



2023

# PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE REPORT

**INNOVATION IN LEARNING** 







# BE READY FOR WHATEVER IS LEADY FOR WHATEVER

At Grand Valley, next is opportunity and innovation. Next is global, connecting and uniting us. It's local, shaping the spaces in which we work and live. It's a commitment to progress. Next is where minds are free to imagine what could be. At GVSU, next is now. And whatever's next, we will empower our students, our communities, and our partners to reach higher to get there.

22,269 STUDENTS

300+
AREAS OF STUDY

CAMPUSES

gvsu.edu/next











ACADEMIC OUTCOMES



SUSTAINING INQUIRY



Philomena V. Mantella, Ph.D.

President



**Leah C. Breen**Interim Assistant Vice President for Charter Schools



#### Dear friends:

As we near the 30th anniversary of Grand Valley authorizing its first charter public schools, it's important to take a moment to reflect on how far we've come since those early years. Children and their families have turned to GVSU charter public schools for decades because they saw an education option that best fit their individual needs. In our first year as a charter authorizer, it was 300 learners; today it is nearly 35,000 elementary, middle, and high school learners across almost every corner of our state.

More importantly, however, is where we go next for the learners in our schools now and all learners of generations to come.

At GVSU, we embrace the opportunity to design forward-thinking solutions that empower more learners at every stage of their educational journey. We do this in partnership with our charter public schools by blurring the lines between K-12 education and higher education and moving closer to a fully integrated P-20 learning environment. We embrace innovations in physical and digital spaces that break down the historic barriers that have impeded learners from academic access and excellence.

The 2023 GVSU Charter Schools Office's Portfolio Performance Report is a transparent snapshot of the achievements our charter public schools have made through such efforts, as well as the opportunities that still exist to help learners reach even higher. In the report, you will see examples of how educators, school board members, and GVSU are all working together to move toward our shared vision for public education.

We hope this report inspires you to help us build upon the successes in our charter public schools as we continue to develop educational experiences that give every learner more pathways to fulfillment and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Philomena V. Mantella, Ph.D.

In White

President

Grand Valley State University

Leah C. Breen

Interim Assistant Vice President for Charter Schools

Grand Valley State University

Leah CBu

#### **Mission**

Grand Valley State University authorizes charter public schools to join together professors, practitioners, policymakers, and communities 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 public schools chartered by Grand Valley State University.

## **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 university's five core values. These core values. which are a part of GVSU's Reach Higher 2025 Strategic Plan, provide a foundation and framework for all of Grand Valley Charter School's Office decision-making processes.

- Inquiry
- Inclusive and Equitable Community
- Innovation
- Integrity
- International Perspectives





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**Buzz Thomas** Activate Detroit, Principal

# SCHOOL COMMUNITY

# By the Numbers

At Grand Valley State University, we ensure that each charter public school we authorize is a good fit for its community by providing educational opportunities for families that better meet their students' individual needs.

In this section, you will read more about the learners and communities served by GVSU's charter public schools across Michigan.

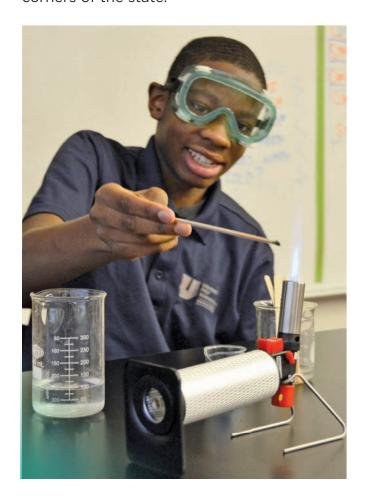


## **Our Schools**

Whether attending class in person or through digital platforms, more than 35,000 total students enrolled in Grand Valley's 79 charter public schools in the 2022-2023 school year.

A little more than half of our students (55 percent) enrolled in schools located within Wayne County, which includes Detroit and many of its metropolitan communities. More than one-fifth of our students (23 percent) enrolled in schools found in the three West Michigan counties that include Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and Holland.

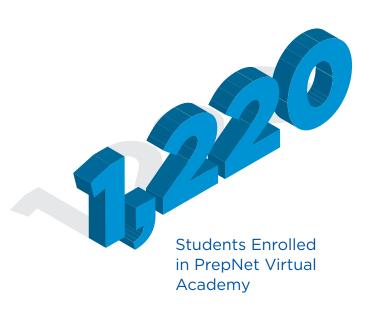
Additionally, 1,220 students enrolled in PrepNet Virtual Academy, a K-12 statewide cyber school. Those students represent more than 100 resident school districts located in all corners of the state.

