SciTech Academy, Charter School #4261

Annual Report 2023

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Submitted to:

Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools

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SciTech Academy, Minnesota Charter School District #4261, is located in Richfield, Minnesota, just south of Minneapolis. SciTech Academy has completed its fifth year of operations and is pleased to present this annual report, to our Authorizer, stakeholders and the general public!

Mission: SciTech Academy will deliver all-inclusive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum to engage, empower and educate inner city students including immigrant children to better prepare future American generations. SciTech Academy will prepare students for competitive global economy through STEM, so Students can achieve successful academic goals. SciTech Academy will provide all students with the opportunity to attain successful careers and fulfilling lives by preparing them for high school, college and careers in an ever changing, highly competitive, global community and by developing their sense of social responsibility to support and serve others.

Vision: SciTech Academy's vision is to equip all students with knowledge, character and skills they will need to meet the demands of a competitive global economy as well as career and College readiness. Our vision for SciTech Academy is to create a school environment in which students are engaged, supported, and challenged to achieve their full potential in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

We envision a school environment in which students, parents, teachers, and school leadership work collaboratively to meet students' academic, social and emotional needs, strengthen students' knowledge and skills, and reduce and resolve peer conflicts.

We nourish this collaborative relationship through the use of innovative instructional strategies that, in contrast with traditional 'one-size fits all' instructional models, requires personalized student learning outcomes, the use of culturally relevant pedagogy, and ensuring effective communication among all concerned parties.

This report addresses the Annual Report elements required by statute:

Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.16,Subdivision 2: "A charter school must publish an annual report approved by the board of directors. The annual report must at least include information on:

1. School enrollment,
2. Student attrition,
3. Governance and management (includes Board training),
4. Staffing,
5. Finances,
6. Academic performance,
7. Innovative practices and implementation, and
8. Future plans."

This report also addresses the World's Best Workforce.

Contents

Introduction and Statutory Purposes

SciTech Academy is committed to empower and educate students to achieve academic success through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics so they can compete effectively in a global economy. SciTech Academy will provide all students with the opportunity to attain successful careers and fulfilling lives by preparing them for high school, college and careers.

SciTech Academy aims to prepare students to be problem-solvers, border crossers, self-reliant, and logical thinkers. This calls for an instructional approach that, unlike conventional methods, requires student engagement, hands-on experiences, and an educationally challenging environment.

To this end, innovative practices in place at SciTech Academy include three approaches for improving pupil learning and student achievement:1) the Use of collaborative instruction, 2) an Inquiry-based approach to learning and STEM-focused instruction, and 3) the Use of STEM approaches to help students identify connections between academic learning and the "real world." Though the SciTech program ends with 8th grade, these approaches will put students on track for career and college readiness.

To meet the challenge of closing achievement gaps, SciTech Academy strives to identify and use curriculum materials that address required state standards but are tailored to the needs and abilities of our students. Strategies for ensuring alignment of the program with MN state standards are described below. The standard elementary curriculum at SciTech Academy includes:

- Wonders – mainstream literacy program used to support ELL programming: https://www.mheducation.com/prek-12/program/microsites/MKTSP-BGA07M0/wonders.html
- Bridges in Mathematics: https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/bridges
- STEMscopes for Science (K-8): https://www.stemscopes.com/

Middle School standard curriculum includes:

- Open-Up Resources for math: https://openupresources.org/math-curriculum/
- myPerspectives for English Language Arts: https://www.savvas.com/index.cfm?locator=PS2rBh
- Northern Lights - Social Studies, grade 6: nl.mnhs.org
- Cengage – Social Studies, grades 7-8: https://www.cengage.com/s/?q=social%20studies (log-in's for each book are different)

Students are introduced to technology early at SciTech. Technology supports include Series 6000I SMART Boards, iPads for grades K-2, and Chromebooks for grades 3 and up. To

supplement the regular curriculum and help students close individual skill gaps, SciTech uses several digital curriculum resources. These include -

- MobyMax (www.mobymax.com): MobyMax lends itself to independent practice both at school and at home. Instead of assigning worksheets, SciTech Academy uses this platform for E-Learning and to design contests for homework. In MobyMax, students are required to master material at one level before moving to the next.
- IXL (www.ixl.com): IXL is a comprehensive digital curriculum that provides practice in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.
- BrainPOP Jr. (https://jr.brainpop.com/)
- Super Teacher Worksheets (https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/)
- Reading A-Z, supplemental, also used for EL (https://www.readinga-z.com)

Teachers assign material using these digital curricula based on students' needs, to supplement the main curricula in the various subjects and ensure all students are keeping up.

