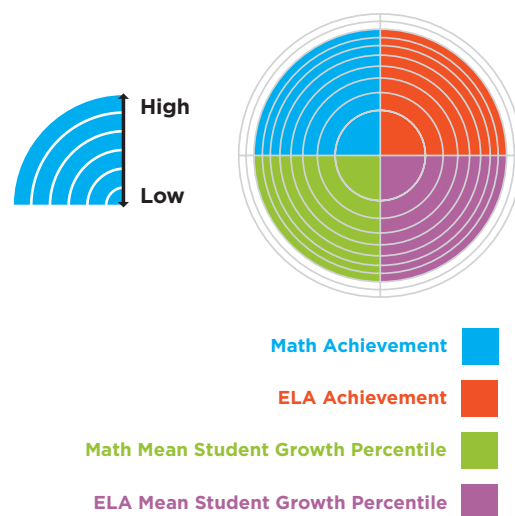
### M-STEP

The M-STEP is an online test administered by the State of Michigan to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. On the following pages, you will see how well each GVSU-chartered school performed on the 2017-2018 M-STEP for English and mathematics and how well they grew compared to their peers.

Here's how it works: Each school is accompanied by a radar plot graph that is divided into four quadrants. Two of the quadrants measure the school's M-STEP achievement levels in both English and math. The other two quadrants indicate how well the average student grew in math and English compared to their peers, a measurement known as the M-STEP Mean Student Growth Percentile (SGP).

The more bars colored in each category of the radar plot, the better the school performed. All measurements are scaled from 1-100, so if a school's M-STEP achievement in math is 80 percent, then the quadrant will be 80-percent filled.

Grand Valley uses these results to determine the level of support each one needs. Schools struggling to meet their academic goals are those that receive increased levels of intervention and additional resources, whether from GVSU or other education partners.



Solving problems together at UPA Elementary – Mark Murray campus



Building writing skills at Walker Charter Academy.

## 2017-2018 M-STEP Data by Tier

Tier 1



Achieve Charter  
Academy



Black River Public School  
Elementary



Black River Public School  
Middle/High



Byron Center  
Charter School



Chandler Woods  
Charter Academy



Student from Canton Preparatory High School investigating a potential career



Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass  
Academy



Crossroads Charter  
Academy Elementary



Crossroads Charter  
Academy Middle/High



## 2017-2018 M-STEP Data by Tier

### Tier 1



Detroit Merit  
Charter Academy



Excel  
Charter Academy



Grand River  
Academy



Picking out a favorite book at Metro Charter Academy



Hanley International  
Academy



Light of the World  
Academy



Metro Charter  
Academy



Michigan Mathematics and Science  
Academy Middle/High



New Paradigm  
College Prep

Math Achievement  ELA Achievement  Math Mean Student Growth Percentile  ELA Mean Student Growth Percentile 

Tier 1



Oakland Academy



Paragon Charter Academy



South Canton Scholars Charter Academy



University Preparatory Science and Math Elementary - Miller Campus



University Preparatory Science and Math Middle School



Vanderbilt Charter Academy



Vanguard Charter Academy



Enjoying the sun at Forest Academy



Walker Charter Academy



West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics



Windemere Park Charter Academy



## 2017-2018 M-STEP Data by Tier

### Tier 2



Arbor  
Academy



Detroit Enterprise  
Academy



Detroit Premier  
Academy



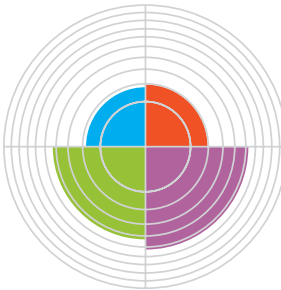
All smiles at Byron Center Charter School



Endeavor Charter  
Academy



Evergreen  
Academy



Global Heights  
Academy



Legacy Charter  
Academy



Madison-Carver  
Academy



Michigan Mathematics and Science  
Academy Elementary



Michigan Virtual  
Charter Academy

Math Achievement  ELA Achievement  Math Mean Student Growth Percentile  ELA Mean Student Growth Percentile 

