

# ASPEN ACADEMY

## 2024-2025 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness

### Summary



**T H I N K**

Tenacity | High Expectations | Integrity | No Excuses | Kindness

Under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, school boards are to adopt a long-term, comprehensive strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning. This plan addresses the following five goals:

1. All children are ready for school.
2. All third-graders can read at grade level.
3. All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
4. All students are ready for career and college.
5. All students must graduate from high school.

**Aspen Academy, #4184, is a public charter school serving students in grades K-8.**

**Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness – Contact Information:**

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**Summary Meeting: 10/27/2025**

**New Plan Development: 10/27/2025**

**Public Meeting: 10/27/2025**

**Board Approval: 11/17/25**

**2024-2025 District Advisory Committee:**

Melanie Jiskra, Executive Director/Principal

Rob Essig, Assistant Principal

Dr. Lorien Parson, Title I Coordinator

Dr. Erin Haley Strub, MTSS Coordinator

Rachel Mong – Curriculum Coordinator

Sophia Raffaele – Special Education Teacher

Jenna Thurston – 1st grade Teacher

Sarah Konkol – 3rd grade teacher

Stephanie Smitley – Math Interventionist, Parent, Board Member

Specialist – Elizabeth Gale

Alicia Dibb – Parent

# 2024-2025 Summary of Goals

## 1. All Students Are Ready for School

### 2020-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOAL

Each year through FY 2025, 95% of all the School's kindergarten students continuously enrolled since the first day of school will be able to:

- generate all sounds of the first 26 phonograms (letters a-z) by April 1 of each year.
  - count to 32 by June 1 of each year and
  - identify all 26 upper and lower case letters by February 1 of each year.
- 
- Not met - Generate all sounds of the first 26 phonograms (letters a-z) by April 1 of each year
    - 87% of scholars could generate all sounds of the first 26 phonograms
  - Not met - Count to 32 by June 1 of each year
    - 90% of scholars could count to 32
  - Not met - identify all 26 upper and lower case letters by February 1 of each year
    - 84% knew upper case letter names (all scholars)
    - 68% knew lower case letter names (all scholars)

### BUILDING SITE /Local Literacy Plan Goals 2024-2025

- By Spring, 80% of our kindergarten scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall earlyReading composite.
  - Not met - 76% of our kindergarten scholars were in the low risk category on the overall earlyReading
- By Spring, 85% of our kinders will know 13 or more sight words by spring assessment.
  - Not met - 72% of scholars know at least 13 sight words
- Kindergarten scholars will increase their number of letter sounds with an average growth from fall to spring of 41 letter sounds.
  - GOAL MET: From Fall to spring, our kindergarten scholars had an average growth of 47 letter sounds.
- In the Fall, the target for the Letter Sounds benchmark assessment is 3 correct in 1 minute. In the Spring, 100% scholars in the “high risk” category for Letter Sounds in the fall will score above 27 letter sounds in the Spring, moving into the “some” risk category.
  - Of the 29 scholars in the some risk category in the fall, 24 are currently in the low risk category.

## 2. All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy

## 2020-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOAL

Every year Aspen Academy will outperform, by overall percentage, the district of Prior Lake/Savage, in science, reading, and math.

Met – Aspen Academy's 2025 MCA proficiency rate was 28.6% compared to 26.0% in Prior Lake/Savage in Science.

Not Met – Aspen Academy's 2025 MCA proficiency rate was 57.6% compared to 59.6% in Prior Lake/Savage in Reading.

Not Met – Aspen Academy's 2025 MCA proficiency rate was 53.4% compared to 58.8% in Prior Lake/Savage in Math.

By the end of the 2024- 2025 school year, Aspen Academy will score:

- 3rd grade proficiency rates will be no less than 10 points higher in reading than the state average on the MCAs.
- No less than 13 percentage points higher than the state average for all students in reading.

Not Met – Aspen Academy's 2025 MCA third grade proficiency rate was 9.7 points higher in reading than the state average.

