



# Maine Charter School Commission

## Monthly Commission Meeting

Published on August 8, 2025 at 9:44 AM EDT

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### Date and Time

Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 1:00 PM EDT

### Location

Room #103, Cross Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta or via Zoom

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The **Vision** of the Maine Charter School Commission is that ***"Innovative public charter schools will provide Maine students with an equitable opportunity for an excellent education where students are valued, supported and challenged."***

The **Mission** of the Maine Charter School Commission is ***"To authorize, monitor and support innovative public charter schools that provide a dynamic, high-quality education for every student."***

### Reminders:

- This meeting is being recorded via Zoom.
- We ask members of the public to hold comments until public comments are heard.

*Any person seeking special accommodation for the public meeting should contact Sue Whipkey at (207)816-2187 or [susan.whipkey@maine.gov](mailto:susan.whipkey@maine.gov).*

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### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>I. Opening Items</b>		
<b>A.</b> Record Attendance		Susan Whipkey
<b>B.</b> Call the Meeting to Order		Norm Higgins
<b>C.</b> To Consider the Approval of the 6/10/25 Commission Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Norm Higgins
<b>II. Comments from Commission Chair</b>		
<b>A.</b> Comments	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda</b>		
<b>A.</b> Additions/Adjustments	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>IV. Committee Reports</b>		
<b>A.</b> School Performance Committee	FYI	Tori Kornfield
<b>B.</b> Finance Committee	FYI	
• <i>No August meeting</i>		
<b>C.</b> Executive Committee	FYI	
• <i>No August meeting</i>		
<b>V. Public Comment*</b>		
<b>A.</b> Public Comment	Discuss	Norm Higgins
<b>VI. Presentation(s)</b>		
• <i>None</i>		

	Purpose	Presenter
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**VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report**

<b>A.</b> School Updates	Discuss	Lana Ewing
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- *None*

<b>B.</b> Organizational Updates	Discuss	Lana Ewing
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- SY24-25 Priorities - End of Year Reflections

<b>C.</b> Media Updates	FYI	Lana Ewing
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- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences Envirothon Team wins Statewide Competition
- Maine Connections Academy - From Screens to Streams

**VIII. Monthly School Portfolio/Data Report**

- *None*

**IX. Unfinished Business**

- *None*

**X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance**

<b>A.</b> To Consider the Appointment of Leigh Weisenburger-Albert as Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission	Vote	Norm Higgins
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<b>B.</b> To Consider the Appointment of Tom Keller as Vice Chair of the Maine Charter School Commission	Vote	Norm Higgins
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<b>C.</b> To Receive and Place on File Addendums to the SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports Financial Management & Viability Outcomes	Vote	Norm Higgins
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<b>D.</b> To Consider the Approval of the Proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Year	Vote	Norm Higgins
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	Purpose	Presenter
E. To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Request to Amend the School's Mission	Vote	Norm Higgins
<b>XI. New Business Requiring Notification to the Commission (No formal action to be taken by Commission)</b>		
A. New Governing Board Members	FYI	Norm Higgins
• <i>None</i>		
B. Board Member Resignations	FYI	Norm Higgins
• <i>Ecology Learning Center (Justin MacDonald)</i>		
C. Board Member Term Outs	FYI	Norm Higgins
• <i>Ecology Learning Center (Beth Alma)</i>		
• <i>Fiddlehead School of Arts &amp; Sciences (Susan Doughty)</i>		
<b>XII. Future Topics</b>		
A. Future Topics	FYI	Norm Higgins
September		
• Spring 2025 Panorama Survey Results Presentation		
• FY25 Year End Reconciled Financials		
• SY25-26 Commission Priorities		
• Community Regional Charter School Presentation		
October		
• To Consider the Approval of ACADIA Academy's Renewal Application		
• To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Renewal Application		
November		
• To Receive and Place on File SY2024-25 Annual Monitoring Reports		
• To Consider the Approval of the SY2024-25 Annual Report to the Commissioner		

Purpose	Presenter
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### XIII. Announcements

<b>A. Important Dates</b>	FYI	Norm Higgins
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- 10/22/25 - Maine Arts Academy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony from 5 PM - 7 PM

<b>B. Upcoming Business Meeting(s)</b>	FYI	Norm Higgins
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- September 9, 2025 (*Proposed to be held at Community Regional Charter School, Cornville or Zoom*)

#### XIV. Closing Items

<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Norm Higgins
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\* The Charter School Commission does not allow airing of complaints in public meetings regarding Commission and charter school employees or school employment matters, in order to protect employee privacy, to comply with Maine law and pursuant to our contractual relation with the schools. To the extent that the Commission receives complaints and concerns relating to school employees in writing, those concerns will be reviewed and addressed by the Commission and its staff outside of a public meeting. This meeting is not the appropriate forum for such comments. You are free to direct your concerns in writing to the Commission's Executive Director, if you have not done so already.

## Coversheet

### To Consider the Approval of the 6/10/25 Commission Meeting Minutes

<b>Section:</b>	I. Opening Items
<b>Item:</b>	C. To Consider the Approval of the 6/10/25 Commission Meeting Minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Approve Minutes
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Minutes for Monthly Commission Meeting on June 10, 2025

APPROVED



# Maine Charter School Commission

## Minutes

### Monthly Commission Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM

#### Location

Room #103, Cross Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta or via Zoom

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The **Vision** of the Maine Charter School Commission is that ***"Innovative public charter schools will provide Maine students with an equitable opportunity for an excellent education where students are valued, supported and challenged."***

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#### Directors Present

James Ford (remote), Jim Handy, Leigh Albert, Norm Higgins, Tom Keller, Tori Kornfield

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## Directors Absent

Brian Langley

## Guests Present

Amy Allen (remote), Lana Ewing, Susan Whipkey

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Norm Higgins called a meeting of the board of directors of Maine Charter School Commission to order on Tuesday Jun 10, 2025 at 1:03 PM.

Tom read the Maine Charter School Commission Vision and Mission Statements

### C. To Consider the Approval of the 4/8/25 Commission Meeting Minutes

Jim Handy made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Commission Meeting on 05-13-25.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

Tom Keller Aye

Brian Langley Absent

Jim Handy Aye

James Ford Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Leigh Albert Aye

## II. Comments from Commission Chair

### A. Comments

Norm reported there will be no renominations from the Governor's office by the end of June.

All Commissioners with expiring terms will serve until either renominated or replaced when the legislative session reconvenes in January.