Tier 2



Reach Charter Academy



University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Ellen Thompson Campus



University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Mark Murray Campus



University Preparatory Academy Middle School



Warrendale Charter Academy

Tier 3



East Arbor Charter Academy



Forest Academy



Knapp Charter Academy



Lincoln-King Academy



Washington-Parks Academy



Celebrating school choice at Crossroads Charter Academy



2017-2018 M-STEP Data by Tier

Tier 4

Math Achievement ■ ELA Achievement ■  
Math Mean Student Growth Percentile ■ ELA Mean Student Growth Percentile ■



Detroit Achievement Academy



Eagle's Nest Academy



Faxon Language Immersion Academy



Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Elementary



Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Middle/High



Practicing to become chess champions at UPSM Elementary – Miller Campus



Southwest Detroit Community School



Timberland Academy



William C. Abney Academy Elementary

## 2017-2018 NWEA MAP® Growth™ Fall to Spring Rate of Growth



Note: MAP Rate of Growth (100 = typical growth)

## Measuring Student Growth Rate

NWEA MAP Growth is a nationally normed, computer-adaptive test used to gather academic data primarily from K-8 students enrolled in our schools. One of the outcomes that the NWEA MAP Growth exam measures is how well students grow academically over the course of the school year compared to their national peers. Students who are growing at the exact typical level are labeled as having 100 percent growth. Students exceeding that number are projected to be growing faster than their peers, while students below that number are not growing as expected.

The accompanying graph shows how much students at GVSU-chartered schools grew from the fall of 2017 to the spring of 2018 in reading and math. Though Grand Valley does not require schools to administer NWEA testing, we encourage and support it. We believe the test is an excellent tool to help both students and teachers track progress throughout the year. We continue to publish the outcomes to provide additional information on how our schools are performing.



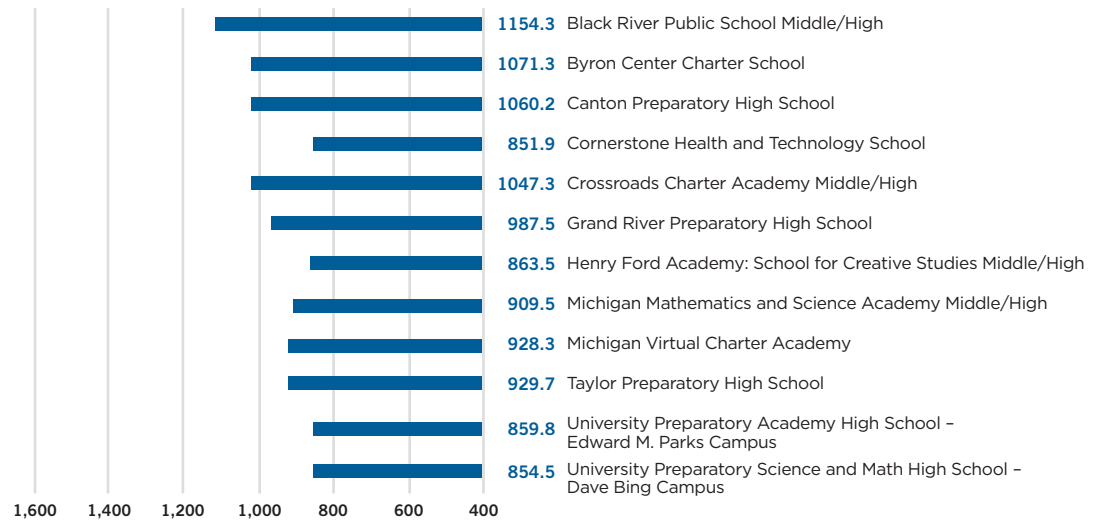
## SAT Performance and Graduation Rates

Grand Valley and its charter schools are dedicated to preparing all students for life after they graduate from high school, no matter what path they choose to pursue. To ensure graduates have the appropriate skills to succeed, GVSU-chartered schools hold their students to rigorous standards.