Not Met – Based on the 2025 MCAs, Aspen Academy was 8.3 percentage points higher in reading proficiency than the state proficiency.

### BUILDING SITE /Local Literacy Plan Goals 2024-2025

First Grade:

- By Spring, 75% of our first grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall early reading composite.
  - Not met: 74% of our first grade scholars fell in the low risk range
- By Spring, 75% of our first grade scholars will be at or above 65 sight words by Spring.
  - GOAL MET: 78% of our first grade scholars were at or above 65 sight words
- By Spring, scholars with fall scores in the some and high risk categories on the Sight Words benchmark assessment will score above 40 words on the sight word assessment.
  - 12 out of 18 of the scholars in the some or high risk category in the fall scored above 40 sight words in the Spring of 2025.
- By Winter, scholars with Fall Test of Nonsense Words scores in the "some risk" category will increase an average of at least 3 points on the Nonsense Words benchmark.
  - GOAL MET: For the 16 scholars in the some risk category in the fall, their average growth was 23 words/points
- By Spring, scholars with Fall scores in the "high risk" category, will increase at least 5 points on the Nonsense Words benchmark assessment.

- *GOAL MET: For the 6 scholars in the high risk category in the fall, their average growth rate was 9 words/points*
- Scholars will increase their average growth from fall to spring of 12 nonsense words correct per minute.
  - *GOAL MET: Scholars had an average growth of 18 words/points per minute*

#### Second Grade:

- By Spring, 75% of our second grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall aReading composite.
  - *GOAL MET: 75% of our second grade scholars were in the low risk category on the overall aReading assessment.*
- By Spring, 2nd grade scholars in the “some” or “high” risk category in the fall will have an average increase of at least 34 words correct per week (1 word per week).
  - *GOAL MET: 2nd grade scholars in the some or high category increased an average of 50 words per min.*
- By Spring, 70% of second grade scholars will be at or above the spring target of 101wpm on the CBMreading.
  - *GOAL MET: 70% of our 2nd grade scholars were at or above the spring target for CBMreading.*
- Scholars will increase their correct words read per minute by 40 words from fall to spring.
  - *GOAL MET: Scholars increased their words read per minute by 42 words*

#### Third Grade:

- By Spring, 80% of our third grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall aReading composite.
  - *Not met – 65% of our third grade scholars were in the low risk category for overall aReading*
- By Spring, 3rd grade scholars in the “some” or “high” risk category in the fall will have an average increase of at least 34 words correct per week (1 word per week).
  - *GOAL MET: 3rd grade scholars in the some or high risk category increased an average of 58 words per min.*
- By Spring, 83% of third grade scholars will be at or above the spring target of 125 wpm on the CBMreading.
  - *Not met – 74% of third grade scholars were at or above the spring target of 125 wpm on the CBMreading.*
- Scholars will increase their correct words read per minute by 40 words from fall to spring.
  - *GOAL MET: Scholars increased their words read per minute by 44 words per minute.*

### 3. Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups

**2020-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOALS**

Progress points are calculated at the student level by MDE and used as an indicator comparing current achievement levels with previous achievement levels.

- All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed. Each year, for each reading and math, the average number of progress points generated by School students based on changes in their achievement levels, for students identified in the FRP subgroup, will exceed two.

In 2025, Aspen Academy generated 2.3 progress points for ALL scholars in the area of reading and 1.8 progress points in the area of math.

In 2025, Aspen Academy's scholars in the FRP subgroup generated 2.40 reading progress points and 1.8 math progress points based on changes in their achievement levels.

- Each year, the School will demonstrate higher school-wide proficiency rates than the Prior Lake-Savage School District for reading, math, and science (for the same grades as offered by the school) for economic subgroups; and higher than the Shakopee school district for racial subgroups.

In 2025, Aspen Academy had higher proficiency rates for our F/R meals economic subgroup than Prior Lake - Savage Public Schools F/R subgroup in the areas of Reading and Math.