SciTech Academy opened with grades K-6 in 2018-19, served K-7 during 2019-20, and has operated as a K-8 school since 2020-21. Research has shown that every dollar invested in Kindergarten will have a seven-dollar return on investment back to society. SciTech invests heavily in STEM, plus College Readiness programs. This will create a success story for the next generation. The SciTech Academy's educational philosophy is to build a framework for global study through literacy, high-level vocabulary, and nonfiction texts with culminating projects in math and science that can be differentiated by grade and ability levels. SciTech Academy is seeking STEM partners to help the school provide opportunities for students to deepen their STEM knowledge and practice 21st Century skills by working in collaborative teams on real-world problems.

With a focus on mastery of core knowledge and skills, teaching methods provide appropriate support and challenge for all students. SciTech Academy teachers utilize a standard curriculum with supplemental materials addressing STEM topics incorporated into instruction. Homework complements and supplements classwork. Assessment is integrated into teaching to confirm student progress and identify the need for intervention or further improvement. Timely and complete communication with parents establishes a partnership that promotes an environment most likely to achieve success for all students.

In order to provide students with a dependable, least restrictive learning experience, students with special learning needs remain in the classroom with their peers to the greatest extent practicable.

Beginning in March 2020 and through the 2020-21 school year, SciTech Academy operated to a large extent in distance learning mode as the state struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic.

While school staff did their best to support students and their families during Distance Learning, this was a very challenging time for our population of primary immigrants and English Learners. Many students lost ground academically during the disruption due to the pandemic and learning the routines and expectations of an in-person learning environment. While SciTech Academy has now completed two years with an in-person learning model, impacts of the pandemic remain. School staff have observed that many students have fallen behind academically, and there are increased behavior issues as well. Impacts continued for the 2022-23 school year and are particularly significant with students in grades 3 and 4, who were in Kindergarten and first grade during most-impacted years.

Staff turnover, particularly of teaching staff, has been a major challenge at ScTech Academy over the past two years, as it has been for many public schools. The school is fully staffed, however, as this report is being finalized, as of October 2023.

SciTech Academy meets the primary purpose of Minnesota charter schools, to improve all pupil learning by implementing a rigorous curriculum that is a systemic, progressive program with mastery of specific knowledge and skills at each grade level. The program is designed to be challenging but not too difficult for average students. In addition to the primary purpose of improving all pupil learning and all student achievement, SciTech Academy is meeting three further statutory purposes of Minnesota charter schools, 1) to increase learning opportunities for all pupils; 2) encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods; and 3) create new professional opportunities for teachers.

1) SciTech Academy is increasing learning opportunities by providing a complete STEM-oriented curriculum that meets all aspects of the Minnesota state science standards. The STEM program is supplemented with a STEM literacy series. The learning program incorporates k-5 Wonders literacy designed to support English Language Learners and early readers in elementary students. Students' social and emotional learning needs are addressed through the Caring School Community program, provided at the beginning of the school day for all students. SciTech Academy believes that learners acquire genuine self-esteem primarily through the challenge of academic accomplishment. The school has the expectation that all its students will obtain the knowledge and skills they need for success in their further education and careers.

2) Scitech Academy encourages the use of different and innovative teaching methods; this element of the statutory purposes has been in place since the founding of the school. Examples of innovative teaching methods include:
   - The school teaches both digitally and traditionally – in addition to traditional in-person teaching, teachers guide students to use technology to support their learning. For

example, in reading, students use the Wonders curriculum's learning portals for self-paced learning. In Math, the Bridges Math program provides similar options, and students use IXL for practice and support in all core academic subjects. To support digital learning, all students have computers, iPads for grades K-2 and Chromebooks for the upper grades – this has been the school's model since the beginning, to utilize a combination of self-paced learning and in-person teaching.