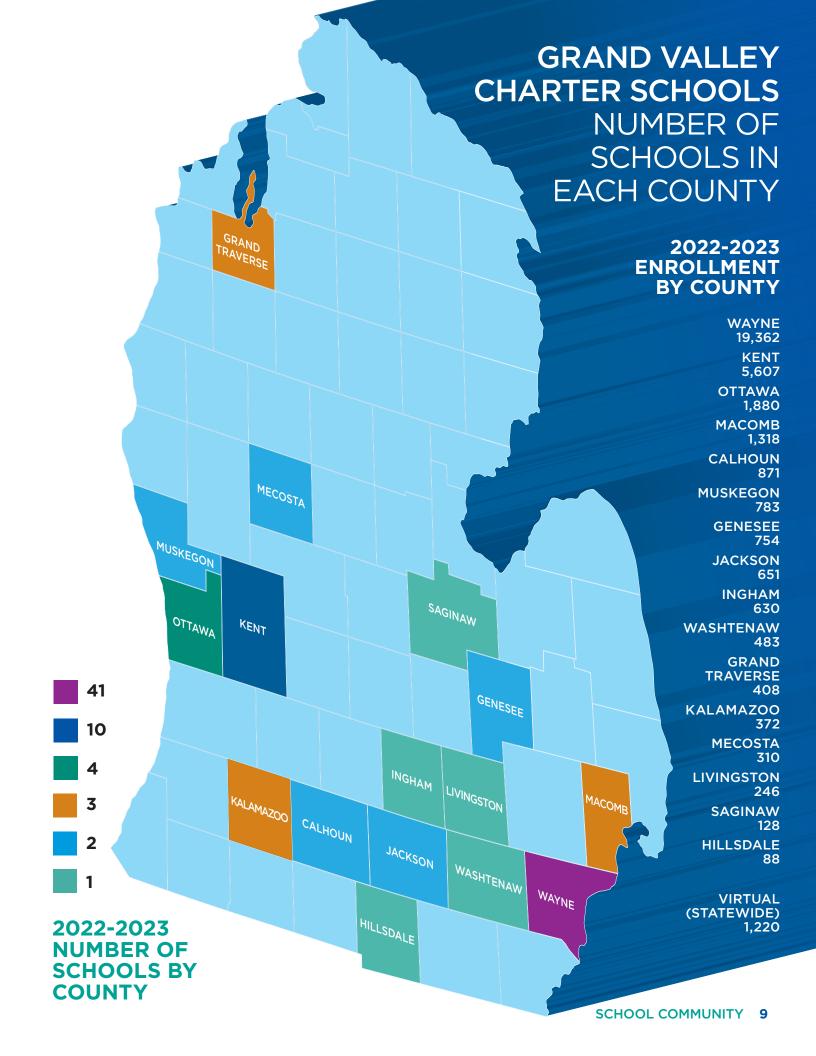




Total Number of Schools Chartered in 2022-2023







#### **CALHOUN**

Arbor Academy **Endeavor Charter Academy** 

# **SCHOOLS BY** COUNTY

#### **GENESEE**

Eagle's Nest Academy Flint Cultural Center Academy

#### **GRAND TRAVERSE**

Old Mission Peninsula School The Greenspire School The Greenspire High School

#### HILLSDALE

Hillsdale Preparatory School

#### **INGHAM**

Windemere Park Charter Academy

#### **JACKSON**

Francis Street Primary School Paragon Charter Academy

#### **KALAMAZOO**

Forest Academy Kalamazoo Covenant Academy Oakland Academy

#### **KENT**

Byron Center Charter School Chandler Woods Charter Academy Covenant High School Grand Rapids Excel Charter Academy Grand River Preparatory High School Knapp Charter Academy Vanguard Charter Academy Walker Charter Academy West Michigan Aviation Academy William C. Abney Academy Elementary

#### LIVINGSTON

Light of the World Academy

#### **MACOMB**

Michigan Mathematics and Science Academy Dequindre Michigan Mathematics and Science Academy Lorraine Reach Charter Academy

#### MECOSTA

Crossroads Charter Academy (K-5) Crossroads Charter Academy (6-12)

#### MUSKEGON

Muskegon Covenant Academy Timberland Charter Academy

#### **OTTAWA**

Black River Public School Elementary Black River Public School Middle/High Vanderbilt Charter Academy West MI Academy of Arts and Academics

2022-2023

#### SAGINAW

Saginaw Covenant Academy

#### WASHTENAW

East Arbor Charter Academy

#### WAYNE

Achieve Charter Academy Adams-Young Building Canton Preparatory High School

Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy

Covenant High School Central Covenant High School East

Covenant High School Southwest

Covenant School Spectrum Detroit Achievement Academy

**Detroit Enterprise Academy** 

Detroit Merit Charter Academy

**Detroit Premier Academy** 

Detroit Prep

Fostering Leadership Academy

Global Heights Academy

Grand River Academy

Hanley International Academy

Legacy Charter Academy

Lincoln-King Adams-Young High School Grove Campus

Lincoln-King Adams-Young (6-8)

Madison-Carver Academy

Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center Academy

Metro Charter Academy

New Paradigm College Prep

New Paradigm Glazer Academy

New Paradigm Loving Academy

South Canton Scholars Charter Academy

Taylor Preparatory High School

University Preparatory Academy Elementary (Ellen Thompson)

University Preparatory Academy Elementary (Mark Murray)

