

North Star Charter School
Continuous Improvement Plan

North Star Charter School District No. 493

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Activity Summary by Funding Source

Activity Summary by School

Idaho Code Section 33-320 33-320.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND TRAINING.

(1) Each school district and public charter school in Idaho shall develop an annual plan that is part of a continuous focus on improving the student performance of the district or public charter school.

(2) (a) The board of trustees and the superintendent shall collaborate on the plan and engage students, parents, educators and the community as appropriate. The board of directors and the administrator of a public charter school shall collaborate on the plan and engage students, parents, educators and the community as appropriate.

(b) The annual continuous improvement plan shall: (i) Be data driven, specifically in student outcomes, and shall include, but not be limited to, analyses of demographic data, student achievement and growth data, graduation rates, and college and career readiness; (ii) Set clear and measurable targets based on student outcomes; (iii) Include a clearly developed and articulated vision and mission; (iv) Include key indicators for monitoring performance; and (v) Include a report of progress toward the previous year's improvement goals.

(c) The annual continuous improvement plan must be reviewed and updated annually no later than October 1 each year.

(d) The board of trustees or the board of directors shall continuously monitor progress toward the goals by utilizing relevant data to measure growth. The progress shall be included in evaluations of the district superintendent or administrator of a public charter school.

(3) The plan must be made available to the public and shall be posted on the school district or charter school website.

(4) Of the moneys appropriated in the public schools educational support program, up to six thousand six hundred dollars (\$6,600) shall be distributed to each school district and public charter school to be expended for training purposes for district superintendents and boards of trustees, public charter school administrators and boards of directors. Funds shall be distributed on a reimbursement basis based on a process prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction. Qualified training shall include training for continuous improvement processes and planning, strategic planning, finance, superintendent evaluations, public charter administrator evaluations, ethics and governance.

(5) The state board of education shall be granted rulemaking authority to establish appropriate procedures, qualifications and guidelines for qualified training providers and shall prepare a list of qualified training providers within the state of Idaho.

Overview

North Star Charter School Mission Statement:

North Star Charter School provides students a world-class education characterized by a safe, supportive and structured learning climate that encourages high academic achievement, intellectual confidence, leadership and virtuous citizenship.

This mission represents our belief that all of our students will receive an education that prepares them to handle the issues of the 21st century world by equipping them to think critically and creatively and gain confidence in their skills and knowledge, resulting in citizen leaders with virtue. They will achieve this through the “North Star Way”:

- **Students:** We believe all of our students deserve and can benefit from the educational programs we offer. We are a public, K-12, tuition free charter school.
- **World-Class:** We are an International Baccalaureate (IB) school. We engage students in exploration and discovery of their 21st century world through the IB Diploma program, learning a second language, surveying music or art, and investigating global entrepreneurship.
- **Safe, Supportive and Structured:** We help our students become virtuous citizens. Our elementary program prepares students both morally and in conduct, for the leadership, service and hard work of our secondary and IB diploma programs. We provide a safe learning environment allowing students to focus on a challenging curriculum and accelerated learning.
- **High Academic Achievement:** We believe that all students can meet high expectations and overcome obstacles that seem insurmountable. We equip students to think critically and creatively and gain confidence in their skills and knowledge. All students in all grades strive to be “college-ready”.
- **Community:** We are students, teachers, staff, parents, and Directors of the North Star Charter School community. We focus on a shared vision of educational excellence and character development. We strive to understand our unique roles in that common vision. We all have a responsibility to educate NSCS students.

North Star Charter School Vision Statement:

North Star students will mature as confident architects of their future and thrive at every level of their education and careers.

This vision guides North Star Charter School to:

- Forge “high performance” principles into a stellar public education.
- Ignite in our students a passion for critical and creative thinking balanced with a deep ability for self-reflection.
- Fuel a vision of perseverance, compassion and depth of character that empowers our students to flourish in their community, nation and world.