- Scitech Academy utilizes skills-based grouping: classrooms have stations in which students at similar skill levels work together; teachers rotate among the stations to appropriately support all students, de-emphasizing whole-group instruction.
- Scitech utilizes SmartBoards to support teaching and learning, in every classroom. Teachers are able to demonstrate the lesson, utilizing visual and auditory learning material from various sources to help students learning via multiple methods. This also has been in place since the founding of the school.
- Finally, we note the school's use of ongoing progress monitoring. Teachers set learning goals for each unit of the curriculum in core academic subjects, doing an assessment at the end of each unit to ensure students have learned the material. Also, the school utilizes FastBridge assessments to monitor student progress and inform instruction. Use of FastBridge is being intensified during 2023-24 with utilization of the FastBridge Continuous Progress Monitoring (CPM) assessment every two weeks, in core academic subjects. This is supported by coaching from the University of Minnesota's FAST for Success-Reading program, who provided training for Scitech staff in the spring of 2023, and are to provide continuing coaching support throughout 2023-24.

3) SciTech Academy creates new professional opportunities for teachers by supporting their involvement in our innovative, STEM-based program. Teachers participate in professional development and planning the first two weeks before the beginning of the school year, covering training topics specific to the school's programming and student population. Teachers offer students: 1) Use of collaborative instruction; 2) Inquiry-based approaches to learning and STEM-focused instruction; and 3) Use of STEM approaches to help students identify connections between academic learning and the "real world:"
   - Collaborative instruction: SciTech Academy ensures all students receive personalized learning and seeks to nurture collaboration among our professional educators. Teachers employ a constructivist approach in designing learning processes to ensure that students are experiencing learning and attaining deep understanding. This teaching approach is tailored to address each student's unique learning needs, with student work samples that focus on and document the development of students' skills in core academic subject areas.
   - Inquiry-Based Projects: Students participate in problem-solving tasks, hands-on experiments, and other student-led service-learning projects. Teachers design projects appropriate for students' skill levels to be challenging but not too difficult to complete.

In particular, SciTech Academy's science curriculum, STEMscopes (https://www.acceleratelearning.com/science/ngss/), includes hands-on material designed for projects.

- In choosing the curricula it will utilize in the various academic areas, SciTech Academy has sought curricular options that support the integration of STEM approaches. Thus, teachers integrate hands-on learning approaches across the curriculum to help students identify the connections between academic learning and its application to the "real world."

We believe the mission and vision of Scitech Academy, and the school's approach to meeting the statutory purposes of Minnesota charter schools, are a good match for our Authorizer's mission and vision which are as follows:

- Vision: *The Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools advances positive educational outcomes for students that lead to success in life*.
- Mission: *The Guild advocates for teacher leadership, professional autonomy, and the creation of innovative schools for student engagement and the ownership of learning. The Guild strives to support students, families, and communities most affected by the achievement gap and low graduation rates*.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the progress and achievements of SciTech Academy during the 2022-23 school year, the school's fifth year of operations. This annual report serves to meet the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education as they pertain to charter schools, as well as those of SciTech Academy's contract with its authorizer, the Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools.

The annual report will be posted on the school's website once approved by the board of directors (see https://scitechacademymn.org/about-us/annual-report/). A copy of the report will be shared with the Minnesota Guild once approved and will also be made available to staff and parents of students enrolled at the school.

School Governance and Management

SciTech Academy is governed by a five-person board of directors. The Board of directors guides the school's mission, vision, and philosophy. The board sets policies regarding finances, enrollment, program evaluation, and other operational aspects. The board's policies have two purposes: to provide direction to the school staff in implementing the school's goals and to ensure the school meets the legal requirements and obligations of the charter contract.

The board generally meets the third Friday of the month, at the school at 6:00 pm, as well as virtually. Board information is available to school stakeholders and the public from the Board page on the school's website, https://scitechacademymn.org/about-us/board-of-directors/. The table below lists all members who served on the SciTech Academy board during 2022-23.

Board elections were held fall 2022 and new parent member Said Idd was elected and joined the board in September.

