

**CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE NORTH STAR ACADEMY GOVERNANCE BOARD
AND
THE CAMERON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Preamble

The North Star Academy (originally the Barron County Alternative School) was created as an independent institution in order to provide an opportunity for students to engage in an educational experience specifically designed to meet their unique educational and behavioral needs. North Star Academy teachers and participating districts recognized the ability of a charter school to provide the flexibility needed to work with the students in new and meaningful ways; the school was chartered through a contract with the Board of Education of the *Cameron School District* (hereafter CSD).

1. Contract - Persons who established the Charter School:

North Star Academy (under the name of Barron County Alternative School) was established as a charter school on August 1, 2002 by the Board of Education of the Rice Lake Area School District.

North Star Academy, after June 30, 2015, will be chartered by the Board of Education of the CSD.

2. The Governance Structure of North Star Academy

North Star Academy is a separate institution with its own policy setting Governance Board (see section 9 of this contract). It *currently* provides a contracted service to four districts (Barron, Cameron, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, and Turtle Lake), but this number could expand during the five year period of this contract. As a separate entity, the charter school must follow all requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 UCS 1232g), federal regulations related to education, Wisconsin ss 118.125. North Star Academy may exempt itself from any or all of the Wisconsin ss.115-122 except those statutes related to health and safety, confidentiality, testing and any state statute specifically stipulating that it applies to charter schools.

All contacts and discussions between North Star Academy and the participating school districts related to concerns about the charter school or requests for changes in procedures and policies of the charter school shall be discussed and resolved by the North Star Academy Governance Board.

The governance structure for North Star Academy shall be in accordance with the

requirements of the by-laws of the corporation.

The Governance Board Directors shall include:

- A parent representative of a currently enrolled student
- A student representative, currently enrolled
- Five community at large representatives (at least one more than member district representatives)
- Four member district representatives (superintendent or other appointed individual)

Organizational Meeting for Stakeholders

The organizational (*annual*) meeting of the North Star Academy Governance Board shall be held annually at the first meeting *following the end of a school year*. New Governance Board directors shall assume their seats *during the annual meeting* unless they are assuming a seat to fill a vacancy resulting from a resignation in which case they shall assume their seats at the first Governance Board meeting after they are approved by the North Star Academy Governance Board.

Appointments to the Governance Board

Appointments of *member* district directors shall be approved by district superintendent.

Appointments of community at large members shall be approved by the sitting North Star Academy Governance Board as per the corporation's by-laws.

Length of Service on the Governance Board

All community at large Governance Board directors may be reappointed for two 2-year terms. As of 2010, all community at large members were in the first year of their term. Board directors may request to be excused from the board at any time. *The Governance board will select a replacement.*

3. Principal - Title of the person who will be in charge of the North Star Academy and the manner in which administrative services will be provided.

An appropriately licensed administrator serves as principal of the North Star Academy. She/he provides educational leadership and administrative oversight to the site-based work team which consists of all North Star Academy employees as delineated by the position description approved by the Governance Board.

The selection, dismissal, or reassignment of the principal of North Star Academy shall *be made by* the North Star Academy Governance Board.

4. General Program Description - Description of the educational program of the school.

The Purpose of North Star Academy

The purpose of North Star Academy is to enable students who are at-risk for dropping out of school to obtain the credits required for a high school diploma either from their home school district or from the charter school. At North Star Academy, students are given the chance to make a fresh start away from the environment in which they have experienced difficulty or failure; students are encouraged to establish themselves as intelligent, respectable members of the community.

The school empowers students to develop academic skills, self control, social skills, positive self-esteem, independence, and employability skills.

North Star Academy serves any student who is deemed to be a good fit for the school's educational environment by the student, the student's parent/guardian, his or her home district, and North Star Academy staff. However, the primary goal of North Star Academy is to serve students at risk of not graduating.

The Goals of North Star Academy

North Star Academy recognizes students need more than just required credits to be no longer considered at-risk; so while education is the primary purpose of North Star Academy, other secondary components (goals II and III) are equally important. North Star Academy staff members collaborate with other professionals to graduate students with maximum skills and minimum deficits who are prepared to contribute to the community. It is to this end that North Star Academy staff members guide each student who enters the program.