University Preparatory Academy High School

University Preparatory Academy Middle

University Preparatory Art & Design Elementary

University Preparatory Art & Design Middle/High

University Preparatory Science and Math Elementary University Preparatory Science and Math High School

University Preparatory Science and Math Middle School

Warrendale Charter Academy

Washington-Parks Academy

Westfield Charter Academy

Westfield Preparatory High School

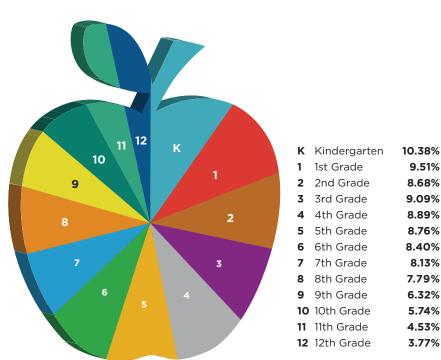
## Our Students by the Numbers

Learners have the unique opportunity to become "Lakers for a Lifetime" from the moment they start kindergarten. This is because Grand Valley's portfolio of charter public schools serves all grade levels through a variety of innovative options.

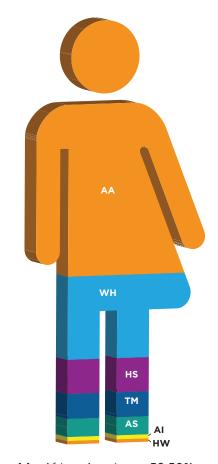
As learners grow along their K-12 pathway, Grand Valley aims to be a supporting presence every step of the way. GVSU's charter public schools welcome every learner and work diligently to accommodate every child and make them feel included.

The following graphics and tables offer a look at the 2022-2023 student demographics for our portfolio of schools, including the major services each school's population receives and how they compare to state averages.

#### **ENROLLMENT BY GRADE**

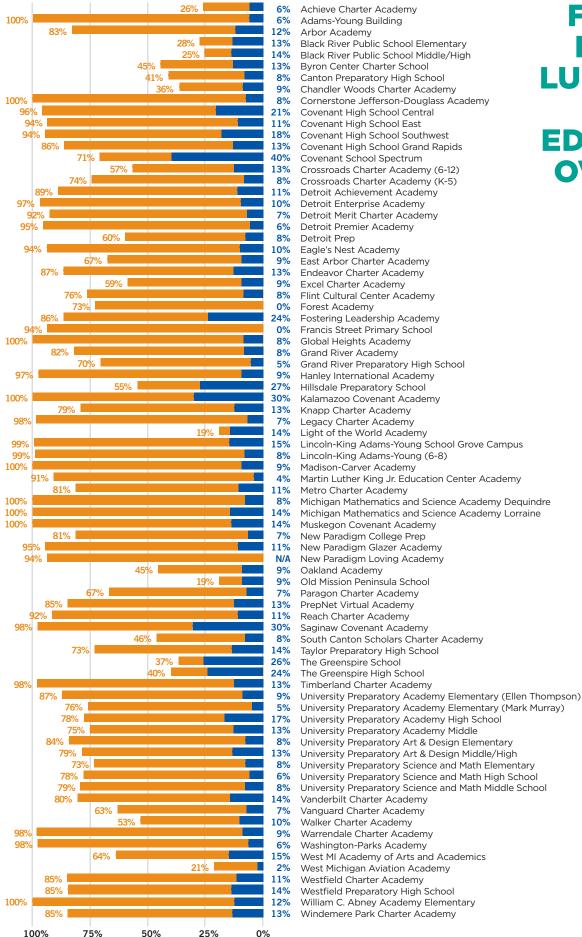


#### **STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC ENROLLMENT**



African American	59.50%
White	20.37%
Hispanic	8.22%
Two or More Races	6.72%
Asian	4.94%
American Indian	< 1.0%
Hawaiian	< 1.0%
	White Hispanic Two or More Races Asian American Indian

Note: All subgroup identifiers use language from Michigan Department of Education reports.



# FREE AND REDUCED **LUNCH AND SPECIAL EDUCATION OVERVIEW**



Students qualifying for free- or reducedlunch programs (percentage of enrollment)



Students receiving special education services (percentage of enrollment)

**GVSU-authorized Charter Schools** FRL Average

Michigan FRL Average

**GVSU-authorized Charter Schools Special Education** Average

Michigan Special **Education Average** 

N/A=Data suppressed by Michigan Department of Education in compliance with FERPA regulations.

# ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

One of the most important responsibilities charter school authorizers have is ensuring the students they serve are growing academically. To get a more complete picture of how well students and schools are succeeding, Grand Valley uses multiple performance indicators to track student growth over the course of a school year and best understand how well schools are meeting the academic expectations in their charter contract.

In this section, we present 2022-2023 school performance data from a variety of data sets, including state assessments and college preparation measurements.

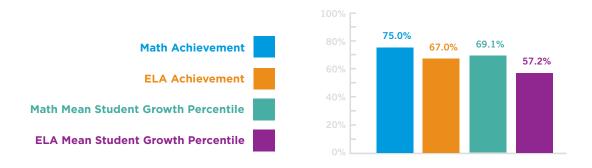


## M-Step Results

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 each GVSU charter school performed on the 2022-2023 M-STEP for English and mathematics. You will also see how they grew compared to their peers.