SciTech Academy Board, 2022-23				
Member Name	**Role**	**Start Date**	**Current Term Exp.**	**Email Address**
Suad Abdirahman	Parent; Secretary	September 2021	June 2024	suad.abdirahman@scitechacademymn.org
Said Idd	Parent	September 2022	June 2024	said.idd@scitechacademymn.org
Ibrahim Mohamed	Teacher, Lic. #514925	September 2021	June 2024[1]	ibrahim.mohamed@scitechacademymn.org
Mohamed Mohamoud	Community; Treasurer	September 2021	June 2024	mohamed.mohamoud@scitechacademymn.org
Dr. Abdirizak Warfa	Community; Chair	September 2021	June 2024	abdirizak.warfa@scitechacademymn.org

Board training over the past two years has been as follows:

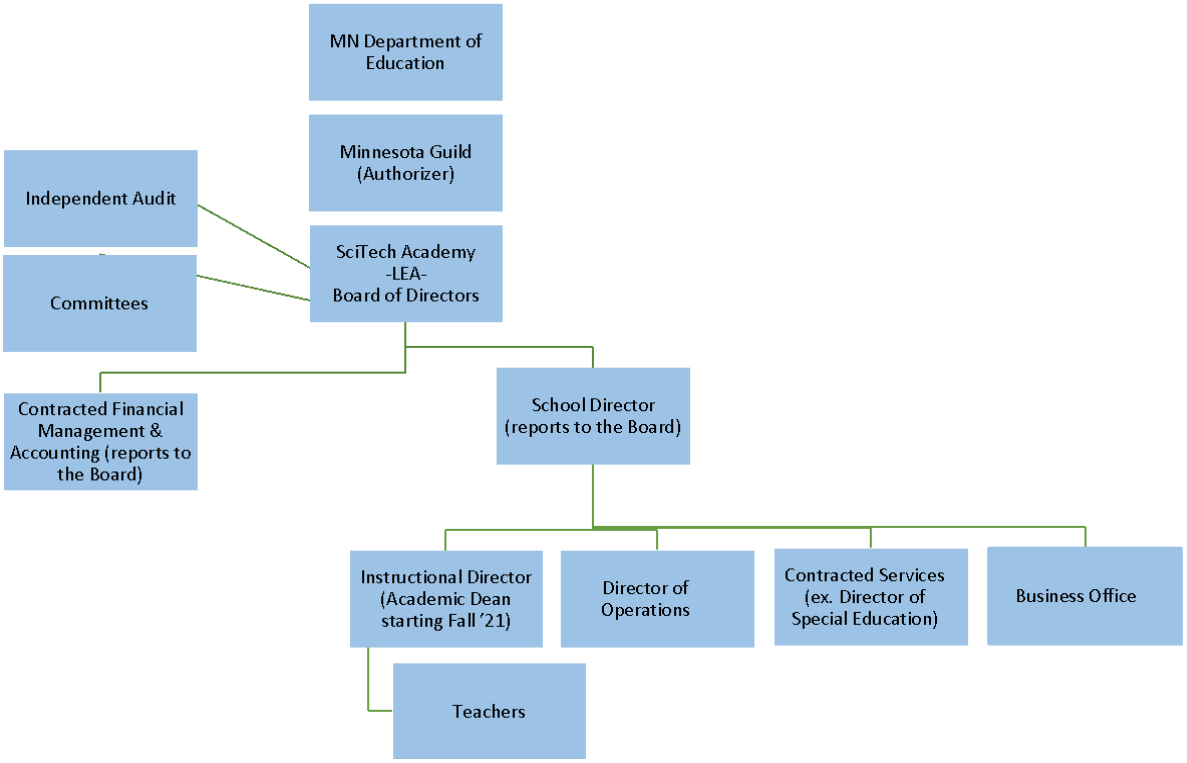
- Keillen Curtis of the Minneapolis-based law firm Curtis Law, LLC, provided training on Personnel and Governance responsibilities of board members in October 2021 (attended by all then-sitting board members)
- Joe Aliperto of Dieci School Finance, the school's business manager, provided training on School Finance responsibilities of board members in October 2021 (also attended by all sitting board members)
- Keillen Curtis provided training on Personnel and Governance again on March 17, 2023, attended by all sitting board members
- Joe Aliperto provided training on School Finance again on April 28, 2023, attended by all sitting board members (this completed required training for new board member Said Idd)