Goal I: Assist students in danger of not graduating to complete the necessary credits to graduate.

Objective A: Work individually with students entering North Star Academy and develop an educational plan to meet each student's needs.

Objective B: Ensure students meet the standards for graduation as determined by their home district. Ensure students seeking a diploma from the charter school follow graduation requirements set by the North Star Academy Governance Board.

Objective C: Ensure that upon successful completion of the program, students receive a regular high school diploma from either their district or from North Star Academy.

Goal II: Provide students with independent living skills that will better enable them to be positive, productive members of our society.

Objective A: Incorporate appropriate living skills into North Star Academy curriculum.

Objective B: Utilize community resources and hands-on experience as a part of the curriculum expectations.

Objective C: Encourage students to seek out new experiences and situations that allow them to utilize the skills they are learning.

Goal III: Adopt or develop instructional strategies, programs or methods geared to meet individual student learning needs.

Objective A: Assess each student to determine current academic achievement levels, strengths, and weaknesses.

Objective B: Provide students with course materials that are challenging yet consistent with their ability to understand and learn.

Objective C: Provide flexible programming at a pace determined in large part by the student.

Goal IV: Network with the area's various helping agencies in order to provide a collaborative service delivery system to better assist mutual clients and their families.

Objective A: Secure releases of information permitting all involved professionals to meet together to discuss and enhance service delivery.

Objective B: Meet as needed with all involved professionals, including a representative of the student's home district, to review a student's progress.

Objective C: Create partnerships among the school districts, Barron County Human Services, and other appropriate agencies working with North Star Academy students.

Academic Skills

An Individualized Learning Plan can be developed with each student and his/her family. This plan is based on the student's individual needs, abilities and current academic achievement. Students and parents/guardians are involved in choosing curricular, behavioral, and transition goals as well as in developing the plan for pursuing and evaluating these goals.

Personal-Social Skills

The curriculum emphasizes the development and improvement of personal and social skills. To accomplish this, an atmosphere of mutual respect and a community of care and concern is developed and nurtured. Conflict resolution and anger management components are an integral part of the school program.

The curriculum emphasizes the importance of understanding and maintaining community values and standards. Services are provided to enhance social, personal and/or academic skills.

Employability Skills

Employability skills are a high priority for all students at the school. Areas include career exploration, job search skills, entry level job skills, work-based learning, and transition services into post-secondary education or the world of work. Placements outside of North Star Academy, such as placements in a volunteer work experience at community sites, are accomplished through a mutual agreement between North Star Academy, the site, the student, and the parent/guardian.

Assessment

Student progress in education and/or personal/social development is evaluated through multiple forms of assessment. Regular education student assessments are developed by North Star Academy staff and based on the State of Wisconsin and DPI recognized standards. Students with Disabilities are assessed based on their current Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. Aptitude and vocational abilities are included in this assessment.

Transition from North Star Academy

North Star Academy students may transition back to the grade level appropriate school within their respective districts. The student will be released back to the principal of the school district.

Maintenance of Records

All academic, behavioral, attendance, truancy and discipline records generated by North Star Academy shall be maintained by the student’s home district. All permanent file material shall be kept in accordance with policies established by the district of residence.

Awarding of Credit

Credits will be awarded by North Star Academy on a quarterly basis. Credits awarded by North Star Academy shall be accepted by participating high schools toward high school graduation requirements. The chart below shows the credit requirements for each district.

Requirements	Barron	Cameron	Chetek	Turtle Lake
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English	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0
Social studies	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.0
Mathematics	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Science	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
Physical Ed.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Health	0.5	0.5*	0.5	0.5
Computer	0.5		0.5	0.5
Personal Econ	0.5		0.5	0.5
Career Educ.			0.5	
Fine arts				
Total	25.5 credits	26	27	26

*middle school health covers requirement

North Star Academy Diploma

This option is designed for students who are moderately to severely credit deficient and are not willing to spend additional semesters in school past the graduation of their peers in order to attain a diploma from their home district.