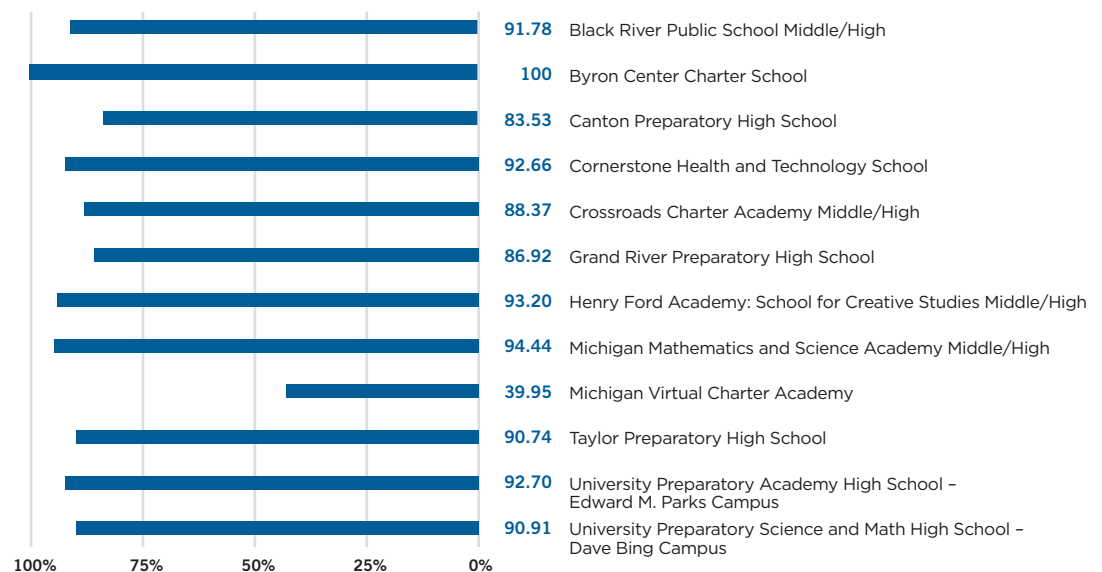
Some high schools require students to pass a certain number of advanced placement courses before they can graduate, offering these college-level courses in all four high school grade levels. Other high schools require their students to complete a semester-long, research-driven project with a company or organization related to their desired professions.

Grand Valley furthers these standards by offering students multiple opportunities to enhance their academic knowledge and professional habits. The university and its charter schools work collaboratively to make sure students are truly ready for college and the workplace.

### 2018 SAT Total Score



### 2018 Four-year Graduation Rate



**2018-2019  
GVSU-authorized  
Schools Average  
Graduation Rate**



**2018-2019  
State of Michigan  
Average Graduation Rate**

## Helping Our Most Challenged Students Succeed

Within Grand Valley's portfolio of schools are seven that are specifically designed to support young adults who have faced a significant number of barriers in their lives. Success at these schools is defined differently than it is at our other charter schools. Graduation rates and SAT data from these schools is not included on the previous page. Instead, students from these schools are applauded for being inspired to achieve an academic goal — earning a high school diploma — that they may not have believed they could achieve.

Four of the schools are Covenant House schools. Grand Valley first partnered with Covenant House in 2013 and now authorizes three academies in Detroit and one in Grand Rapids.

### Covenant House Academies Number of Graduates

| School  | Four-year Cohort | Five-year Cohort | Six-year Cohort |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Covenant House Academy Detroit (all campuses) | 21               | 39               | 34              |
| Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids           | 30               | 25               | 34              |

The other three schools that Grand Valley authorizes are all managed by the Covenant Academies Foundation. The schools are located in Muskegon, Kalamazoo, and Saginaw. You can learn more about the foundation and its CEO on page 30.