## III. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

### A. Additions/Adjustments



None

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### A. School Performance Committee

Tori reported the Committee discussed the Request to Incur Debt Rubric and noted their recommendation for a two-step review process to provide the schools with any initial Commission concerns. Lana reported that language is added to the Process Overview which reads as follows:

**"Initial Conversation Between the School and Commission Staff:** Before a school submits a formal Request to Incur Debt, we recommend an initial meeting with Commission staff. This meeting provides an opportunity for a preliminary assessment of the school's financial, enrollment, and academic performance to gauge the likelihood of approval. Given that the criteria for approval are rigorous, this step helps schools determine whether moving forward is advisable before investing significant time and resources."

The Committee discussed the definitions of school and campus.

##### B. Finance Committee

Leigh reported that:

- All school audits have been received and are clean.
- There is a need across the portfolio to strengthen accounting skills and reporting.
- Joe and Lana will research outside sources and provide counsel and support.
- The committee discussed the Rubric to incur debt and the definition of school/campus.

Joe Drago reported that this is a good time to explore adding financial capacity within the schools and contact has been made with a financial services firm who will provide information about available services and pricing.

##### C. Executive Committee

Norm reported that most of the meeting time was spent on the same topics reported by the Finance and School Performance Committees.

#### **D. Ad-Hoc Election of Officers Committee**

Tori nominated Leigh Weisenburger Albert to serve as Commission Chair and Tom Keller to serve as Commission Vice Chair for the upcoming year.

Jim seconded the nominations.

The vote to elect the officers will take place during the August meeting.

Norm will open the meeting, the election will take place, and the new Chair will conduct the remainder of the meeting.

#### **V. Public Comment\***

##### **A. Public Comment**

None

#### **VI. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report**

##### **A. School Updates**

Lana attended graduations for Maine Arts Academy, Baxter Academy, and Maine Virtual Academy. Each school held memorable ceremonies unique to their missions.

Tom attended the Ecology Learning Center graduation where each graduate had dedicated time to speak about their school experiences.

Ecology Learning Center held end of year expeditions for juniors and seniors. Some traveled on the West Branch of the Penobscot and Moose River, some backpacked in the White Mountains and others spent time studying the landscape of Mount Blue State Park.

Governor Mills and Commissioner Makin visited Maine Academy of Natural Sciences ("MeANS") to celebrate the Maine Year of Youth in Agriculture. The pair enjoyed a meeting with school leadership and student ambassadors. Other students led a tour of the agricultural program visiting greenhouses, the farm and chicken coop, the bee apiary and the blacksmithing barn. They also shared that MeANS won the 2025 Envirothon State Championship. Pat Henyan reported that the visit was a great success.

Lana congratulated all the schools on a year well done and wished the staff a restful break.

Tom asked for information on the Baxter Innovation Fund Report. Lana summarized that the students created a wheelchair to be accessible in remote and rugged terrain made with easy to find materials. They formed partnerships with medical facilities in Africa who will benefit from the chairs and provide more opportunities for learning. The project tied

STEM to humanitarian programs and Tori noted it shows students that they can do something to help the world.

Graduation rate statistics will be available in August. Currently, post-secondary plans data isn't collected, but Lana explore finding this information.

## **B. Organizational Updates**

Lana reported the following:

- The Hall of Flags event was held on May 29th. Lana thanked the seven participating schools. One-page informational brochures for each school and three Commission based brochures were available to hand out to the legislators. Group tours of the State House were provided for the students and a packet of information about Senate operations was distributed to them. Maine Arts Academy students performed in the Senate chamber and a number of students acted as honorary pages. Commission members discussed the importance of educating legislators about charter schools and noted distributing information during National Charter School Week or at the time the Kids Count Data Book is published would be appropriate. Schools should be encouraged to have meetings with their local representatives.
- The Commission sponsored a Strategic Planning Professional Development Workshop for Charter School Board Chairs and Leaders on May 22nd with Naomi Rubin-DeVeaux. Representatives of eight schools attended and provided positive feedback.
- ACADIA and Maine Arts Academy are currently in their renewal cycles. Each has completed required end of year documentation and Amy and Lana held end of year visits with the schools. Year Four performance reports will be provided to the schools by the end of June. A packet of evidence will be provided to the Commission before the October renewal vote.
- On May 14th, the Maine Department of Education National School Lunch Team provided a training presentation for school leaders. They covered the requirements, set up and maintenance of the school lunch programs.
- Panorama survey results will be available in August and Amy will be here in person.
- Lana thanked the Commission members for their time and energy this year.

Joe provided background on items included in the Request to Incur Debt Rubric and offered to answer any questions prior to the approval vote.

Lana provided a Legislative Update as follows:

- LD#282 to expand the cap on charter schools is closed. The Committee voted 'ought not to pass' unanimously on the original bill with no amendment.
- LD#854 for facility construction reform was pulled for this term.
- LD #1718 to allow the Commission to reorganize as a Public Instrumentality of the State has been passed to be enacted and will be finalized 90 days after the session ends.
- LD1571 to eliminate the uniquely qualified designation for charter school teachers beginning in August 2026 was passed. This bill brings certification requirements for charter school teachers in line with certification requirements for other public school teachers.

Tom explained that superintendents have proposed a pathway to ease certification for career changers or those pursuing different certifications. Approval by superintendents and MDOE will be required. The Commission will work with schools to understand the impact.

Tom inquired about upcoming training opportunities for the Commission. Lana will be in contact with Naomi Rubin-DeVeaux to plan next year's training sessions and asked the Commissioners for their input. Norm suggested team building training and a revisit of the mission and vision will be helpful in January, when new Commissioners are appointed. Tom would like to explore helping schools represent their local community. Leigh suggested guidance on the Commission role to support new schools (Moxie) will be needed.

### C. Media Updates

## VII. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance

### A. To Consider Cancelling the July 8th Commission Meeting

Tori Kornfield made a motion to cancel the July 8th Commission Meeting.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

Norm Higgins Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Tom Keller Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Leigh Albert Aye

Brian Langley Absent

### B. To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Bylaw Amendment Request

Jim Handy made a motion to approve Maine Arts Academy's Bylaw Amendment Request.

Tom Keller seconded the motion.

The school proposes to lower the maximum number of consecutive terms for Board Members consecutive terms to 3 from 4.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Leigh Albert Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Brian Langley Absent

Tom Keller Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Jim Handy Aye

**C. To Consider the Approval of the Request to Incur Debt Rubric**

Leigh Albert made a motion to approve the Request to Incur Debt Rubric.

Jim Handy seconded the motion.