By “high performance” we mean having a universal and pointed focus on accelerated educational expectations for all students. In aligning curriculum from K through 12th grades, high standards for teaching and learning can be achieved. We promote and train effective teachers and leaders that use the powerful tools of collaboration and communication to unite the whole NSCS community.

Overview of North Star Charter School

North Star Charter School was established in 2003 as a K-8 charter school to provide parents with an alternative choice in public education. We were authorized by the Meridian School District until October 2014 when we were approved to move our charter to the state. North Star Charter School determines our own curriculum, school schedule and policies based on statutes from the Idaho State Department of Education.

The school's charter articulates the vision of the school's founders to think critically and to become virtuous citizen leaders in our local and world community. The school's basic philosophical and academic design was centered on research-based curricular models with proven records of success.

In 2007, the charter was amended to add North Star Charter's 9th – 12th grade high school, with an emphasis on business and economics. In 2009 we earned our International Baccalaureate designation and became an IB World School.

Student Demographics

| Grade Level | Current Enrollment as of 9/15/17 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| K | 85 |
| 1 | 84 |
| 2 | 84 |
| 3 | 90 |
| 4 | 91 |
| 5 | 96 |
| 6 | 105 |
| 7 | 97 |
| 8 | 96 |
| 9 | 48 |
| 10 | 44 |
| 11 | 27 |
| 12 | 20 |
| Total | 967 |

| 2016-17 | Hispanic | Asian | Pacific Island | White | Black | Am. Indian | Unclass. | Other | LEP | Special Ed. |
|---------|----------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|------------|----------|-------|-----|-------------|
| # | 30 | 47 | 7 | 843 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 0 | 38 |
| % | 3% | 5% | >1% | 87% | >1% | >1% | 2% | 1% | | 4% |

Student Achievement

During the 2016-2017 school year North Star Charter School participated in the ISAT summative assessment through the Smarter Balance Consortium.

The ISAT summative assessment is important component of the statewide student assessment systems as stated in the board rule 08.02.03- Rules Governing Thoroughness. The ISAT tests administered to students in grades 3-11 to provide ongoing monitoring of individual, school, district, and state progress. One component of the ISAT is the required participation in English Language Arts/ Literacy and Mathematics. Proficiency on the ISAT verifies that an Idaho Student has met Idaho Core Standards in these content areas.

Academic proficiency is more than test scores. Competency in all academic areas is the goal for every child.

ISAT Summary:

Overall we are above the state achievement level which is good news and have seen growth from Spring 2016 to Spring 2017 (see below). We do however recognize that we have work to do to continue to raise student scores and make sure students are prepared for college and careers after North Star Charter School.

ELA/Literacy

| Spring 2015 | % Proficient | Spring 2016 | % Proficient | Spring 2017 | % Proficient | Growth |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| 3rd Grade | 83 | | 56 | | 68 | |
| 4th Grade | 57 | | 66 | -17 | 62 | +6 |
| 5th Grade | 67 | | 58 | +1 | 79 | +13 |
| 6th Grade | 61 | | 72 | +5 | 57 | -1 |
| 7th Grade | 65 | | 66 | +5 | 78 | +6 |
| 8th Grade | 65 | | 78 | +13 | 73 | +7 |
| 9th Grade | 84 | | 94 | +29 | 91 | +13 |
| 10th Grade | 81 | | 96 | +12 | 91 | -3 |

Mathematics

| Spring 2015 | % Proficient | Spring 2016 | % Proficient | Spring 2017 | % Proficient | Growth |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| 3rd Grade | 75 | | 69 | | 78 | |
| 4th Grade | 66 | | 78 | +3 | 74 | +5 |
| 5th Grade | 68 | | 61 | -5 | 74 | -4 |
| 6th Grade | 68 | | 77 | +9 | 68 | +7 |
| 7th Grade | 54 | | 78 | +10 | 83 | +6 |
| 8th Grade | 41 | | 63 | +9 | 73 | -5 |
| 9th Grade | 55 | | 63 | +22 | 65 | +2 |
| 10th Grade | 50 | | 76 | +21 | 65 | +2 |

College and Career Readiness

Our goal is that all students at North Star Charter School will be prepared for college, career and citizenship. We will develop and emphasize practices throughout the K-12 program to give students the academic opportunities to be successful in one or more post-secondary options (2 or 4 year college, accredited vocational school or program, military service branch, and/ or mission).