SciTech Academy is led by its Director and Principal, Abdisallam Abdulle. The administrative team includes the Principal, Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Operations Bishar

[1] Said Idd did not return for fall 2023;

Yusuf, and District Assessment Coordinator Deeqo Rooble. For 2023-24, a Director of Teaching and Learning was added to the administrative team. The administrative team meets weekly, or more frequently if necessary, to oversee the school's daily operations and enhance academic performance and instruction.

SciTech Academy Organization Chart.



Staff

The following staff were employed at SciTech Academy from 2022 -2023 School year.

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment	Not Returning, 2023-24
Abdisallam Abdulle	494734	Director / Principal	
Ahmed M. Ahmed	1002496	Arabic teacher	
Amal Ahmed	1021651	Middle School Language Arts	
Salma Ali	1013298	Elementary Teacher	
Karen Bovy	303472	Literacy teacher / Interventionist	
Kailey Blatz	1008630	Elementary Teacher	X
Aden M. Fithar	1021625	Elementary Teacher	X
Autumn Giese	516637	Elementary Teacher	
Hussein Hussein	1013182	Middle School specialist	X
Ayan Ibrahim		Director of Operations	X
Joceline Jones	1021522	Elementary Teacher	
Mikayla (Smith) Martinez	1011974	Elementary Teacher	
Bilan Mohamed	1014263	Sped Ed Teacher	X
Ibrahim Mohamed	514925	School Counselor	
Mohamed A. Mohamed	1011615	Middle School Math	
Deeqo Rooble		District Assessment Coordinator DAC	
Safe Mustafa	1021546	Middle School Science	X
Rahma U. Sesay	1006013	Elementary Teacher	X
Lindsey Wind	1002225	Elementary Teacher	
Bashir Yusuf		Dean of Students	
Shukri Yusuf		Student Health Office	

Of fifteen licensed teachers at SciTech Academy during 2022-23, nine returned for fall 2023 (retention rate of 60%). As noted previously, staff turnover has been challenging for SciTech

Academy over the past two years. Still, the school is fully staffed, as this report is being finalized in late September 2023.

SciTech Academy provided two weeks of professional development and planning for teachers in August before school started. Trainers included outside professionals for several of the topics, as well as school staff such as the Principal and Educational Coach. Topics addressed during this school year kick-off session included:
School-wide

- New Staff Orientation
- Benefits Overview
- Onsite Health
- Somali Culture
- Mandated Reporting
- Diversity Training
- Special Education Overview and Child Find.
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training
- Classroom Management / First Days / Discipline Plan / Teach Like a Champion 3.0
- Teaching Framework

Curriculum Training

- Unpacking Standards/unpacking Curriculum
- Curriculum / Planning Overview
- Bridges Math - Number Corners
- Literacy Curriculum Training (Wonders, also from curriculum trainer)
- STEMscopes
- Literacy
- ELL Teaching overview
- Teach Like a Champion 3.0

Technology Training

- Smartboard and Google-classroom setup
- Copiers, Computer,
- JMC Training
- Google Classroom
- Technology Related platforms (IXL) etc.

In addition to the training days in August, the school's operational calendar includes a number of Professional Development days and early-release days to ensure that the staff has the proper

training to implement our selected curricular resources, utilize best instructional practices as defined above, and to interpret student data in order to refine instructional pedagogy. Two Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are in place at SciTech Academy, one for the lower and one for the upper grades, which meet every other week. During 2021-22, the PLCs received training in literacy and mathematics, provided by professional trainers from Solution Tree:

- *Mathematics in a PLC at Work*: Solution Tree trainers collaborated with our math teachers throughout the year, providing professional development sessions. They conducted two in-person sessions, one in the fall and another in the spring, as well as three virtual sessions over the year.
- *FAST for Success-Reading (FFS-R) is an annual training program for K-6 elementary schools. It equips educators to use FastBridge data and the Science of Reading in data team meetings, enhancing reading instruction and student results. SciTech was a member of this program, science 2022-present.*
    - *SciTech Academy has joined the FAST for Success-Reading Launch program, designed for schools new to this initiative. Built on six years of research, this program aims to enhance our reading strategies and success.*
    - *FAST for Success-Reading Launch a foundational program tailored for institutions newly integrating FAST for Success in Reading. Developed from over six years of in-depth research and innovation in professional learning and execution, this program promises to set the groundwork for effective reading strategies and student success.*

Support for mathematics instruction included establishing a formative culture in SciTech Academy's PLCs by working together to use Solution Tree's Mathematics in PLC products. The intent was for PLC teams to reflect together and then take action around the right work, defined as what is essential for students to know and understand regarding key math skills and concepts. Accompanying resources included *Mathematics Instruction and Tasks in a PLC at Work*, *Mathematics Assessment and Intervention in a PLC at Work*, and *Mathematics Homework and Grading in a PLC at Work*.

Student Information, Enrollment, and Attrition

SciTech Academy enrolled 235 students on the first day of school for the 2022-23 year, August 29, 2022. Four more students enrolled by October 1, and new students continued to enroll throughout the school year. There were a total of 316 students enrolled for any part of the 2022-23 school year, and the year ended with 301 students enrolled. Final Average Daily Membership was 274.4, a small increase over the previous year when final ADM was 263.4.

Enrollment and Attrition Trends

School Year	Day 1 Child Count	October 1 Child Count	End of Year Child Count	Attrition from Oct 1 - EoY	Percentage from Oct 1 – EoY
2018-19	144	147	170	+23	+16%
2019-20	190	227	239	+12	+5%
2020-21	298	305	297	-8	-3%
2021-22	320	259	247	-12	-5%
2022-23	235	239	301	+62	+26%

One percent of our students were ethnically categorized as Black or African American. Over 90% were eligible for Free or Reduced-price school meals, and over 90% were identified as English Learners. Four percent received special education services.

Data based on Day 1, October 1, and End of Year enrollment as reported to Minnesota Department of Education.

Grade Level Enrollment (Oct. 1)

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2018-19	45	21	24	16	19	10	12	-	0	147
2019-20	36	41	32	31	25	24	15	23	0	227
2020-21	40	46	38	42	45	28	21	25	20	305
2021-22	24	27	34	31	36	39	23	26	17	257
2022-23	31	29	23	32	31	33	26	11	19	235
2023-24	48	38	48	27	49	26	33	26	20	315

School Goals & Academic Performance

SciTech Program and Instructional Model

SciTech Academy's program and instructional model are a research-based curriculum incorporating a STEM emphasis and with elements of project-based learning for all students.

The instructional approach and school environment are designed to enhance students' skills and prepare them to pursue college and careers in STEM fields. Educators at SciTech Academy implement best practices instruction, employing a variety of methods to support high academic expectations and ensure students attain indicators for high academic performance. SciTech Academy implements a STEM-based curriculum that integrates the four disciplines through thematic and inquiry-based learning, where students gain foundational knowledge and 21st-century skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.

Primary Grades Program: The kindergarten through second-grade program is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy, essential skills for academic success. The Academy's literacy curriculum is designed to support English Language Learners and early career and college readiness.

SciTech Academy's elementary grades program is built around the core classes of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies and includes Somali and Arabic as world languages. The math program utilizes the Bridges curriculum (https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/bridges). The literacy program teaches reading and writing for the elementary grades through the Wonders literacy program from McGraw Hill (see https://www.mheducation.com/prek-12/program/microsites/MKTSP-BGA10M0/wonders.html). Middle school grades use myPerspectives from Savvas Learning Company (see https://www.savvas.com/index.cfm?locator=PS2rBh).

The elementary and middle school programs focus on providing students with a comprehensive STEM education. Students learn about various topics in science, technology, engineering, and math, including life sciences, physical sciences, earth and space sciences, coding, robotics, and more. The curriculum is designed to be hands-on and engaging, allowing students to explore and experiment with different concepts.