Norm noted the importance of having a basis for making an informed decision on issues of significant importance to schools.

Leigh added that the transparency the document provides is helpful and that it mirrors the Performance Framework making it a constructive tool for all parties.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Jim Handy made a motion to strike the word "recommend" and add "require" on page one of the document in the Process Overview section.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

Tom proposed to change language as follows:

"We currently *require* an initial meeting with commission staff. This meeting provides an opportunity for a preliminary assessment of the school's financial enrollment and academic performance to gauge the likelihood of approval given that the criteria for approval are rigorous. This step helps schools determine whether moving forward is advisable before investing significant time and resources."

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Tori Kornfield Aye

James Ford Aye

Tom Keller Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Leigh Albert Aye

Brian Langley Absent

Norm Higgins Aye

Jim Handy made a motion to adopt the policy as amended.

Tom Keller seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Brian Langley Absent

Jim Handy Aye

Leigh Albert Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Tom Keller Aye

James Ford Aye

**D. To Consider the Approval of the Policy Defining a School, Campus, and Facility**

Jim Handy made a motion to adopt the policy defining a school, campus, and facility.

Tori Kornfield seconded the motion.

An approved charter contract equals a school which may have multiple campuses, but one Board and one Superintendent. If a school wants to open another campus, there must be an approval process. Currently the approval process for a school to open an additional campus involves the submission of multiple amendments This process will be streamlined for clarity.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Brian Langley Absent

James Ford Aye

Norm Higgins Aye

Leigh Albert Aye

Jim Handy Aye

Tori Kornfield Aye

Tom Keller Aye

**VIII. New Business Requiring Notification to the Commission (No formal action to be taken by Commission)**

**A. New Governing Board Members**

Maine Connections Academy - Nicole Peluso.

**B. Board Member Resignations**

**C. Board Member Term Outs**

ACADIA Academy - Donald Dearborn.

**IX. Future Topics**

## **A. Future Topics**

August

- To Consider Community Regional Charter School's Request to Consolidate into One Building and to Incur the Debt Required to Build the Building
- Election of Officers
- Panorama Survey Results Presentation by Amy

## **X. Announcements**

### **A. Important Dates**

- 10/22/25 - Maine Arts Academy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony from 5 PM - 7 PM

### **B. Upcoming Business Meetings**

- Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

### **C. 2025 Graduation Dates**

- Community Regional Charter School (June 13th at 6:00pm/Skowhegan Municipal Building, Opera House-Skowhegan)
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences - Threshold Program (July 11th at 6:00pm/MeANS Campus-Hinckley)
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences - Campus Program (July 18th at 6:00pm/MeANS Campus-Hinckley)

## **XI. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Norm Higgins

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## **Documents used during the meeting**

- Dashboard for FY25 05\_30\_25.pdf
- Maine Arts\_Amendment Guide for Amending the School's Bylaws.pdf

- Request to Incur Debt Rubric (3).pdf
  - DRAFT Definition of a School (2).pdf
  - MCA Governing Board Member Information Sheet\_N. Peluso\_SIGNED.pdf
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\* The Charter School Commission does not allow airing of complaints in public meetings regarding Commission and charter school employees or school employment matters, in order to protect employee privacy, to comply with Maine law and pursuant to our contractual relation with the schools. To the extent that the Commission receives complaints and concerns relating to school employees in writing, those concerns will be reviewed and addressed by the Commission and its staff outside of a public meeting. This meeting is not the appropriate forum for such comments. You are free to direct your concerns in writing to the Commission's Executive Director, if you have not done so already.



Coversheet

Organizational Updates

Section:

Item:

Purpose:

Submitted by:

Related Material:

VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report

B. Organizational Updates

Discuss

SY 2024-2025 EOY Priorities Progress Report.pdf



## **Year End Commission Staff Progress Report**

**August 12, 2025**

<b>SY 2024-2025</b>	
<b>Annual Priorities</b>	<b>Outcome by close of SY2024-2025</b>
New Charter School	The Commission considers applications for and selects a new Maine charter school
Finalize and Implement Strategic Plan	The Strategic Plan will drive the work of the Commission through 2028
Commission Staff Organizational Structure/Public Instrumentality Approval	The Commission will adjust and correct the staff organizational structure

<b>August-December 2024 Mid Year Progress Report</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Support new charter applicants/hold monthly info sessions	Complete
New 3-Year Strategic Plan draft	Complete
Revise/approve new internal policies + revisions	Complete
Complete all 2023 EOY School Meetings	Complete
ELC Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin/Board Meeting</li> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Public Hearing</li> <li>• Write ELC Renewal Report</li> <li>• Finalize ELC Renewal Report</li> <li>• Vote</li> </ul>	Complete

MEVA Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin/Board Meeting</li> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Public Hearing</li> <li>• Write MEVA's Renewal Report</li> <li>• Finalize MEVA's Renewal Report</li> <li>• Vote</li> </ul>	Complete
Maine Arts Academy Expansion Amendment (MS)	Complete
ACADIA ByLaw Amendment	Complete
ELC ByLaw Amendment	Complete
Annual Reports	Complete
Annual Report to the Commissioner	Complete
2023-2024 EOY Enrollment Data - Compile and Analyze	Complete
10/1 2024 Enrollment Data - Compile and Analyze	Complete
Maine Connections Academy New Facility: Pre-Opening Completion and Facility Walk-Through	Complete
SY2022-23 Annual Monitoring Reports Addendum	Complete
NACSA Conference - October	Complete
Georgetown Edunomics Lab Course	Complete
Determine SY 2024 Oversight Fee	Complete
Host School Board + Leader Strategic Plan Feedback Meeting	Complete
Host Commission Strategic Plan Feedback Meeting	Complete
Publish Commission Binder	Complete
Boards + Commissions Report	Complete
Prepare to amend 20-A to alter structure of Commission	Complete
New School Application Review Process	Complete

<b>January-June 2025 End of Year Progress Report</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Midyear School Meetings	Complete
Midyear School Meeting reports	Complete
SY23-24 School Financial Audits Analysis	Complete
Amend 20-A: Bill submitted for the legislative session	Complete
If 20-A is amended, implement operational changes	Ongoing/On Track
Present "Annual Report to the Commissioner" to the Education Committee	The Education Committee was not able to fit us into the calendar.
FY26 Commission Budget	Complete
New School Ready to Launch Playbook	Ongoing
New School Applications Received	Complete
New School Application Evaluation, Capacity Interviews, Commission Interviews, Public Hearings	Complete
Launch Panorama	Complete
Write service contracts and amendments	On Going/On Track
Nomination of Commission Officers	Complete
ACADIA and Maine Arts: Spring Renewal Meetings	Complete
Staff Evaluations	Complete