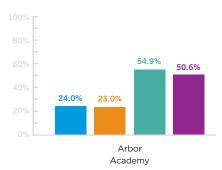
Here's how it works: Each school is assigned a bar chart with four graphs. Two of the graphs measure the school's M-STEP achievement levels in both English and math. The other two indicate how the average student grew in math and English language arts (ELA) compared to their peers, a measurement known as the M-STEP mean student growth percentile. All measurements are scaled from 1 to 100.

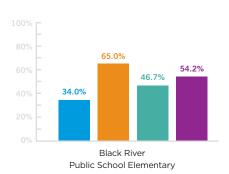
It should be noted that growth measures rely on multiple years of data. With the pandemic significantly impacting testing in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the Michigan Department of Education released limited student growth percentile data in 2021-2022. This may impact the scope of trend data reported from the 2022-2023 year.

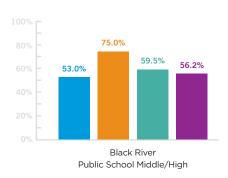




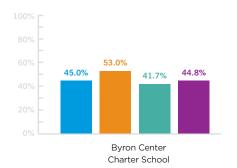


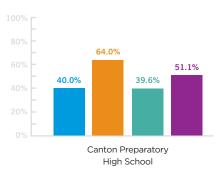


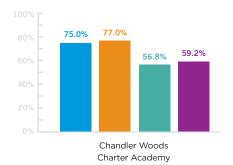


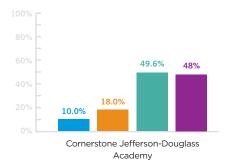


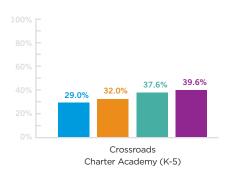


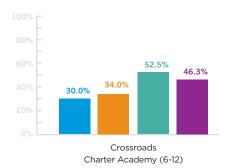


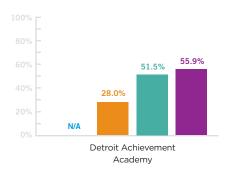


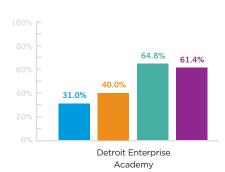


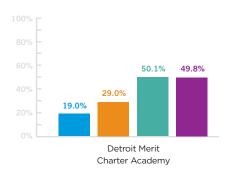


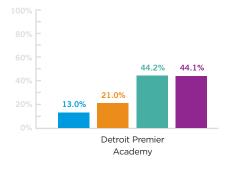


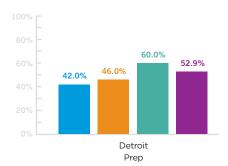


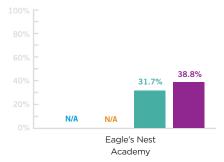




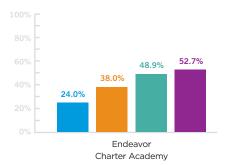




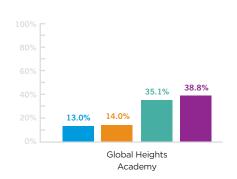


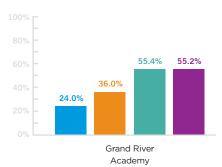


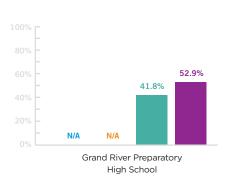


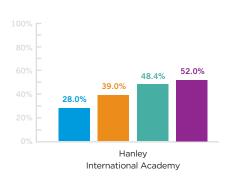




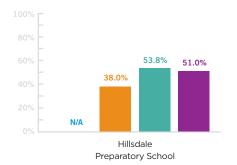


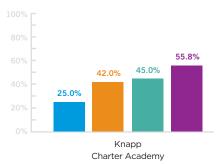


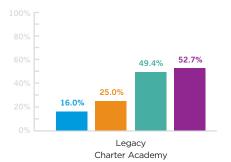


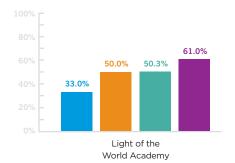


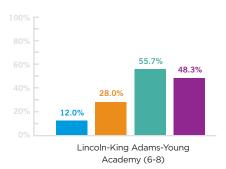


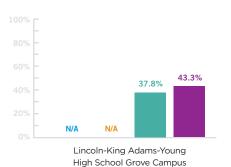






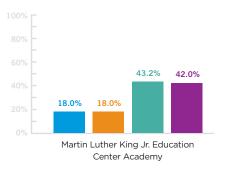


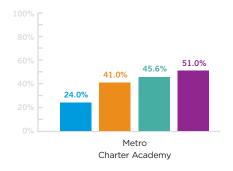