### Covenant Academies Foundation Number of Graduates

| School                     | Four-year Cohort | Five-year Cohort | Six-year Cohort |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Muskegon Covenant Academy  | 5                | 17               | 24              |
| Kalamazoo Covenant Academy | 4                | 2                | n/a             |
| Saginaw Covenant Academy   | n/a*             | n/a*             | n/a*            |

\* There is no data to report for Saginaw Covenant Academy, which opened in January 2019.

Grand Valley is proud to authorize these unique schools that help seriously disadvantaged students locate the resources they need to find stability in their educational journey.



Graduates from Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids prepare to receive their diploma.



# 3

## SECTION THREE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Schools that are financially stable can offer children and educators the resources they need to succeed in the classroom. Financial stability also shows that school leaders are good stewards of public money and can make wise investments in children that can lead to better academic outcomes. In short, when it comes to public education, this stability is what taxpayers demand and parents deserve.

In this section, you will learn about the basics of student finances at our schools as well as how we hold our schools accountable for their fiscal actions. You will also learn about additional opportunities that are available to schools to help them enhance their financial stability.

### Ensuring Good Fiscal Stewardship

There are two key factors that a school must focus on when managing its annual finances: creating a balanced annual budget for the upcoming school year and maintaining a minimum fund balance to avoid financial stress.

Grand Valley ensures that its schools are financially responsible by monitoring major fiscal actions through Epicenter, an online tool used to collect and display data related to school funds. Data recorded in Epicenter includes details about a school's total assets and liabilities, per-student finances, and near-term cash measures.

Grand Valley and its schools use the data to track financial trends alongside student enrollment trends. This allows schools to better forecast how much per-pupil funding they will receive in the upcoming year and helps them create a more accurate annual budget.

The data is also used to make sure none of GVSU's charter schools run the risk of having a budget deficit, a financial stress that could jeopardize the learning environment. At the end of each school year, schools must also provide a final amended budget to Grand Valley. This assures that every Grand Valley charter school ends the year with a positive fund balance.

# \$7,871

**2018-2019 Per-pupil Allowance  
for Charter School Students**

# 100%

**GVSU-chartered Schools with  
Positive Fund Balance**



Hangin' with friends at Byron Center Charter School



Taking some time for fun at Walker Charter Academy

## GVSU CSO Providing Support

As a charter school authorizer, Grand Valley may retain up to three percent of the per-pupil funds its charter schools receive. Some of these funds are used to cover the operational cost that comes with being a charter school authorizer. A significant portion, however, is given back to the schools either directly or through supplemental support opportunities.

One of the direct ways that Grand Valley gives back to its charter schools is through its academic grant. Every school has the opportunity to be awarded additional funds by accomplishing specific educational goals over the course of the school year. The goals may change slightly as new academic and charter contract standards are developed, but are always designed to be inclusive of all GVSU-chartered schools. The amount each school receives is determined by the number of students in each building.

Grand Valley also provides financial assistance for the educators in our buildings. Our schools are filled with teachers and administrators who have a passion for improving teaching and learning. To assist these lifelong learners, we encourage them to apply for our Master of Education scholarship, which gives recipients at least a 50-percent tuition discount when they enroll in M.Ed. courses at Grand Valley. Teachers who have spent five or more consecutive years in a GVSU-chartered school are eligible to receive an 80-percent tuition discount.

Additionally, Grand Valley simultaneously supports its schools and undergraduate education students through the Detroit Student Teacher Scholarship. The scholarship covers one semester of tuition for any Grand Valley undergraduate student who agrees to complete their student-teaching requirement in a GVSU-chartered school located in Detroit. Students are placed in schools that may need extra staff support, allowing them to immediately make an impact in the classroom. This ongoing support also creates a talent pipeline between the GVSU College of Education and our charter schools.



Samantha Huebler, a recipient of the Detroit Student Teacher Scholarship, with her mentor Tammy Garner.