# Coversheet

## Media Updates

<b>Section:</b>	VII. Executive Director/Commission Staff Report
<b>Item:</b>	C. Media Updates
<b>Purpose:</b>	FYI
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Central Maine charter school wins state competition.pdf From Screens to Streams_ Maine Connecti...pdf

## Central Maine charter school wins state competition

cm [centralmaine.com/2025/06/16/central-maine-charter-school-wins-state-competition](https://centralmaine.com/2025/06/16/central-maine-charter-school-wins-state-competition)

June 16, 2025



The Envirothon team from Maine Academy of Natural Sciences in Fairfield won a statewide championship Thursday and will go on to compete at the international level in Canada. From left are Nicholas Hewett, Logan Dube, Rose Jadamec, Chloe Strout, Soleil Moody, and advisor Elise Gudde. (Anna Chadwick/Staff Photographer)

[Buy Image](#)

FAIRFIELD — A state championship didn't seem to be in the cards for a small charter school in central Maine; it has no sports teams after all.

At the end of May, a group of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences students changed all that, winning the Envirothon State Competition last week and dethroning a 14-year school champion in the process.

Now, four seniors and one sophomore will travel to Alberta, Canada, for the international competition in mid-July.

“It puts us on the map,” said Evan Coleman, the interim head of schools. “We don’t have sports. This is one of the few teams that we have, so it brings a certain element of pride. We are doing pretty legit science work.”

Envirothon is a national science-based competition where students complete tasks in aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife and a chosen current issue. Across the United States, teams come from clubs that take part; teams from Canada and Asia also earned a spot in the competition.

This year, nine students joined the team: the seniors, who won the state competition and a group of five students from the lower grades.

They trained during a designated elective time, Elise Gudde, science teacher and Envirothon coach, said. Gudde teaches the students everything from how to take soil samples to helping them identify species of trees and animals.

“I’m still in shock,” Gudde said about the win. “A lot of these kids haven’t been out of the country, so that is part (of the excitement). We get to take them on this cool travel experience, but also, for the four of them who are seniors, they have worked incredibly hard, but are all passionate about the environment and pursuing that after high school.”

The team of four seniors as well as one alternate will travel to Canada for a weeklong competition, where they will socialize with students from across the United States and Canada, visit a national park and be tested on a daily basis.

The costs are covered by The Maine Association of Conservation Districts, which specifically sets money aside to pay for state schools to participate in the international competitions. Students, however, have to pay for their own airfare and created a GoFundMe to pay for their plane tickets, which are estimated to cost about \$10,000. Coleman said they had to expedite a few passports as well.

The students on the team are Nicholas Hewett, Logan Dube, Rose Jadamec, Chloe Strout and Soleil Moody.

Dube said he’s excited to see Canadian wildlife and learn about an environment that he has never experienced.

Jadamec is grateful for the experience to travel.

“I am not a person who travels much, so it means a lot to me to be able to travel so far and be able to learn a lot with everyone from around the world with people who are from all over the world,” she said.

The Maine Academy of Natural Science was the state's first charter school and is funded with state money, but not as extensively as public schools are. Charter schools operate differently from public schools. Administration and policy is the responsibility of the headmaster, rather than being split between an administrative head and school board.

Maine currently has nine charter schools. The Maine Academy of Natural Science has 125 students and introduced a lottery system for admissions during the 2024-25 school year due to its rising popularity.

filed under:

cmnews, fairfield maine, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Across Maine, towns continue to grapple with school district reorganization

© 2025



Maine DOE Newsroom

# From Screens to Streams: Maine Connections Academy Unites Students for Day of Outdoor Learning



The quiet trails of Viles Arboretum in Augusta came alive with conversation and creativity on June 9, 2025, as more than 100 students and families from Maine Connections Academy gathered for the school's annual Spring Academic Summit. Designed to blend online learning with real-world connection, the day-long event brought students out from behind their screens and into nature for a hands-on learning experience that celebrated both academics and community.

Maine Connections Academy is a tuition-free, online public school for students in grades 7-12 across Maine. It offers a personalized, flexible learning path for students of all backgrounds—whether they require an alternative to traditional school or simply thrive in a self-paced environment. The school



emphasizes not only academic achievement but also the development of life skills and social-emotional growth. In-person events like the Spring Academic Summit play a critical role in helping students to stay engaged and connected.

“These in-person events are absolutely critical to our students’ success,” Lanie Roy, Maine Connections Academy health and physical education teacher, said. “While our online platform allows students to learn from anywhere in Maine, there’s something irreplaceable about students working together on projects, sharing ideas face-to-face, and building the social connections that are so important during high school years.”

Throughout the day, students rotated through ten activity stations that touched on science, art, and outdoor exploration. Some dove into DNA extraction experiments using berries, while others hit the trails for plant foraging lessons and picked up new techniques in nature photography. Artistic students enjoyed polymer clay crafting and watercolor painting, while others jammed in music workshops, challenged friends in Quiz Bowl competitions, and joined film club conversations. The day also included board games, outdoor recreation, and plenty of opportunities to socialize.



A barbecue lunch wrapped up the event, offering a relaxed setting for families, students, and staff to connect and reflect on the day’s experiences. For a school that serves students across all 16 counties in Maine, the Spring Academic Summit was a powerful reminder of the strong community that can be built, even in a virtual environment.

*This story was submitted by Maine Connections Academy. To submit a good news story to the Maine DOE, please fill out the good news submission form. ([https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g\\_QX0gYkubzeoajy-GTiGF60qzFrBEIcy-PhPoPLtUNUwREtITjg0UURURjdNWURJWjNRUTNKUC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0gYkubzeoajy-GTiGF60qzFrBEIcy-PhPoPLtUNUwREtITjg0UURURjdNWURJWjNRUTNKUC4u))*

Posted on July 18, 2025 by Maine Department of Education Posted in Good News from Schools, News & Views, Newsroom Articles, Outdoor Learning

**[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)**

# Coversheet

## To Receive and Place on File Addendums to the SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports Financial Management & Viability Outcomes

<b>Section:</b>	X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance
<b>Item:</b>	C. To Receive and Place on File Addendums to the SY2023-24 Annual Monitoring Reports Financial Management & Viability Outcomes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Vote
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	SY2023-24 Addendum - All.pdf

