

September 23, 2022

Commissioner Mueller
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Via email

Dear Commissioner Mueller,

Below is the University of St. Thomas' statement of financial expenditures related to authorizing duties for fiscal year 2022, pursuant to *Minnesota Statute*, 124E.05, subd. 8.

The University of St. Thomas (St. Thomas) is a private higher education institution whose mission is "to educate students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good." St. Thomas has found that acting as a charter school authorizer is a valuable way in which to work toward achieving its mission and honor its commitment to quality education. Our programmatic mission is "to advance the common good by using quality authorizing practices to oversee and promote the health of a portfolio of charter schools that demonstrably assist students in reaching their full academic and human potential." We also operate in accordance with our core values which include respecting the whole student, educational equity, valuing multiple educational models, empowered autonomy, excellence-first authorizing, and being reflective practitioners. More information on our mission, core values, and current strategic goals can be found on our website and in our Approved Authorizing Plan. The current St. Thomas portfolio includes thirteen charter schools, with one additional charter school joining our portfolio during SY2023. We did not add, close, or transfer any schools during FY2022.

The following statement is based on unaudited financial information, as St. Thomas' fiscal year 2022 audit is not yet complete. It is important to note that the expenditures shown do not include the substantial value of the resources, space, and faculty time donated by St. Thomas. These in-kind contributions on the part of the institution and its members greatly benefit the authorizing program and allow us to add value to our community. St. Thomas spent \$232,231.27 on authorizing-related activities during the 2021-2022 school year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). St. Thomas received \$287,447 in revenue via fees from charter schools for authorizing-related activities during the same period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions at mmcgraw@stthomas.edu or 651-962-4372.

Sincerely,



Molly McGraw Healy
Director of Charter School Authorizing
University of St. Thomas

CC: Paula Higgins, Minnesota Department of Education
Mike Schultz, Minnesota Department of Education

University of St. Thomas Authorizer Income and Expense Report Detail

FY 2021 Income and Expense Report Detail		
Income		<i>Notes</i>
Charter school fees		
<i>Academia Cesar Chavez</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Community of Peace Academy</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School</i>	\$13,926.96	
<i>Face to Face Academy</i>	\$10,657.15	
<i>Global Academy</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Hiawatha Academies</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Hope Community Academy</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Metro Deaf School</i>	\$6,728.00	
<i>Spero Academy</i>	\$13,926.96	
<i>PIM Arts High School</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Twin Cities Academy</i>	\$26,912.00	
<i>Twin Cities German Immersion School</i>	\$26,912.00	
Other income sources		
<i>Organizational support (internal)</i>	\$0	<i>The University of St. Thomas provides substantial in-kind support. See note below.</i>
<i>Contributions/Donations (external)</i>	\$0	
<i>Grants (external)</i>	\$0	<i>The program has access to up to \$12,500 of funding (\$2,500 per year for each of five CSP Grant years) via MDE's Federal Charter Schools Program Grant.</i>
Total Income =	\$232,231.27	
Expenses		<i>Notes</i>
Personnel Salaries and Benefits	\$206,559.87	<i>Note that salary and benefit costs were slightly lower in FY22 than FY21, this was due to the departure of a staff member and the resulting gap in salary payments during the hiring process. Also note that included here are payments to individuals hired for specific purposes such as interpretation services or expertise in a certain educational philosophy useful in evaluating a specific school.</i>
Personnel subtotal	\$206,559.87	
Administrative/office expenses		
<i>Professional fees (staff development/conferences/workshops/training/dues/subscriptions)</i>	\$4,337.37	<i>NACSA, MACSA and MACS Memberships, NACSA Conference, regional conferences, etc.</i>

<i>Transportation and Travel</i>	\$23.00	<i>Costs in this area were lower due to staff not seeking milage reimbursement during FY2021.</i>
<i>Office space use/lease</i>	\$20,121.29	<i>The university uses a system of budgeting/accounting where units pay a share of their responsibility for shared services/overhead such as payroll, facilities, maintenance, etc.</i>
<i>Office supplies and equipment</i>	\$1,189.74	<i>Includes computer leases, printing charges, software leases, and other office supplies.</i>
<i>Other</i>	\$495.03	<i>School leader gatherings, food, parking, etc. generally fall into this category. All were conducted via zoom during FY2021 and thus these costs were not generated.</i>
Administrative/office expenses subtotal	\$25,671.40	
Total Expenditures =	\$232,231.27	
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$55,215.80	
<p><i>It is important to note that although UST shows a net income, this is only possible due to the substantial in-kind support provided in the form of faculty expertise, and more, the actual costs of which would far exceed current income. For example, the conservatively estimated value of the over 250 hours of time donated to the program by faculty with expertise in general and special education, finance, accounting, leadership, and governance during FY2022 would easily cost in excess of \$50,000 if valued at current market rates.</i></p>		