In order to receive a charter school diploma from North Star Academy, students must complete the following:

English	4.0 credits	or	Proficient competencies
Social Studies	3.0 credits	or	Proficient competencies
Mathematics	2.0 credits	or	Proficient competencies
Science	2.0 credits	or	Proficient competencies
Physical Education	0.5 credits		
Health	0.5 credits		
Careers and Life Skills	0.5 credits		
Personal Finance	0.5credits		
Computer Technology	0.5credits		
Work Experience	1.0 credits		
Electives	4.5 credits (with strong recommendation for additional .5 Careers/Lifeskills)		
Total	19 credits		

Awarding of Diplomas

High School diploma/completion options include any one of the following:

- Award of a high school diploma by the sending high school if the student meets the graduation requirements set forth by the Board of Education of the home district.
- Award of a high school diploma by the Governance Board of the North Star Academy if the student meets the graduation requirements set forth by the Governance Board.

Calendar

North Star Academy has its own calendar which attempts to follow the student days of the participating school districts.

5. Program Evaluation

An ongoing program evaluation process is utilized. Among the evaluation criteria are those delineated in item numbers 5 and 6 of this contract. They include, but are not limited to academic achievement, attendance, discipline referrals, and the appropriateness of behavior. The following educational goals under WI ss.118.01 are addressed:

Academic skills and knowledge

- Basic skills including: reading, writing, spelling, performing basic arithmetic calculations, and communicating with others.
- Analytical skills (problem solving and critical thinking)
- Literary and fine arts
- Computer science

Vocational skills

- Preparation to compete for entry-level jobs.
- Knowledge of available occupations and required skills and abilities

Citizenship

- Workings of government
- State, national, and world history
- Human relations (Black, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, European, and other cultures)

Personal development

- Physical education
- Health and diet (hygiene and appearance)
- Human growth and development

6. North Star Academy agrees to be evaluated by the following measures:

North Star Academy students will meet the accountability criteria established by the Wisconsin DPI as set in policy by the North Star Academy governance board.

7. The methods the school uses to enable pupils to attain the state education goals.

An individualized curriculum at North Star Academy covers language arts/humanities, computer skills, math/science/health/life skills, social studies/history, and physical

education. This curriculum is taught in an integrated fashion and developed by the North Star Academy staff and students to meet the individual learning needs or Individualized Education Program (IEP) of each student.

The state educational goals and standards are a major focus of the curriculum, as are the application of life skills.

8. The measurement of pupils' progress in attaining the State educational goals.

Progress of each student on the Wisconsin standards is assessed in an ongoing fashion. All curriculum units have been aligned with the standards approved by the State of Wisconsin and DPI. Each unit of instruction includes multiple assessment tools to measure student progress in the standards covered in that unit.

In addition, school wide assessments, such as Renaissance Learning's STAR Reading and Math tests, will be administered to monitor academic progress.

9. The governance structure of the school, including the method to be followed by the school to ensure parental/guardian involvement.

The governance structure of North Star Academy is composed of a policy making Governance Board (detailed in section #1) and of a site-based team composed of all North Star Academy employees.

Governance Board meetings shall meet the requirements of the by-laws of the corporation.

The Governance Board shall meet *at least* 4 times a year or as determined by the Board to establish and monitor policies, establish the budget, approve expenditures, and conduct the evaluation of the Administrator of North Star Academy in accordance with this contract. The Governance Board also shall ensure a strong partnership among North Star Academy, participating school districts, other agencies and the community.

The Administrator of North Star Academy oversees the educational and financial components of the school and works under the direction of the Governance Board.

10. Qualifications that must be met by the individuals to be employed at North Star Academy and staffing commitment.

All instructional employees shall hold an instructional license from the Department of Public Instruction.

As legally required, instructional staff shall be selected by the Governance Board of North Star Academy, hired by CSD and accorded the rights, privileges, and protections of such appointments.