# 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report

## Section 4: Financial Management and Viability Addendum

*Prepared for  
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science*

August 2025







For the 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report, Baxter Academy's financial performance metrics were calculated using its internally prepared financial reports. The calculations were updated upon receipt of the FY24 Audit. As a result, the Current Ratio and the Debt to Asset Ratio metrics received different risk scores. The calculations and results for all financial metrics can be found in the table below.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND VIABILITY				
<i>Financial measures for FY24 are included in the Annual Monitoring Report for the first time in Section 4. The Commission staff calculated the metrics using school-provided fourth quarter financial data. As financial audits are completed for FY24, the Commission staff will re-calculate the metrics and compare the result to the Q4 results. If there are material changes which move the outcome to a different risk category, an addendum will be filed.</i>				
		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1a	Current Ratio (Near-Term Measures)	Current ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1. <i>Current assets divided by current liabilities.</i> $\$588,942 / \$837,363 = 0.7$ $\$667,783 / 586,176 = 1.1$	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5
			<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1	<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1
4.1b	Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand (Near-Term Measures)	Unrestricted days cash will be at least 30 days. <i>Unrestricted cash divided by ([total expenses minus depreciation expense]/365)</i> $\$528,041 / ((\$4,936,554 - \$192,945) / 365) = 41 \text{ days}$ $\$576,658 / ((\$4,824,750 - \$194,007) / 365) = 45 \text{ days}$	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days
			<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days	<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1c	Enrollment Variance (Near-Term Measures)	Actual enrollment is within 5% of the enrollment projected in the approved budget.  <i>Actual Enrollment divided by Enrollment Projection in Charter District Leadership Board Approved Budget</i>  <b>(373-355)/355 = 5.1%</b> <b>(373-355)/355 = 5.1%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%
			<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5% of the projected enrollment	<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5%
4.1d	Financial Obligations Default (Near-Term Measures)	The school meets all debt and real estate lease obligations.  <i>Failure to make required lease, principal and interest payments on-time or to meet covenant terms.</i>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
			<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
4.2a	Total Margin (Sustainability Measures)	The School's Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive.  <i>Net Surplus divided by Total Revenue</i>  <b>CYR - \$-146,657 / \$4,789,897 = -3.1%</b> <b>3YR - \$-468,240 / \$14,173,744 = -3.3%</b>  <b>CYR - \$-43,727 / \$4,781,023 = -0.9%</b> <b>3YR - \$-365,310 / \$14,164,870 = -2.6%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq$ -10%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq$ -10%
			<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $<$ -10%	<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $<$ -10%

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.2b	Debt to asset ratio (Sustainability Measure)	<p>The debt to asset ratio will be less than 90%.</p> <p><i>Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets</i></p> <p><b>\$3,826,078 / \$3,825,144 = 100%</b></p> <p><b>\$6,472,583 / \$7,775,858 = 83%</b></p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%</p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%</p>
4.2c	Cash Flow (Sustainability Measure)	<p>Charter District Leadership maintains a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow.</p> <p><i>Cash Flow = Net Annual Change in Unrestricted Cash. Cumulative Cash Flow is the sum of current and prior year Cash Flow</i></p> <p><b>CYR Cash Flow = \$-18,840</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-246,368</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-265,208</b></p> <p><b>CYR Cash Flow = \$29,777</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-246,368</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-216,591</b></p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow</p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow</p>
4.2d	Financial Obligations Coverage Ratio (Sustainability Measure)	<p>Charter District Leadership is able to pay current debt principal and interest and lease payments from the current year surplus.</p> <p><i>(Net Surplus + Depreciation + Interest + Lease Expense)/(Annual Principal + Interest + Lease Payments)</i></p> <p><b>\$568,570 / \$522,282 = 1.1</b></p> <p><b>\$622,449 / \$617,663 = 1.0</b></p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0</p>	<p><b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1</p> <p><b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1</p> <p><b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0</p>
4.3	Financial Planning and Budgeting	<p>School publishes a 3-year annual financial plan that includes a 2-year annual budget and a 1-year projection for year 3 that is board approved.</p> <p>The 3-year annual financial plan is due on June 30th.</p>	<p><b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.</p> <p><b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.</p>	<p><b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.</p> <p><b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.</p>



# 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report

## Section 4: Financial Management and Viability Addendum

*Prepared for  
The Ecology Learning Center*

August 2025



## the Ecology Learning Center

For the 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report, the Ecology Learning Center's financial performance metrics were calculated using its internally prepared financial reports. The calculations were updated upon receipt of the FY24 Audit. As a result, the Current Metric Ratio, the Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand, and the Financial Obligations Coverage Ratio metrics received a different risk scores. The calculations and results for all financial metrics can be found in the table below.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND VIABILITY				
<i>Financial measures for FY24 are included in the Annual Monitoring Report for the first time in Section 4. The Commission staff calculated the metrics using school-provided fourth quarter financial data. As financial audits are completed for FY24, the Commission staff will re-calculate the metrics and compare the result to the Q4 results. If there are material changes which move the outcome to a different risk category, an addendum will be filed.</i>				
		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1a	Current Ratio (Near-Term Measures)	Current ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1.  <i>Current assets divided by current liabilities.</i>  $\$157,659 / \$88,944 = 1.8$  $\$186,797 / \$169,208 = 1.1$	Lower Risk Greater than 1.5	Lower Risk Greater than 1.5
			Moderate Risk 1.0-1.5	Moderate Risk 1.0-1.5
			High Risk Less than 1	High Risk Less than 1
4.1b	Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand (Near-Term Measures)	Unrestricted days cash will be at least 30 days.  <i>Unrestricted cash divided by [(total expenses minus depreciation expense)/365]</i>  $\$99,225 / ((\$1,535,652 - \$61,232) / 365) = 25 \text{ days}$  $\$131,693 / ((\$1,601,631 - \$63,288) / 365) = 31 \text{ days}$	Lower Risk 60 or more days	Lower Risk 60 or more days
			Moderate Risk 30-60 days	Moderate Risk 30-60 days
			High Risk Fewer than 30 days	High Risk Fewer than 30 days