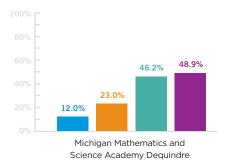


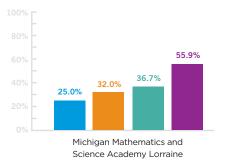




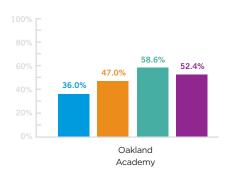


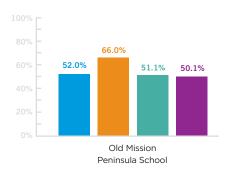


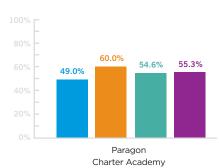


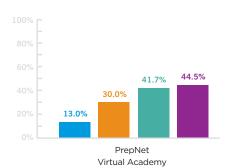


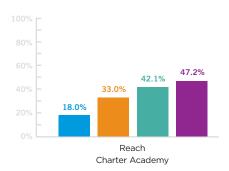


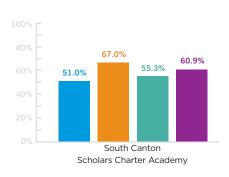




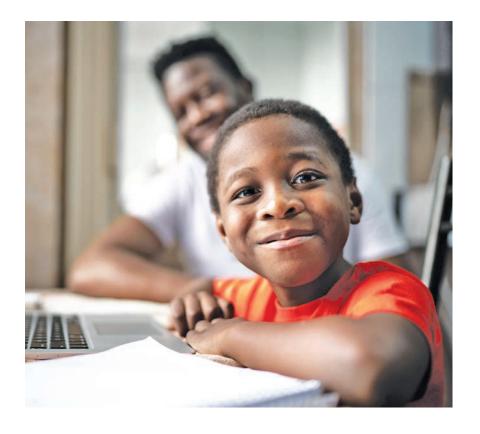


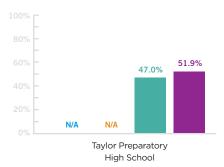


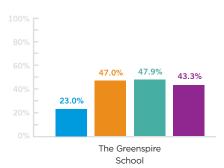


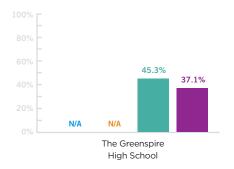


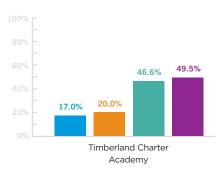


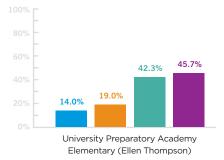


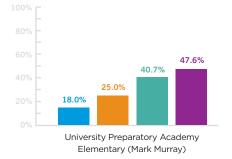


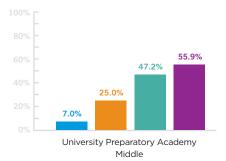


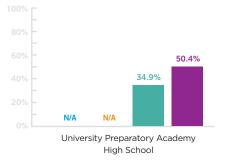


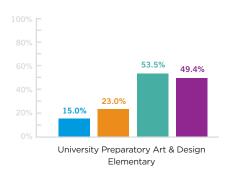


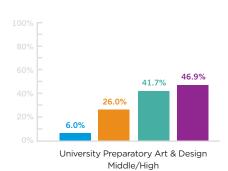


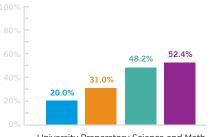




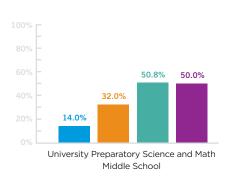


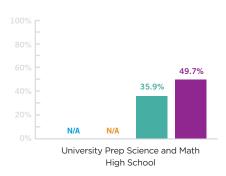




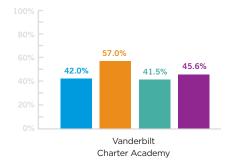


University Preparatory Science and Math Elementary



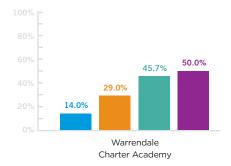


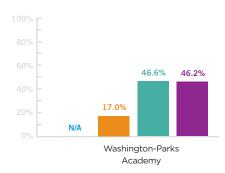


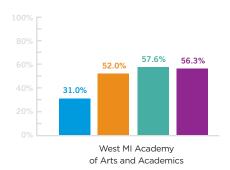


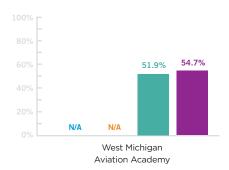




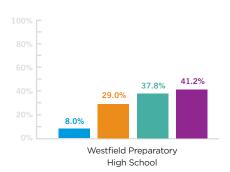




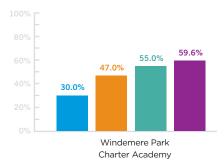












# High School and Class of 2023 Performance

Grand Valley and its charter public schools are dedicated to preparing all students to excel to and through their high school graduation. To ensure graduates have the appropriate skills to succeed, GVSU's charter schools hold students to rigorous standards. Some high schools require students to pass a certain number of advanced placement courses before they graduate, offering these college-level courses in all four high school grades. Other schools have students complete semester-long research projects with a company or organization related to their desired professions.