Conditions of employment and supervision for *non-instructional* North Star Academy employees shall be established by the Governance Board. Certified staff shall be supervised by the licensed North Star Academy administrator.

11. The procedures which the school follows to ensure the health and safety of pupils.

The Governance Board will ensure that the North Star Academy facility is inspected in a timely manner by the building inspector and fire inspectors and that the water, air quality and building are checked by the health department to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

Hazardous conditions will be corrected in a timely manner or special arrangements will be made to ensure the health and safety of the staff and students.

A school wellness policy addresses goals in nutrition, physical activity and other school based activities.

12. Equity-The means by which the school achieves a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils as is reflective of the sending school districts' population.

North Star Academy students shall be referred based on their need for this highly specialized program without regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, creed, parenting status or disability.

North Star Academy shall not discriminate against pupils on the basis of gender; race; national origin; ancestry; creed; pregnancy, marital or parental status; sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its admissions procedures, educational programs or activities.

13. Admission Requirements and Reasons for Dismissal

Each member district shall determine its own admission criteria and requirements for students being referred to the North Star Academy.

No student shall be required to attend North Star Academy. All placements are by mutual consent of the student and/or parent/guardian and by the North Star Academy staff and home district principal in accordance with WI ss. 118.40 and the admissions

policies approved by the North Star Academy Governance Board.

Criteria for dismissal

Generally speaking, there are three reasons students are dismissed from North Star Academy. These include continued poor attendance, repeated failure to make academic progress, and continued behavior problems. The decision to dismiss a student will only be made with the concurrence of the home district principal and the North Star school staff.

Commission of any offense that would normally be referred to a district superintendent for an expulsion proceeding (i.e. unprovoked physical attack on a student or staff member, possession of a weapon, possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute at school or at a school activity, or for chronic refusal to follow school rules) may be cause for dismissal.

14. The manner in which all audits of the financial operation of the educational component of North Star Academy shall be performed.

The North Star Academy fiscal year shall extend from July 1 to June 30.

CSD shall serve as the fiscal agent for North Star Academy.

All fiscal decisions shall be made and approved by the North Star Academy Governance Board in accordance with this contract.

Financial program audits shall be performed for CSD as they are for other CSD initiatives and shall be reviewed by the North Star Academy Governance Board in accordance with this contract.

15. Procedures for disciplining students.

Experience has shown there are many reasons for misbehavior on the part of school students. Many times these behaviors have their root in things happening outside the school setting. Given this phenomenon, the school is uncomfortable setting rigid or strict disciplinary procedures. Rather, school staff will look at the nature of problem behaviors, examine their roots, and make decisions regarding the need for discipline on a case by case basis.

Suspensions from North Star Academy shall be made by the principal of North Star Academy. When it is deemed necessary, input from and concurrence of the home district principal will be sought prior to a suspension being made. In the case of students with an active IEP, input from the district's Director of Special Education will also be sought.

16. Alternatives for pupils who choose not to attend North Star Academy.

As stipulated in WI ss. 118.40, all appropriate alternatives available to other students in a student's sending district shall be available to a student denied admission to North Star Academy or terminated from North Star Academy, unless the student has been expelled by a school district in the state of Wisconsin.

17. A description of the school facility and types and limits of the liability insurance the school shall carry.

North Star Academy shall be located at the site purchased by the Governance Board for that purpose.

The Governance Board members, administrators, staff, faculty and facility of North Star Academy shall be covered by the appropriate liability insurance provided by CSD and *North Star Academy*.

18. Funding for North Star Academy

Funding Allocation

Each participating school district agrees to pay their proportionate share on a per *share* basis.

The library/periodical/common fund allocation shall be determined by the state or district formula utilized for that year and shall be the same percentage as that allocated to other schools in the CSD.

Funding for North Star Academy shall be established through an agreement between the participating school districts, the Governance Board, and the CSD Board of Education. The cost will be on a per *share* basis as delineated in the section 66.0301 Cooperative Contract.

State Aids

State aids for each of the students shall be collected and maintained by the home district and credited to the North Star Academy budget for income tracking purposes only.