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1c	Enrollment Variance (Near-Term Measures)	Actual enrollment is within 5% of the enrollment projected in the approved budget.  <i>Actual Enrollment divided by Enrollment Projection in Charter District Leadership Board Approved Budget</i>  $(107-106)/106 = 1.0\%$ $(107-106)/106 = 1.0\%$	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%
			<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5% of the projected enrollment	<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5%
4.1d	Financial Obligations Default (Near-Term Measures)	The school meets all debt and real estate lease obligations.  <i>Failure to make required lease, principal and interest payments on-time or to meet covenant terms.</i>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
			<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
4.2a	Total Margin (Sustainability Measures)	The School's Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive.  <i>Net Surplus divided by Total Revenue</i>  $CYR - \$-13,439 / \$1,522,212 = -0.9\%$ $3YR - \$111,303 / \$4,176,270 = 2.7\%$  $CYR - \$-30,866 / \$1,570,765 = -2.0\%$ $3YR - \$93,876 / \$4,224,823 = 2.2\%$	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq -10\%$	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq -10\%$
			<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $< -10\%$	<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $< -10\%$
4.2b	Debt to asset ratio (Sustainability Measure)	The debt to asset ratio will be less than 90%.  <i>Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets</i>  $\$357,234 / \$1,752,891 = 20\%$  $\$433,239 / \$1,822,990 = 24\%$	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%
			<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%	<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.2c	Cash Flow (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership maintains a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow.  <i>Cash Flow = Net Annual Change in Unrestricted Cash. Cumulative Cash Flow is the sum of current and prior year Cash Flow</i>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$-42,927</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$69,979</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$27,052</b>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$-10,459</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$69,979</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$59,520</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
			<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
4.2d	Financial Obligations Coverage Ratio (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership is able to pay current debt principal and interest and lease payments from the current year surplus.  <i>(Net Surplus + Depreciation + Interest + Lease Expense)/(Annual Principal + Interest + Lease Payments)</i>  <b>\$85,918 / \$48,919 = 1.8</b>  <b>\$70,547 / \$68,809 = 1.0</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1
			<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0	<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0
4.3	Financial Planning and Budgeting	School publishes a 3-year annual financial plan that includes a 2-year annual budget and a 1-year projection for year 3 that is board approved.  The 3-year annual financial plan is due on June 30th.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.
			<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.

# 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report

## Section 4: Financial Management and Viability Addendum

*Prepared for  
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences*

August 2025





For the 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences’ financial performance metrics were calculated using its internally prepared financial reports. The calculations were updated upon receipt of the FY24 Audit. As a result, the Current Metric Ratio metric received a different risk score. The calculations and results for all financial metrics can be found in the table below.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND VIABILITY				
<i>Financial measures for FY24 are included in the Annual Monitoring Report for the first time in Section 4. The Commission staff calculated the metrics using school-provided fourth quarter financial data. As financial audits are completed for FY24, the Commission staff will re-calculate the metrics and compare the result to the Q4 results. If there are material changes which move the outcome to a different risk category, an addendum will be filed.</i>				
		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1a	Current Ratio (Near-Term Measures)	Current ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1. <i>Current assets divided by current liabilities.</i>  <b>\$871,160 / \$552,036 = 1.6</b>  <b>\$884,926 / \$593,850 = 1.5</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5
			<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1	<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1b	Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand (Near-Term Measures)	Unrestricted days cash will be at least 30 days.  <i>Unrestricted cash divided by ([total expenses minus depreciation expense]/365)</i>  <b>\$210,832 / ((\$3,147,516-\$151,868) / 365) = 26 days</b>  <b>\$214,989 / ((\$3,270,244-\$152,025) / 365) = 25 days</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days
			<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days	<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days
4.1c	Enrollment Variance (Near-Term Measures)	Actual enrollment is within 5% of the enrollment projected in the approved budget.  <i>Actual Enrollment divided by Enrollment Projection in Charter District Leadership Board Approved Budget</i>  <b>(194-200)/200 = -3%</b> <b>(194-200)/200 = -3%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%
			<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5% of the projected enrollment	<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5%
4.1d	Financial Obligations Default (Near-Term Measures)	The school meets all debt and real estate lease obligations.  <i>Failure to make required lease, principal and interest payments on-time or to meet covenant terms.</i>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
			<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
4.2a	Total Margin (Sustainability Measures)	The School's Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive.  <i>Net Surplus divided by Total Revenue</i>  <b>CYR - \$-259,252 / \$2,888,264 = -9.0%</b> <b>3YR - \$-552,066 / \$8,635,157 = -6.4%</b>  <b>CYR - \$-128,577 / \$3,141,667 = -4.1%</b> <b>3YR - \$-421,391 / \$8,888,560 = -4.7%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin ≥-10%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin ≥-10%
			<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is <-10%	<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is <-10%

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.2b	Debt to asset ratio (Sustainability Measure)	The debt to asset ratio will be less than 90%.  <i>Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets</i>  <b>\$561,691 / \$1,466,591 = 38%</b>  <b>\$621,052 / \$1,520,025 = 41%<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%
			<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%	<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%
4.2c	Cash Flow (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership maintains a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow.  <i>Cash Flow = Net Annual Change in Unrestricted Cash. Cumulative Cash Flow is the sum of current and prior year Cash Flow</i>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$-322,275</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-41,530</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-363,805</b>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$-318,118</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-41,530</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-359,648</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
			<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
4.2d	Financial Obligations Coverage Ratio (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership is able to pay current debt principal and interest and lease payments from the current year surplus.  <i>(Net Surplus + Depreciation + Interest + Lease Expense)/(Annual Principal + Interest + Lease Payments)</i>  <b>\$149,507 / \$256,891 = 0.6</b>  <b>\$267,131 / \$297,477 = 0.9</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1
			<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0	<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0
4.3	Financial Planning and Budgeting	School publishes a 3-year annual financial plan that includes a 2-year annual budget and a 1-year projection for year 3 that is board approved.  The 3-year annual financial plan is due on June 30th.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.
			<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.