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

#### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

Black River Public School \$3,100,000 Byron Center Charter School \$72,000 Canton Preparatory High School \$3,627,838 Covenant House Academy Detroit (all campuses) \$0 Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids \$0 Crossroads Charter Academy \$204,450 Grand River Preparatory High School \$3,792,788 Kalamazoo Covenant Academy \$0 Lincoln-King Adams-Young Academy High School \$1,017,276 MMSA Dequindre \$4,840,000 Muskegon Covenant Academy \$0 PrepNet Virtual Academy \$230,856 Saginaw Covenant Academy \$0 Taylor Preparatory High School \$913,960 University Preparatory High School \$5,803,748 University Prep Science and Math High School \$4,286,220 University Preparatory Art + Design Middle/High \$4,985,000 West Michigan Aviation Academy \$3,660,000

**Total Amount of Scholarships\* Awarded** 

\*Scholarship data is self-reported by schools to GVSU CSO.



2023

SAT Average

**Total Score** 

\$36,534,136

# **Students Embrace Early College Enrollment Programs**

Charter public schools are designed to rapidly adjust to meet ever-changing community needs. One of the benefits of this design is that adaptations often lead to reduced barriers and increased opportunities for students.

Since the pandemic, more and more high school students have sought new ways to engage in college pathways earlier in their learning journey. To meet this demand, several charter public high schools authorized by Grand Valley have launched early college programs that make higher education more accessible and affordable.

Early college programs are designed to help students earn an associate degree or certificate for free while still enrolled in high school. Students enrolled in an early college program are typically on a five-year plan, with the first three years dedicated to high school curriculum, and the final two years focused on earning their college credits. Students in the program continue to receive support from high school counselors, staff, and academic coaches well after they transition to their college coursework

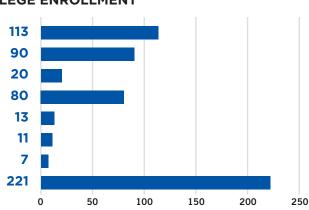
Early college programs offered in GVSU's charter public schools saw a 52% increase in enrollment from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year.

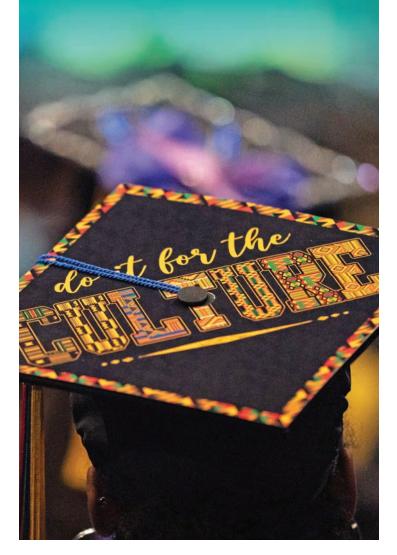




#### **EARLY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT**

Canton Preparatory High School 113 Grand River Preparatory High School PrepNet Virtual Academy Taylor Preparatory High School University Preparatory Art & Design Middle/High University Preparatory Science and Math High School West Michigan Aviation Academy Westfield Preparatory High School 221





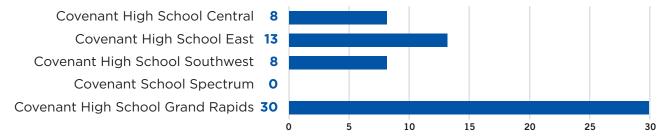
# **Helping Unique Student Populations Succeed**

GVSU's portfolio has nine schools specifically designed to support historically underserved students.

One school, Fostering Leadership Academy, serves a high population of K-8 students in the foster care system through a traumainformed curriculum. The other eight are high schools supporting students who face hurdles like homelessness and expulsion. Success at these schools is measured differently than it is at other GVSU charter schools, and students are applauded for achieving unique academic goals.

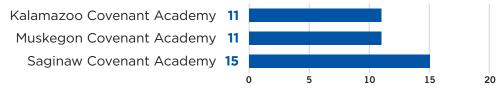
Five high schools are operated in partnership with Youth Vision Solutions, serving students in Wayne County and Grand Rapids. GVSU first authorized schools in this network in 2013.

#### 2022-2023 COVENANT SCHOOLS GRADUATES



The other three high schools are all managed by the Covenant Academies Foundation and are located in Muskegon, Kalamazoo, and Saginaw.