The K-5 program at North Star is represented by evidence-based curricula and through student participation and collaboration in a successful, spiraling curriculum, and the “teach to the top” philosophy that has helped North Star students report some of the highest state-mandated, year-end assessment results in the state of Idaho. North Star believes that when teachers design lessons around teaching to the advanced student (teaching to the top), all students in the classroom benefit from and accelerate their learning.

In North Star’s secondary program (grades 6-12), three areas of focus were identified: international issues, economics, and business. International-mindedness requires staff and students alike to look beyond the community we live in – to seek to participate in a respectful and knowledgeable manner with the culturally rich and diverse global community. The business and economics strand extends from

the introductory program in the elementary school to the secondary school and includes courses such as personal finance, marketing, web design, business and technology, macro and micro economics, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Middle students have access to Career Information Systems (CIS). Students begin the development of a portfolio that includes interest inventories, career and college research.

High School students at North Star also have access to CIS. All sophomores take the PSAT, and all juniors take the SAT and ASVAB. Our juniors also have National Merit Scholar opportunities through PSAT. Our students score above the State averages each year for both SAT and ACT. North Star also provides a scholarship and FAFSA information sessions for our families. High school students are also allowed the opportunity to attend local college fairs. During senior year, colleges visit for recruitment purposes and students are allowed college visitations.

IB Results

The numbers in the chart reflect the percentage of students who have passed an IB exam and earned the prestigious IB Diploma.

| Year | English | Math SL | Math Studies | History HL | Bio HL | Spanish | Music | Art | Comp Sci | Diploma |
|------|---------|---------|--------------|------------|--------|---------|-------|------|----------|---------|
| 2011 | 75% | 80% | 40% | 55% | 13% | 100% | 100% | NA | NA | 56% |
| 2012 | 80% | 100% | 31% | 4% | 10% | 36% | NA | NA | NA | 4% |
| 2013 | 90% | x | x | 43% | 0% | x | NA | NA | NA | 0% |
| 2014 | 82% | 38% | 50% | 65% | 18% | 100% | NA | NA | NA | 50% |
| 2015 | 100% | 83% | 0% | 75% | 10% | 100% | 100% | NA | NA | 71% |
| 2016 | 100%* | 70% | 90% | 71% | 0% | 94% | 33% | NA | NA | 22% |
| 2017 | 100% | 75%* | 91% | 90% | 5% | 100%* | 91% | 100% | 0% | 63% |

Goals Summary

The following is a summary of the goals encompassed in this plan. The details for each goal are available in the next section.

| # | Goal Name | Goal Details | Goal Type | Total Funding |
|---|--|---|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | North Star Elementary will develop and implement a bus/loading/drop off plan to avoid having buses traveling through the playground. | Objectives: 1 Strategies: 1 Activities: 2 | Organizational | \$0 |
| 2 | North Star will implement a formal written security and crisis management plan to include emergency evacuation procedures and appropriate training for stakeholders. | Objectives: 1 Strategies: 1 Activities: 3 | Organizational | \$7850 |
| 3 | North Star will develop and implement a focused teacher training program with a consistent 'electronic data bucket' to ensure that teachers understand how to use data to evaluate and interpret student needs for instructional purposes. | Objectives: 1 Strategies: 1 Activities: 7 | Organizational | \$10,850 |
| 4 | North Star will develop and implement a comprehensive Technology Use Plan. | Objectives: 1 Strategies: 1 Activities: 5 | Organizational | \$19,200 |
| 5 | North Star Charter School will develop and implement a comprehensive curriculum plan that includes a formalized process for the regular review, alignment and refinement of the school's curriculum. | Objectives: 1 Strategies: 1 Activities: 5 | Organizational | \$0 |