# \$595,525

**Total Amount of Money Awarded Through 2017-2018 Academic Grant from GVSU**

# \$8,631

**Average Amount of Money Awarded to Each School Through 2017-2018 Academic Grant**

# \$935,169

**Total Amount of Money Awarded Through Master of Education Scholarship Since January 2018**

# 1,824

**Credit Hours Completed Through Master of Education Scholarship Since January 2018**

# 24

**Number of GVSU Education Students Who Completed Student Teaching at a Detroit Charter School Since January 2018**

# \$148,204

**Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded to GVSU Students Who Taught in Detroit Since January 2018**



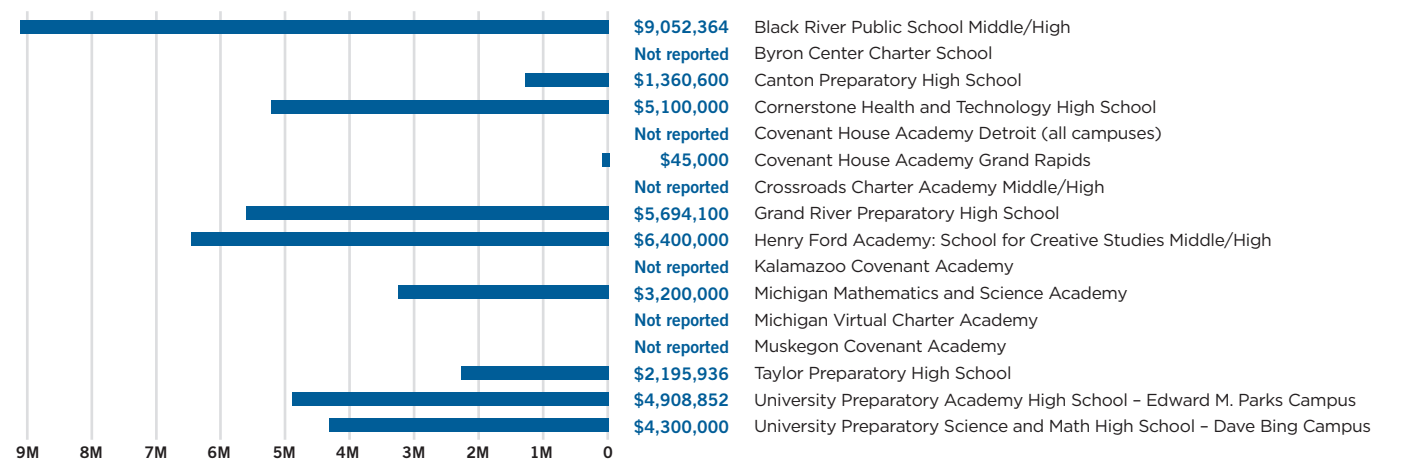
## Student Scholarship Success

Teachers and principals are not the only ones taking advantage of scholarship opportunities. Students in GVSU-chartered high schools are actively seeking and earning financial support to enroll in postsecondary learning. At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, graduating students had earned more than 42 million in combined scholarship money. The actual total may be higher, as a few schools did not report the amount of scholarship money their students were awarded.

\$42,256,852

Total Reported Amount of Scholarship Money  
Earned by Class of 2018

### School-reported Scholarship Totals: 2017-2018



A college-bound student from Michigan Math and Science Academy takes a moment to check out the school's college scholarship wall.