#### 2022-2023 COVENANT ACADEMIES FOUNDATION GRADUATES



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

# SUSTAINING INQUIRY

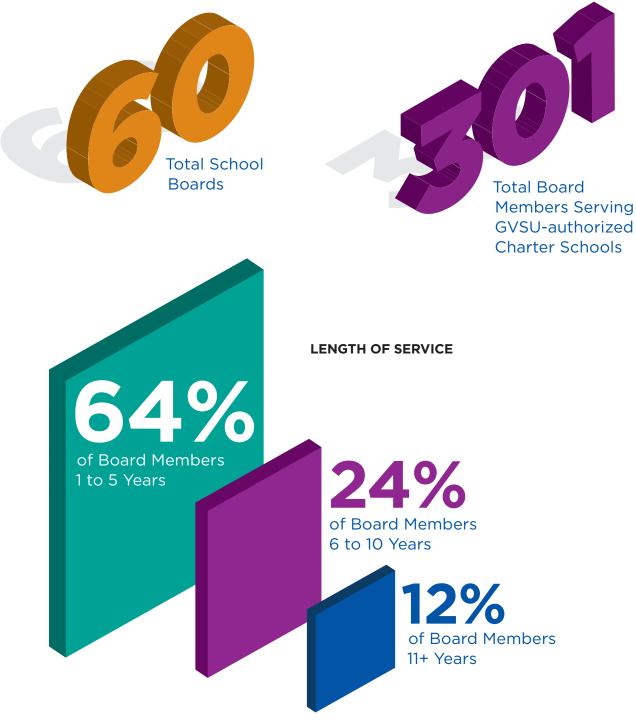
Schools that make wise operational and financial decisions create a sustainable academic environment that leads to better outcomes for kids. Such stability and quality are what taxpayers and parents expect when it comes to public education.

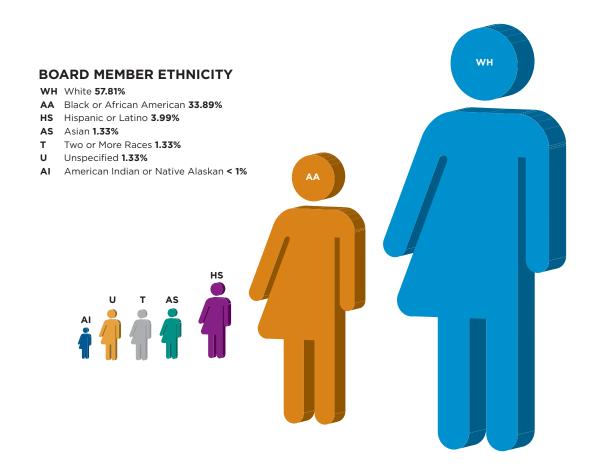
In this section, you'll learn about the governing boards at our schools that lead such decisions. You'll also learn about financial opportunities that GVSU makes available to schools and educators to help them enhance their stability while furthering inquiry.

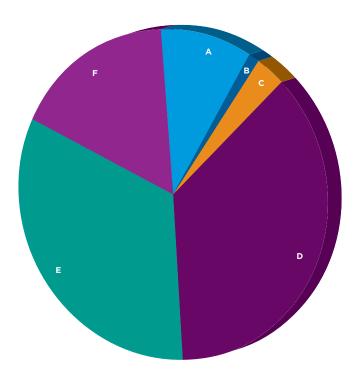


## **Our School Boards**

Effective school boards are visionary bodies that work collaboratively to ensure academic, operational, and fiscal achievement. Each GVSU-authorized charter public school is governed by a group of publicly appointed officials dedicated to furthering education at the local level. These boards are comprised of passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds who understand what the students, families, and educators in their community specifically need for the school to fulfill its mission today and for future generations.







#### **BOARD MEMBER EDUCATION BACKGROUND**

- A High school diploma/GED 9.63%
- B Associate Degree 1.00%
- C Trade School/Unspecified 2.99%
- D Bachelor's Degree 36.88%
- E Master's Degree 32.56%
- F Doctorate/Doctoral degree 16.94%

# DEDICATION TO EDUCATION: COVENANT SCHOOLS DETROIT

Grand Valley sees the charter public schools that it authorizes as extensions of the university community, which comes with the expectation that each school environment reflects GVSU's five core values. The GVSU CSO annually recognizes leaders who meet this expectation by presenting the Core Values Award to a school whose program, project, practice, or other initiative best demonstrates advancement of a particular value.

The 2023 Core Values Award was presented to leaders at Covenant Schools Detroit for their longstanding efforts to create an inclusive and equitable community by offering the American Sign Language program to their students.

The program began after the school board sought new ways to help students better connect with people with diverse backgrounds and needs through the community. The board determined

that students could broaden their understanding of the community by learning how to appropriately support and communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard-ofhearing.

The board reasoned that the most direct way to support this population was to equip interested students with sign language skills. They felt that the American Sign Language program would create a learning experience

that accomplished two goals. First, it would create opportunities for students to acquire new, valuable communication skills. Second, the program would open pathways to help meet the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing people to engage in meaningful and precise conversation.

"Typically, the programs and policies of our schools focus inwardly," said board President Lawrence Givens. "Our American Sign Language program has allowed us to expand our focus outward to include the larger community. It is an ongoing reminder that our school is a part of the whole fabric of our community."

The 2022-2023 school year marked the third year of the program. It involves students from each of three Covenant Schools Detroit campuses across the city. At last count, nearly 100 students have participated in the program since it was launched.