If a district does not utilize all of their shares, other districts may buy the unused shares if no waiting list exists.

Funds Acquired from Private and Public Agencies

If the Governance Board of North Star Academy secures grant funds or donations from public or private agencies, those funds shall be under the control of the North Star Academy Governance Board. They shall be considered additional revenue for the

corporation and shall not impact funding detailed in other sections of this contract.

Funds Remaining at the Close of the Budget Year

The North Star Academy governance board shall take action to ensure that all funds are expensed before June 30. Funds are not allowed to carry forward to the next year.

Funds Generated from Consulting

Funds generated by staff of North Star Academy for consulting services related to North Star Academy activities and provided during paid work hours shall be retained by North Star Academy.

State and Federal Funding Sources

As required by state and federal regulations related to charter schools, all Title I, Common Fund, Children with Disabilities, English as a Second Language, Drug and Alcohol and similar state and federal program funding will be provided to North Star Academy on the same basis that it is to other schools in the participating districts.

19. Transportation

Each member district is responsible for making transportation arrangements for its own students. In the case of field trips, the districts will alternate in providing transportation for North Star Academy.

Driving

The districts participating in the North Star Academy permit students to transport themselves to and from school. The following rules must be met in order for students to drive their own vehicles:

1. For students transporting themselves, the school day runs from 8:25 AM to 2:15 PM.
2. Once students have arrived at North Star Academy, they must immediately park their vehicle and enter the building. Students may not remain in their vehicles.
3. Those students who are in violation of the school attendance policy or who are frequently tardy may forfeit the privilege of driving to school.
4. Students who participate in reckless driving, including but not limited to unsafe speed on school grounds, squealing or spinning tires, etc., may forfeit the privilege of driving to school.

20. *Mortgage Agreement and Custodial Services*

Mortgage:

North Star Academy governance board has purchased a property as an appropriate facility for the purpose of housing North Star Academy. All agreements shall be negotiated and approved by the governance board.

21. Compliance with Statutes

North Star Academy shall comply with federal statutes and state confidentiality, health, safety and testing requirements as required by WI ss. 118.40.

The Governance Board of North Star Academy may, through policy decisions, choose to exempt itself from any portion of WI ss. 118-122, except those detailed as required of charter schools in WI ss. 118.40. Policies established by the Governance Board may differ from those of the BASD.

22. School lunch program

Daily lunch for North Star Academy is administered by *the Cameron School District*.

23. Enrollment of North Star Academy

All enrollments at North Star Academy will be consistent with the admission policies and staff to student ratios as delineated in item thirteen of this contract.

24. Policies

The North Star Academy Governance Board will establish policies and procedures for North Star Academy in accordance with this contract. Key policy decisions will be communicated to the participating school districts' boards of education through their respective school superintendents.

25. Terms of the Contract

This contract will be enforced from July 1 of 2015 through June 30 of 2020 unless terminated as noted in item number 28 of this contract.

26. Year End Reports

A year end report will be prepared at the close of each school year and presented to the North Star Academy Governance Board and the boards of education of each of the participating school districts.

27. Participation in co-curricular activities

North Star Academy students will be allowed to participate in co-curricular activities in the school of their residence unless they are under a court order not to be on that school's campus. A student (and/or parent) who chooses to participate in or attend co-curricular activities at his/her sending school must follow the codes and standards of that school and district and the WIAA while participating in or attending those activities.

28. Termination of the Charter

This charter school contract shall be in effect from July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2020.

The contract shall be renegotiated prior to January 1 for succeeding years.

By law, (WI ss. 118.40), termination can occur prior to June 30, 2020 if the charter school does not meet the measures established in numbers 5 and 6 of this contract.

If the Governance Board of North Star Academy and the *member district* superintendents and their school boards mutually agree that North Star Academy should be closed and disbanded, the school would close on July 1st of the same calendar year.

Board Signatures:

(Cameron School District Board President)

(Date)

(Cameron School District Clerk)

(Date)

(North Star Academy Governance Board President)

(Date)

(North Star Academy Governance Board Vice President)

(Date)

Contract Approved on