# 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report

## Section 4: Financial Management and Viability Addendum

*Prepared for  
Maine Arts Academy*

August 2025





For the 2023-24 Annual Monitoring Report, Maine Arts Academy's financial performance metrics were calculated using its internally prepared financial reports. The calculations were updated upon receipt of the FY24 Audit. As a result, the Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand and the Total Margin metrics received different risk scores. The calculations and results for all financial metrics can be found in the table below.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND VIABILITY				
<i>Financial measures for FY24 are included in the Annual Monitoring Report for the first time in Section 4. The Commission staff calculated the metrics using school-provided fourth quarter financial data. As financial audits are completed for FY24, the Commission staff will re-calculate the metrics and compare the result to the Q4 results. If there are material changes which move the outcome to a different risk category, an addendum will be filed.</i>				
		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1a	Current Ratio (Near-Term Measures)	Current ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1. <i>Current assets divided by current liabilities.</i> $\$519,679 / \$211,905 = 2.5$ $\$917,950 / \$282,604 = 3.2$	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5	<b>Lower Risk</b> Greater than 1.5
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 1.0-1.5
			<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1	<b>High Risk</b> Less than 1
4.1b	Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand (Near-Term Measures)	Unrestricted days cash will be at least 30 days. <i>Unrestricted cash divided by [(total expenses minus depreciation expense)/365]</i> $\$235,503 / ((\$2,951,572 - \$130,000) / 365) = 31 \text{ days}$ $\$233,764 / ((\$3,253,221 - \$145,372) / 365) = 28 \text{ days}$	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days	<b>Lower Risk</b> 60 or more days
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 30-60 days
			<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days	<b>High Risk</b> Fewer than 30 days

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.1c	Enrollment Variance (Near-Term Measures)	Actual enrollment is within 5% of the enrollment projected in the approved budget.  <i>Actual Enrollment divided by Enrollment Projection in Charter District Leadership Board Approved Budget</i>  <b>(225-237)/237 = +5.3%</b> <b>(225-237)/237 = +5.3%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment	<b>Lower Risk</b> Actual within 2% of the projected enrollment
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Variance is between 2 and 5%
			<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5% of the projected enrollment	<b>High Risk</b> Variance is greater than 5%
4.1d	Financial Obligations Default (Near-Term Measures)	The school meets all debt and real estate lease obligations.  <i>Failure to make required lease, principal and interest payments on-time or to meet covenant terms.</i>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent	<b>Lower Risk</b> Not in default and not delinquent
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>Moderate Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
			<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors	<b>High Risk</b> In default and/or delinquent and has not obtained waivers from lenders and/or lessors
4.2a	Total Margin (Sustainability Measures)	The School's Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive.  <i>Net Surplus divided by Total Revenue</i>  <b>CYR - \$196,942 / \$3,148,514 = 6.3%</b> <b>3YR - \$101,454 / \$8,503,101 = 1.2%</b>  <b>CYR - \$-105,183 / \$3,148,038 = -3.3%</b> <b>3YR - \$-200,671 / \$8,502,625 = -2.4%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive	<b>Lower Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is at least 1.5% and the most recent year Total Margin is positive
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq$ -10%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is positive or zero AND the current year Total Margin $\geq$ -10%
			<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $<$ -10%	<b>High Risk</b> Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin is negative OR the current year Total Margin is $<$ -10%
4.2b	Debt to asset ratio (Sustainability Measure)	The debt to asset ratio will be less than 90%.  <i>Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets</i>  <b>\$2,839,038 / \$3,862,855 = 73%</b>  <b>\$3,527,713 / \$4,101,593 = 86%</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%	<b>Lower Risk</b> Less than 90%
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%	<b>Moderate Risk</b> 90 to 100%
			<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%	<b>High Risk</b> Greater than 100%

		Internal Results Audit Results	FY2024 Internal Report Results	FY2024 Audit Results
4.2c	Cash Flow (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership maintains a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow.  <i>Cash Flow = Net Annual Change in Unrestricted Cash. Cumulative Cash Flow is the sum of current and prior year Cash Flow</i>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$81,647</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-454,475</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-372,828</b>  <b>CYR Cash Flow = \$79,908</b> <b>PYR Cash Flow = \$-454,475</b> <b>2-Year Cash Flow = \$-374,567</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.	<b>Lower Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow and positive cash flow in the most recent year.
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>Moderate Risk</b> A positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
			<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow	<b>High Risk</b> Does not have a positive cumulative 2-year cash flow
4.2d	Financial Obligations Coverage Ratio (Sustainability Measure)	Charter District Leadership is able to pay current debt principal and interest and lease payments from the current year surplus.  <i>(Net Surplus + Depreciation + Interest + Lease Expense)/(Annual Principal + Interest + Lease Payments)</i>  <b>\$522,962 / \$196,020 = 2.7</b>  <b>\$236,297 / \$196,108 = 1.2</b>	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1	<b>Lower Risk</b> Exceeds 1.1
			<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Is 1.0 to 1.1
			<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0	<b>High Risk</b> Is less than 1.0
4.3	Financial Planning and Budgeting	School publishes a 3-year annual financial plan that includes a 2-year annual budget and a 1-year projection for year 3 that is board approved.  The 3-year annual financial plan is due on June 30th.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Meeting Expectations</b> School annually publishes a 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.
			<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.	<b>Not Meeting Expectations</b> School has not published a current 3-year financial plan that includes a budget for the next 2-years and a 1-year projection for year 3.

## Coversheet

### To Consider the Approval of the Proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Year

<b>Section:</b>	X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance
<b>Item:</b> the Year	D. To Consider the Approval of the Proposed Calendar of Meetings for
<b>Purpose:</b>	Vote
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	SY 25-26 Commission Calendar (1).pdf



**Maine Charter School Commission Calendar**  
**School Year 2025-2026**  
**DRAFT - Pending Commission Review and Vote**

Group	Dates	Location
Commission Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold: August - <i>In Person</i></li> <li>• Hold: Sept - <i>Virtual</i></li> <li>• Hold: October (Renewals) - <i>In Person</i></li> <li>• Hold: November - <i>In Person</i> (<u>FULL DAY</u>)</li> <li>• <del>(Skip Dec)</del></li> <li>• Hold: January (Potential Innovation Fund Requests, potential new Commission Members) - <i>Virtual</i></li> <li>• Hold: February (potential enrollment increases, potential new Commission Members) - <i>In Person</i> (<u>FULL DAY</u>)</li> <li>• <del>(Skip March)</del></li> <li>• Hold: April (Planned PD) - <i>In Person</i></li> <li>• Hold: May (Budget Approval) - <i>Virtual</i></li> <li>• Hold: June (Nomination of Officers) - <i>In Person</i></li> <li>• <del>Skip July</del></li> </ul> <p>Commission Meeting Date: Beginning in November, we may transition Commission meetings to the second Wednesday of the month to align with the State Board schedule.</p>	<p>August: In Person          September: Virtual          October: In Person          November: FULL DAY In Person  <del>December: Skip</del>          January: Virtual          February: FULL DAY In Person  <del>March: Skip</del>          April: In Person          (NEW Commission Members start at 10:30)          May: Virtual          June: In Person  <del>July: Skip</del></p>