SciTech Academy's middle school program aims to foster an environment where all middle-level students excel academically, socially, and emotionally through the collaborative efforts of the community, school personnel, and students. The middle school team works together to help every student realize their full potential to become model citizens and lifelong learners.

To ensure progress, our model of education measures learning outcomes and holds students and teachers accountable by gauging learning on an ongoing basis. SciTech Academy utilizes the FastBridge assessments, administered three times per year, and beginning in 2022-23, there is an ongoing assessment of learning (Progress monitoring via Fastfor success). Learning outcomes are also measured, and progress is measured through the FastBridge Continuous Progress Monitoring (CPM) assessment every two weeks in core academic areas. Results are reviewed, and instruction is adjusted to support all students' learning.

SciTech Academy's contract with our authorizer provides that

> *The School shall evaluate students' work based on the assessment strategies identified in its Application.*
>
> *The Guild will monitor student academic performance and the academic culture, which provides the basis for high academic performance. The Guild will monitor academic achievement by reviewing student testing and achievement. School students will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests and any other testing required by Applicable Law.*

Performance and Assessment Goals

With the renewal of SciTech Academy's charter contract in the spring of 2023 for a second five-year term beginning 2023-24, the school has negotiated a new set of Academic Performance goals and measures for the new contract term. In the interest of looking forward, and after discussion with the school's authorizer representative, we are presenting the new contract's educational goals in this section, with baseline data from 2022-23, to set the stage for performance improvements in the coming years.

The table is derived from SciTech Academy's Renewal Contract Performance Improvement Plan dated May 2023, with FY23 baseline data added.

Annual Performance – Renewal Contract Educational Goals			
Goal: 1a	Academic Growth, Reading, Fastbridge assessment: Students in grades K-8 who are continuously enrolled (from Oct.1) that are in the 'high risk' category on Fastbridge fall to spring assessment will be reduced by 1.5 percentage points annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 7%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage	Fall 37%	Spring 30%	Decrease by 1.5 percentage points: gap between fall and spring percentage can decline by 1.5 percentage points each year, starting with 5.5% in FY2024
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	There were a total of 161 students at Scitech Academy in FY23, who took the Fastbridge reading assessment in both fall and spring. Of these students, 60/161 or 37% were in the High Risk category in the fall. This fraction fell to 48/161 or 30% as of spring; hence the baseline figure is a 7% reduction.		
Goal: 1b	Academic Growth, Mathematics, Fastbridge assessment: Students in grades K-8 who are continuously enrolled (from Oct.1) that are in the 'high risk' category		

Annual Performance – Renewal Contract Educational Goals			
	on Fastbridge fall to spring assessment, will be reduced by 1.5 percentage points annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 9%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage	Fall 40%	Spring 31%	Decrease by 1.5 percentage points: gap between fall and spring percentage can decline by 1.5 percentage points each year, starting with 7.5% in FY2024
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	There were a total of 162 students at Scitech Academy in FY23 who took the Math Fastbridge assessment in both fall and spring. Of these students, 64/162 or 40% were in the High Risk category in the fall. This fraction fell to 50/162 or 31% as of spring; hence the baseline figure is a 9% reduction.		
Goal: 2	Academic Achievement, Reading, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA): Students in grades 3-8 students who are continuously enrolled (from Oct. 1) will increase their MCA academic achievement rate from the school's 2023 baseline by 2 percentage points annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 7.6%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage			Baseline plus 2 percentage points annually: At least 9.6% proficient in FY2024, at least 11.6% in FY2025, etc.
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 13/171 or 7.6% of students at Scitech Academy scoring Proficient on the Reading MCA		
Goal: 3	Academic Achievement, Math, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment: Students in grades 3-8 students who are continuously enrolled (from Oct. 1) will increase their MCA academic achievement rate from the school's 2023 baseline by 2 percentage points annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 6.4%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage			Baseline plus 2 percentage points annually: at least 8.4% Proficient in FY2024, at least 10.4% in FY2025, etc.
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 11/171 or 6.4% of students at Scitech Academy scoring Proficient on the Math MCA		
Goal: 4	WBWF: All students are ready for career and college. Academic Achievement, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, Science[2]: Students in grades 3 and 5 who are continuously enrolled (from Oct. 1) will increase their MCA academic achievement rate from the school's 2023 baseline by 3 percentage points		

[2] The skills associated with science proficiency, e.g. problem solving, decision making, are lifelong skills necessary for being ready for college and careers.