# DEDICATION TO EDUCATION: MICHIGAN MATHEMATICS AND **SCIENCE ACADEMY**

Michigan Math and Science Academy (MMSA) may have one of the most unique charter public school board dynamics in Michigan thanks to two of their members being students at the school just a few years ago.

Board Vice President Chayla Adkins and Board Treasurer Justin Wilton both attended middle school and high school at MMSA before graduating to head to college. Chayla was part of the first wave of students to enroll at MMSA when it initially opened, starting her academic journey with the school in 8th grade and graduating in 2014. Justin was not far behind Chayla, joining the school in 7th grade a few years later and graduating with the Class of 2018.

After graduating from MMSA, Chayla earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Toledo and a master's degree in marketing from Colorado Tech. Justin continued his learning at the University of Michigan, recently graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration and another in science and information.

Both board members credit MMSA for playing an integral role in how they found success after they left the school.

"MMSA prepared me for university and for life in such a different way than many other people I know who went to other public schools," Chayla said. "I felt like the school gave me an upper hand because the smaller setting gave teachers more time to work with me as an individual."

Justin also noticed a distinct difference between his learning environment and the experiences his peers had at other schools. He recalled he was much more involved in his classwork and his school community than even his most highperforming friends learning elsewhere.

"The educational climate is what kept me at MMSA," he said. "The values of learning were very evident in every classroom in every grade. That culture really translated well into helping me succeed in college and into my career."



The close connections that were built between the school, the students, and the surrounding community are what drew Chayla and Justin back to MMSA to serve on the board. The 2022-2023 school year was Chayla's first year on the board, and Justin was officially sworn into his role in August 2023. Chayla and Justin both noted the benefits for the MMSA board and school community thanks to supportive partnerships with GVSU and the school's education management company, Concept Schools.

Chayla also advises any new school board member to really think hard about the duties of the role and how board members can go well beyond the basic functions to help the school thrive.

"Be open to learning more and always getting more information," she said. "I always participate in board training sessions and am investigating things I don't understand well to ensure I'm in a good position to lead our students."

That sense of pride in leading the next generation of learners is also part of what motivates Justin in his governance role.

"I know people may have different takes on school choice, but at the end of the day, I do think it is more valuable to provide options that allow parents to make the best educational choices for their children," he said. "My family believed in MMSA when I was a kid, and I continue to believe in MMSA. I look forward to continuing the school's tradition of high-quality education for our community."

# **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 detailed data related to school funds. Grand Valley and its schools then use the data to track financial trends alongside student enrollment trends. This helps schools forecast how much per-pupil funding they will receive in the upcoming year so they can create a more accurate annual budget.

The data is also used to make sure that all schools are not experiencing financial stress that could jeopardize the learning environment. School budgets are amended during the school year to reflect changes in enrollment and available funds to ensure finances are properly stewarded.





## **Annual Support from GVSU**

According to Michigan charter school law, charter authorizers may retain up to 3% of the per-pupil funds its charter schools receive. At Grand Valley, some of these funds are used to cover operational cost; however, a significant portion is returned to the schools either directly or through supplemental support opportunities.

One of the direct ways that schools receive financial support comes from the GVSU CSO's Academic Grant opportunity. Every school can be awarded additional funds by accomplishing specific education and compliance goals throughout the course of the school year. The goals are aligned with their charter contract and are designed to be inclusive of all schools. The amount each school receives for each grant criteria it meets is determined by the number of students in each building.

Grand Valley also provides financial assistance for the educators working in its schools who want to continue their lifelong learning. Certified teachers can apply for the Master of Education scholarship, which gives recipients a 50% tuition discount when they enroll in certain graduate courses at Grand Valley. The discount increases to 80% for teachers who have worked five or more consecutive years in a GVSU charter school.

Finally, the GVSU CSO supports undergraduate education learners through the Detroit Student Teacher Scholarship. The scholarship covers one semester of tuition for any Grand Valley learner who agrees to complete their student-teaching requirement in a GVSU charter school located in Detroit.









# **Advancing Equity Through Educator Development Experiences**

GVSU strives to ensure that all learners feel a sense of belonging thanks to being a part of an inclusive and equitable community. That goal extends into each of the charter public schools that the university authorizes. To help further such efforts, the GVSU CSO sponsored K-12 educators to attend the 2023 Black Boys and Men Symposium.

The conference brings together youth service providers, K-12 educators, higher education faculty and staff, and community leaders to understand and interrogate the "systems" that impact the lives of Black boys and men in order to deconstruct them and rebuild for their success.

Dozens of educators from GVSU's charter public schools attended the conference. along with a small group that held a panel conversation on how charter public schools and higher education institutions can unite in new ways to improve outcomes for students and teachers of color.



#### **Charter Schools Office Bicycle Factory**

201 Front Avenue SW, Suite 310 Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 331-2240 gvsu.edu/cso

#### **GVSU Detroit Center**

163 Madison Street Detroit, MI 48226

Empowering learners in their pursuits, professions, and purpose









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.

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