## Sustaining Opportunity: Sam Joseph and the Covenant Academies Foundation

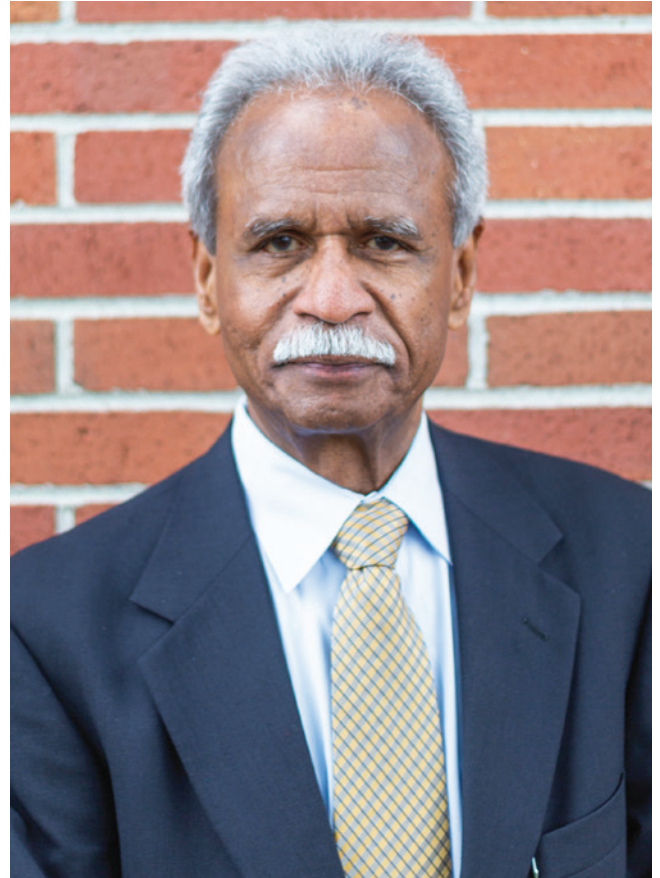
Sam Joseph has made a profound impact on education in Michigan through his dedication to supporting young adults. His passion to provide nurturing, educational pathways for people has created new opportunities for thousands of students across the state.

Prior to coming to Michigan in the late 1990s, Joseph spent much of his career working in New York, holding a variety of administrative roles in the health field for nearly three decades. During this time, he developed specialized support programs for patients diagnosed with mental illness and emotionally troubled young people. While trying to help and rehabilitate young adults who were homeless, he came to the conclusion that without a minimum of a high school education these young people would not have a future. The population that drop out of school will have severe barriers to moving forward in their personal lives. By breaking the barriers that caused them to drop out and become homeless, the majority of these vulnerable young people can be helped.

Joseph first partnered with GVSU in 2013 while serving as the executive director for Covenant House Michigan. At that time, Joseph was already running Covenant House life skills centers, which were charter schools specifically designed for dropouts and homeless young adults in the Detroit area. The mission of the schools aligned well with GVSU's value of community, so the university worked with Joseph to open a similar school in Grand Rapids while assuming authorization for the Detroit life skills centers.

After leaving Covenant House, Joseph launched Muskegon Covenant Academy in 2014. Within two years, he opened a residence called Covenant Hall exclusively to serve the homeless students attending Muskegon Covenant Academy. Given the need that this mission is important in almost all cities, Joseph developed partnerships with numerous local community organizations to open Kalamazoo Covenant Academy (2016) and Saginaw Covenant Academy (2018). All three schools are supported through the Covenant Academies Foundation, which is a sustainable solution to prevent youth homelessness and youth incarceration by providing an array of educational and support services to dropouts, as well as homeless, at-risk, and disenfranchised youths.

The schools that comprise Covenant Academies Foundation are some of the most innovative in GVSU's portfolio and in all of Michigan and annually serve approximately 450 young adults who are looking to complete a key step in the academic journey. Thanks to Joseph's vision and the partnerships he built with community leaders across the state, thousands of young adults throughout Michigan are better prepared for a sustainable future.



Sam Joseph, founder of Covenant Academies Foundation



A Muskegon Covenant Academy student celebrates at graduation.





Charter Schools Office  
Bicycle Factory  
201 Front Avenue SW,  
Suite 310  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: (616) 331-2240  
Fax: (616) 331-2085  
Web: [gvsu.edu/cso](http://gvsu.edu/cso)

GVSU Detroit Center  
163 Madison Street  
Detroit, MI 48226



Printed locally on paper manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas), and includes 30% postconsumer recovered fiber.

Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs, and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connected with the university. 6/19

©2019 Grand Valley State University. 18-0793

