



WHY CHARTER SCHOOL'S CHOOSE VOA-MN AS AN AUTHORIZER

The VOA-MN School Network Approach

Our authorizer cooperative oversight is ongoing and intended to help charter schools live up to the promise of increased autonomy in exchange for increased accountability. In addition, to be authorized by VOA-MN means you are not just a charter school, but a part of the bigger VOA-MN Charter School Network, which promotes relationships between schools and the larger charter school community by creating professional development opportunities for participants—whether as a board member, school leader, or community member. VOA-MN authorized schools pride themselves on being a part of the high quality of the schools that comprises the VOA-MN Network of Authorized Charter Schools. Being authorized by VOA-MN means being a part of a strong network of charter schools that meets at least annually, regularly shares ideas on effective educational and operational strategies, offers peer mentoring to new leaders, and together broaden individuals' understanding of the charter school community throughout Minnesota. Annually, VOA-MN also presents "Excellence Awards" to our authorized charter schools that show the highest quality results in the following areas:

- Academic Performance
- Financial Management
- School Board Governance

Charter School Leaders Reflections about Authorizer VOA-MN

"I've always appreciated the high level of expectations as well as support that VOA-MN has in place for my school."

Scott Anderson, Director
Schoolcraft Learning Community, Bemidji, MN

"Our school board consists of parents, community and educators who rely on the expertise of VOA-MN. Our school has received many awards for finance and quality education and this would not be possible without the guidance they've offered. Also, VOA allows us to manage our school in a way that meets the needs of the community. We are sincerely thankful that VOA-MN has been with us from day one."

Judy Motschenbacher, Board Chair
Birch Grove Community School, Tofte, MN

"I have appreciated having VOA-MN as an authorizer. The VOA-MN Authorizing Program team members are always approachable and respond promptly to phone calls or emails. They care about our success, and while they are supportive, they also have very high standards and hold us accountable to meeting them."

Shannon Peterson, Director
Lakes International Language Academy, Forest Lake, MN

"We applied to VOA-MN because of its reputation as both rigorous and collaborative. We felt that the rigor would help establish us as a successful school but that it would be done in a manner that allows us a voice in determining how we achieve that success."

Claud Allaire, Leader Developer
Athlos Preparatory Academy, Dakota County

"I have found VOA-MN to be an excellent resource of information in dealing with different situations and a willing partner in problem solving. In addition, they are a consummate advocate of the school all while artfully holding it accountable."

Vanessta Spark, Executive Director
Spectrum High School, Elk River, MN