

**CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE NORTH STAR ACADEMY GOVERNANCE BOARD
AND
THE CAMERON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
2025-2030**

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).

Current Districts participating in section 66.0301 agreement:

Barron Area School District (100 W. River Ave, Barron, WI 54812)
Cameron School District (700 S 1st St, Cameron, WI 54822)
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser School District (1001 Knapp St, Chetek, WI 54728)
Turtle Lake School District (205 N Oak St, Turtle Lake, WI 54889)
Clayton School District (236 Polk Ave, Clayton, WI 54004)
School District of Prairie Farm (630 River Ave S., Prairie Farm, WI 54762)

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. In 2010, Barron Area School District authorized the charter. , After June 30, 2015, North Star Academy has been chartered by the Board of Education of the Cameron School District. Christopher Crowe is seeking the renewal of this charter school contract beginning July 1, 2025.

North Star Academy will be an instrumentality of the Cameron School District.

2. The Governance Structure of North Star Academy

North Star Academy is a federally recognized 501c3 and is a nonstock corporation in the State of Wisconsin with its own policy setting Governance Board (see section 9 of this contract). It *currently* provides a contracted service to six districts, 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:

- An ad hoc parent representative of a currently enrolled student
- An ad hoc student representative
- 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 ongoing 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.

The Charter School Administrator will supervise and coordinate the daily operation of the Charter school with school staff and will work closely with and report to the Governance Board to ensure the Charter School meets the educational goals set forth in this Contract.

Administrative services will be provided by the District in the same manner as they are provided to other District schools.

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.

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, social and emotional 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 that 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 home district or from North Star Academy.

Goal II: Provide students with independent living skills and other social and emotional competencies (non-academic) that will better enable them to be positive, productive members of our society.

Objective A: Incorporate appropriate non-academic 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.

Social and Emotional Skills

The curriculum emphasizes the development and improvement of social and emotional skills. To accomplish this, an atmosphere of mutual respect and a community of care and concern is developed and nurtured. Conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and other SEL competencies 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.

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.

North Star Academy Diploma

In addition to allowing students to work towards their home district's high school diploma, North Star Academy offers a diploma directly from the charter school. The North Star Academy diploma 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 one of the following options:

Option 1:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| English | 4.0 credits |
| Social Studies | 3.0 credits |
| Mathematics | 3.0 credits |
| Science | 3.0 credits |
| Physical Education | 0.5 credits |
| Health | 0.5 credits |
| Life Skills | 1.0 credits |
| Work Experience | 1.0 credits |
| Electives | 4.0 credits |
| Total Minimum Credits | 20 credits |

In addition, students must complete a minimum of .5 credits of work or volunteer experience for each trimester that they are enrolled at North Star Academy. Exceptions to this requirement can be granted by school administration, but all students must complete a minimum 1.0 credit to earn a diploma.

Option 2:

Students can meet graduation requirements by successfully completing requirements set forth in the schools GED Option #2 program or through a 118.15 program in coordination with the local technical college. All requirements of either program will be laid out in a contract and must be met to earn a North Star Academy diploma.

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 that 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 education
- 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.

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, oversee 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. All instructional employees shall be hired by CSD and accorded the rights, privileges, and protections of such appointments.

As legally required, instructional staff shall be selected by the Governance Board of North Star Academy

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 admitted 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.

Information on the Charter School will be distributed through social media posts, newsletters, informational meetings, and a majority of our partner Districts' web site with a goal of achieving a racial and ethnic balance among pupils that is reflective of the population of partner districts. If necessary, the Charter School will target its marketing efforts to areas that may be underrepresented or at risk in the Charter School's pupil population.

13. Admission Requirements

1. The charter school is a school of choice and participation is entirely voluntary. Students will be accepted for admission into NSA pursuant to the procedures set forth below.
 - a. The NSA governance board will establish, annually, an enrollment cap, an enrollment window, and an application deadline that each partner district will facilitate with interested families/students. They will also establish a process for admission during non-enrollment windows.
 - b. All interested applicants, with parent/guardian, must attend an overview meeting to examine the school's learning model, graduation requirements, and other unique aspects of educational services provided at NSA in order for their applications to be accepted.
 - c. To be eligible for admission through this process, individuals must have submitted a complete and valid application by the end of the established registration window.
 - d. If the number of persons seeking admission exceeds the capacity of the open seats available, then the NSA governance board shall conduct a random lottery.
 - e. Exemptions from the lottery will only be granted to students currently enrolled in the charter school and siblings of students currently enrolled in the charter school.
 - f. The charter school will not be required to admit any student who is under a current expulsion order from a school district.
2. North Star Academy DOES NOT charge tuition.

14. Procedures for disciplining students.

The pupils who are enrolled at NSA shall be subject to their home school district board policies and procedures related to student discipline. Students will be held accountable for their actions and behaviors at NSA and are expected to comply with applicable rules and guidelines.

15. 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. The CSD Board or its designee will conduct an annual financial audit of the financial operations of North Star Academy. All financial operations of the school must be in accordance with the District's policies, practices, and rules, unless expressly granted a waiver from them by the District. The CSD Board or its designee will provide an annual audit of the programmatic operations of North Star Academy as part of the District's programmatic evaluation of all District schools.

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

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. The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the district and a description of the school facility and types and limits of the liability insurance the school shall carry.

Nothing contained in this Contract shall make, or be deemed to make, the District and the Charter School partners, venturers, principals, agents, or representatives of one another, except only as may expressly be provided in this Contract. Neither the District nor the Charter School shall have any authority to bind or obligate any other Party except only as may expressly be provided in this Contract.

North Star Academy shall be located at the site purchased by the Governance Board for that purpose. Currently, the school presides at 207 N. 1st Street in Cameron.

The CSD will provide the same type and limits of liability insurance for North Star Academy operations that it provides for other operations of other CSD schools and their employees, authorized, volunteers, etc...

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.

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 2025 through June 30 of 2030 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 as requested.

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 school policy allows for a restriction. 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, 2025 until June 30, 2030.

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

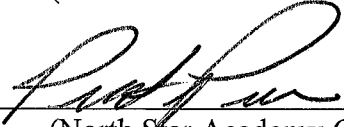
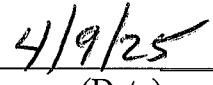
By law, (WI ss. 118.40), termination can occur prior to June 30, 2030 if the charter school does not meet the measures established in numbers 5 and 6 of this contract.

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:

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|---|--------|
| _____ | _____ |
| (Cameron School District Board President) | (Date) |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| _____ | _____ |
| (Cameron School District Clerk) | (Date) |

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|  |  |
| _____ | _____ |
| (North Star Academy Governance Board President) | (Date) |

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|  |  |
| _____ | _____ |
| (North Star Academy Governance Board Vice President) | (Date) |

Contract Approved on