These proficiency rates are estimates, not based on exact numbers of students in groups.

F/R Meals	Science	Reading	Math
	<b>Not Met</b> 23.5% / 26.1%	<b>Met</b> 48.8% / 43.8%	<b>Met</b> 39.5% / 37.0%
	(Aspen Academy / Prior Lake Savage)	(Aspen Academy / Prior Lake Savage)	(Aspen Academy / Prior Lake Savage)

The 2025 proficiency rates that are in bold indicate where Aspen Academy has higher proficiency rates for those subgroups. Aspen Academy's reading and math proficiency for Asian and Black/African American subgroups were higher than Shakopee, while Aspen's Hispanic/Latino and White scholars were higher in Math and Aspen's scholars identified as two or more races were higher in reading proficiency compared to Shakopee subgroups.

2025 Results	Reading		Math		Science	
Racial Subgroups	Aspen	Shakopee	Aspen	Shakopee	Aspen	Shakopee
Hispanic/Latino	26.7%	28.3%	<b>46.7%</b>	21.5%	NA	NA
American Indian/Alaska Native	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Asian	<b>77.6%</b>	53.1%	<b>73.7%</b>	48.4%	<b>54.5%</b>	19.8%
Black/African American	<b>43.1%</b>	37.2%	<b>30.3%</b>	29.3%	5.3%	10.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White	60.9%	62.5%	<b>63.1%</b>	58.7%	<b>34%</b>	30.9%
Two or more races	<b>65.5%</b>	55.3%	46.4%	47.5%	NA	NA



## 4. All Students Career and College Ready by Graduation

### 2024-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOAL

Each year, the School will administer a nationally-normed assessment in at least grades 4 and 8. For 4th grade students who remain in the School through 8th grade:

- If their 4th grade national percentile ranking was less than 70%, at least 50% of the students will increase their national percentile ranking.

Not Met - There are seventeen continuously enrolled (from 4th grade to 8th grade) scholars at Aspen Academy during the 2024-2025 school year.

Eight scholars were below the 70th percentile in the area of reading in the fall of their 4th grade year. 12.5% of those scholars increased their national percentile ranking in the area of reading based on their Fall 2023 administration of the nationally normed assessment.

Six scholars were below the 70th percentile in the area of math as 4th graders. 16.7% of those scholars increased their national percentile ranking in the area of math based on their Fall 2023 administration of the nationally normed assessment.

## 5. Prepare students to be lifelong learners

Aspen Academy will offer programming that prepares students to acknowledge and value lifelong learning and practice independence and self-advocacy.

- In Life Skills class, students will learn the value of goal setting, time management, interpersonal skills, and growth mindset.
- In Genius Hour, students have the opportunity to independently explore an area that they personally would like to learn more about through the completion of a passion project.
- In Health, students will learn the importance of and strategies for caring for their own physical and mental health.
- In Social Studies, students will evaluate from the past experiences of others how to take different perspectives and overcome systemic barriers to success
- In Communication Arts, students will learn to think critically about the information sources they consume and how to recognize and compensate for bias.
- In Fine Arts, students may choose from courses such as creative writing, visual and performing arts, band, and choir, which reaches learners who are artistically motivated.
- In Math, students will learn dynamic problem solving techniques and how to apply the knowledge they already have to new situations
- In Science, students will expand on problem solving techniques learned in math by following scientific methods to solve and prove that something is true.



- Through Second Step, students will be explicitly taught how to navigate social and emotional scenarios that may affect their friendships, perspective-taking, school experience, and future goals
- Students have Study Hall or WIN Time within class to work on what they need to be successful academically, such as completing missing assignments, asking a teacher for help, or reading independently.
- Students are provided a weekly missing assignment report and are responsible for advocating for themselves by obtaining another copy of the assignment or turning in an already completed assignment.
- Teachers will emphasize the importance of a growth mindset and overcoming academic and interpersonal setbacks, building resilience, independence, and confidence in students.