Commission PD	<p>Month: November 1.5-2.5 hours, (Victoria Criado, PLT Strategies)</p> <p><i>Message and Media Training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share messages and do's don'ts to ensure strongest charter public school messaging from Commission</li> <li>- Share best practices when engaging with media</li> <li>- Share media strategy ("islands") and provide work time to develop "islands" and provide feedback</li> <li>- Practice time for participants to "go to their islands" and, time permitting, practice responding to challenging questions</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Month: February 2 hours, (Naomi Rubin DeVeaux, Drexel Fund)</p> <p><i>Revisit MCSC Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision and Performance Framework</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for returning and new members to reground in Commission purpose and reflect on Strategic Plan progress to date</li> </ul>	In Person
Commission Committee Meetings	<p>Match with Months of Commission Meetings Skip December, March and July</p>	Virtual
Leadership Meeting	Lana/Amy/Leigh - Monthly	Virtual

# Coversheet

## To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Request to Amend the School's Mission

<b>Section:</b>	X. New Business Requiring Approval and/or Acceptance
<b>Item:</b> the School's Mission	E. To Consider the Approval of Maine Arts Academy's Request to Amend
<b>Purpose:</b>	Vote
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	MeAA Request to Amend the School's Mission Statement.pdf



**MCSC**  
**MAINE CHARTER  
SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
Charter Amendment Guide  
for  
Amending the School's Mission Statement

Please Note – The school's Amendment Request must be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to the next MCSC Business Meeting (held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month) in order to make it onto the agenda. In some cases, 3 weeks may not allow enough time for review and schools are encouraged to contact the office with questions.

Maine Charter School Commission  
182 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine  
04333-0182  
[www.maine.gov/csc](http://www.maine.gov/csc)

Maine Charter School Commission Charter Amendment Cover Sheet Request to Amend Mission Statement	
School Information	
Date of Request	July 14, 2025
School Name and Mailing Address	Maine Arts Academy 310 Cony Road Augusta Maine

Contact	Heather King
Contact telephone number	207-480-7917
Contact email address	hking@maineartsacademy.org
<b>Provide a brief narrative description of the request.</b>	
<p>While analyzing our Mission and Vision, we wanted to encompass our new middle school. Because the Mission said, “rigorous career and college preparatory curriculum”, it was geared more towards the high school. In order to encompass both the Middle and High school, we changed the wording to “Providing a rigorous academic and well rounded visual and performing arts curriculum”.</p> <p>We also changed “well rounded arts education to visual and performing arts,” so that we could highlight both arts programs.</p> <p>We added “educating students in grades 7-12, from across the State of Maine, ” in order to include grades 7 and 8 and highlight our reach across the state of Maine.</p> <p>The change to the school that results from the amended mission statement will be that both the high school and the middle school can be marketed and highlighted together. It can be “branded” together for consistency. The mission and vision speak to and target more accurately what the school is attaining to do for students.</p> <p>We also changed our tagline after much discussion about the word “free” which some felt sent a negative connotation. The word “public” was added along with a new tagline below.</p> <p><b><i>New Mission:</i></b></p> <p><b>“Providing a rigorous academic and well rounded visual and performing arts curriculum, educating students in grades 7-12, from across the State of Maine”</b></p> <p><b><i>Old Mission:</i></b></p> <p>“Providing a <del>rigorous career and college preparatory</del> curriculum and well-rounded <del>arts education to enrich the lives of our students.</del>”</p> <p><b><i>Same Vision:</i></b></p>	

**“Nurturing the next generation of leaders to become invaluable citizens at the heart of Maine’s cultural, economic and social well being.”**

*New Tagline:*

~~**“Maine’s only free public high school for the arts”**~~

**Create. Learn. Lead. Maine’s only public arts school for grades 7-12.**

**CLEAN COPY**

*New Mission:*

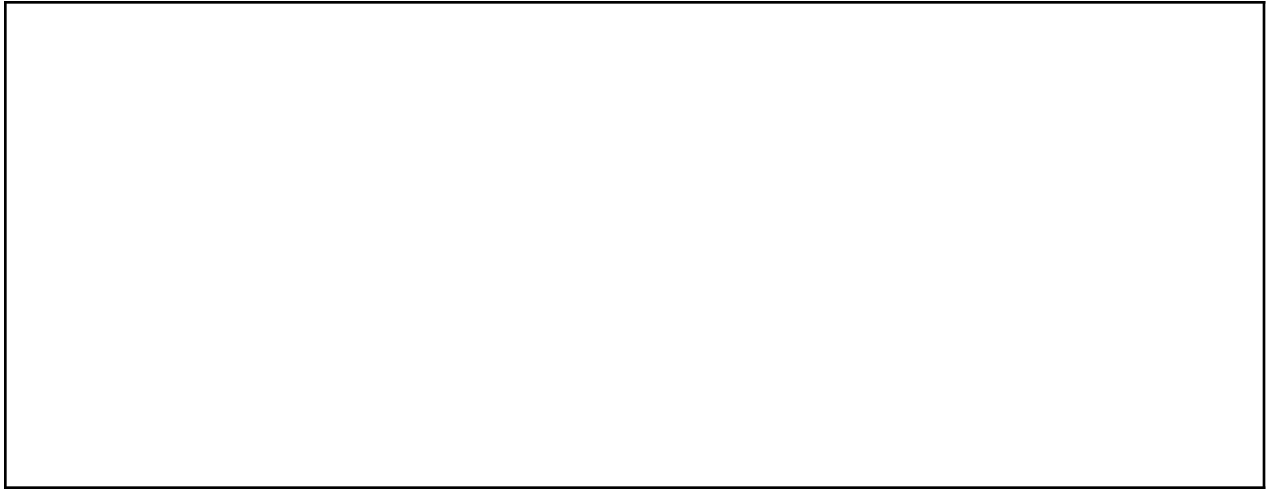
**“Providing a rigorous academic and well rounded visual and performing arts curriculum, educating students in grades 7-12, from across the State of Maine”**

**Same Vision**

**“Nurturing the next generation of leaders to become invaluable citizens at the heart of Maine’s cultural, economic and social well being.”**

**New Tagline**

**Create. Learn. Lead. Maine’s only public arts school for grades 7-12.**



*The completed Amendment Request **must** be uploaded and submitted to the Maine Charter School Commission through Epicenter.*

On an additional page, please address the following criteria in your request, as applicable.

- Describe why the school has proposed a change to its mission statement.
- Describe changes to the school that will result from the amended mission statement.
- Provide a redlined copy of the proposed changes to the current mission statement.
- Provide a finalized, clean version of the mission statement with the proposed changes included.