

ASPEN ACADEMY

2025-2026 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Plan



T H I N K

Tenacity | High Expectations | Integrity | Notable Accountability | 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 Plan – Contact Information:

Eric Sandberg, Interim Principal
eric.sandberg@aspenacademymn.org

Summary Meeting: 10/27/25 – 4:15 pm

New Plan Development: 10/27/25 – 4:15 pm

Public Meeting: 10/27/25 – 4:15 pm

Board Approval: 11/17/25 – 6:00 pm

2025-2026 District Advisory Committee:

Eric Sandberg, Interim Principal
Dr. Lorien Parson, Title I Coordinator
Dr. Erin Haley Strub, MTSS Coordinator
Rachel Mong – Assistant Principal
Judy Grote – Special Education Teacher
Jen Japel – Primary-Kindergarten Teacher
Stephanie Smitley – Math Interventionist, Parent, Board Member
Sara Stewart – Parent

2025-2026 Goals

1. All Students Are Ready for School

2020- Spring 2026 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.

Aspen Academy Local Literacy Plan Goals 2025-2026

Kindergarten:

- By Spring, 80% of our kindergarten scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall earlyReading composite.
- By Spring, 85% of our kinders will know 13 or more sight words by spring assessment.
- Kindergarten scholars will increase their number of letter sounds with an average growth from fall to spring of 41 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 "some risk" category for Letter Sounds in the fall will score above 27 letter sounds in the Spring, moving into the "some" risk category.

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

2020-Spring 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.

By the end of the 2025- 2026 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.

Aspen Academy Local Literacy Plan Goals 2025-2026

1st - 3rd grade

- Aspen Academy's goal is to increase the number of students scoring in the low risk area from fall to spring on the overall reading composite in Grades K through 3rd (earlyReading K and 1; aReading/CBM 2nd and 3rd).

First Grade:

- By Spring, 80% of our first grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall early reading composite.
- By Spring, 80% of our first grade students will be at or above 65 sight words by Spring.
- 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.
- By Winter, scholars with Fall Test of Nonsense Words scores in the "some risk" category will increase an average of at least 20 points on the Nonsense Words benchmark.
- By Spring, scholars with Fall scores in the "high risk" category, will increase at least 5 points on the Nonsense Words benchmark assessment.
- Scholars will increase their average growth from fall to spring of 15 nonsense words correct per minute.

Second Grade:

- By Spring, 80% of our second grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall aReading composite.
- By Spring, 2nd grade scholars in the "some" or "high" risk category in the fall will have an average increase of at least 40 words correct per week (5 words per month).
- By Spring, 75% of second grade students will be at or above the spring target of 101wpm on the CBMreading.
- Scholars will increase their correct words read per minute by 40 words from fall to spring.

Third Grade:

- By Spring, 80% of our third grade scholars will be in the low risk category for the overall aReading composite.
- By Spring, 3rd grade scholars in the "some" or "high" risk category in the fall will have an average increase of at least 40 words correct per week (5 words per month).
- By Spring, 83% of third grade students will be 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.

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

2020-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOALS

- 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.
- 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.

4. All Students Career and College Ready by Graduation

2020-2025 ASPEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL GOALS

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.

Fourth-Eighth Grade

- The percentage of scholars in the "low risk/concern" will increase from fall to spring using the MDE composite risk score.
- Additionally, by Spring we will have 60% of scholars demonstrating "low concern" in the area of reading according to their MDE composite risk score.

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.