Annual Performance – Renewal Contract Educational Goals			
	annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 9%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage	Fall 0%	Spring 0%	Baseline plus 3 percentage points annually: at least 3% Proficient in FY2024, at least 6% in FY2025, etc.
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows none of the 59 students at Scitech Academy who took the Science MCA (36 5th graders; 23 8th graders) scored Proficient		
Goal: 5	WBWF: All third graders can read at grade level. Student Achievement Level, Reading as measured by Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment: Third grade students who are continuously enrolled (from Oct. 1) will decrease the '*does not meet'* and '*partially meets*' categories from the FY 2023 baseline by 3% annually.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline: 91%		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage			Baseline decreased by 3 percentage points each year: no more than 88% in FY2024, no more than 85% in FY2025, etc.
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 31 of the 34 3rd graders at Scitech Academy who took the MCA, or 91%, scoring in either '*does not meet'* and '*partially meets*' categories		
Goal: 6	WBWF: All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed, assessed with reference to English Learners, via ACCESS for ELLs, Average Progress Toward Target: Per the MN Report Card, and for all grades measured, English Language proficiency (ELP) *will* increase annually, closing the gap between SciTech Academy and Statewide performance. SciTech will increase their achievement level by 1.5 percentage points per year.		
Contract year	FY 2023 Baseline:		FY2024 – FY2028
Annual contract Goal Percentage			Baseline increased by 1.5 percentage points each year: at least 30.5% improve in FY2024, at least 32% in FY2025, etc.
Comment on FY23 Baseline data	MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 56 of 193 students at Scitech Academy, or 29%, who took the ACCESS (WIDA) achievement met their growth targets[3] (Statewide percentage was 28.9%)		

[3] From MN Report Card: Each year, every English learner (EL) has an individual target on the ACCESS test of English language proficiency (ELP). These targets update each year based on the student's progress the prior year. This indicator measures how close ELs on average were to their targets for the current year.

In addition to the 2024-2028 contract goals and 2022-23 baseline data relating to these goals, we wish to report overall Reading and Math growth results from the FastBridge assessments which SciTech Academy administered fall, winter and spring. In both reading and mathematics, approximately half the students with both fall and spring scores made more than a year's progress from fall to spring, based on National Growth Percentile Scores: 80/161 or 50% in Reading were at the 50th growth percentile or higher, as were 86/162 or 53% in Math. These figures are slightly better than last year: in 2021-22 49% of students were at the 50th growth percentile or higher in reading, as were 47% in math.

We believe these results are quite good given the degree of continuing disruption due to learning loss resulting from the pandemic and staff turnover. In both subjects, the proportion of students in the "high risk" category – the red bars on the left – declined from fall to spring.

Finances

SciTech Academy's finances remain sound. Data regarding school finances for Fiscal 2023 is based on the school's final Fiscal 2023 revised budget (figures provided by the school's financial services provider as of mid-October). For questions regarding school finances and for complete financials for 2021-22 and/or an organizational budget for 2022-23, contact:

Joe Aliperto
Dieci School Finance
2151 Hamline Ave N, Suite 212; Roseville, MN 55113
651-285-7676 / joe@diecisf.com

Information presented below is derived from final audit figures. The full financial audit will be completed and presented to the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Guild no later than December 31, 2023.

FY 23 Finances			
	General Fund	**Food Svc. Fund**	**Totals**
Total Revenues	$4,996,912	$394,853	$5,391,765
Total Expenditures	$4,891,069	$394,853	$5,285,922
Net Income	$105,843	$0	$105,843
Total Fund Balance	$839,064	$0	$839,064

Overview

SciTech Academy's budget for Fiscal 2023, its fifth year of operation, totaled $5.4 million, increasing approximately $200,000 from Fiscal 2022. The school is projected to end Fiscal Year 2023 with a total fund balance of $839,064, which is 15.9% of expenditures.

SciTech Academy is not and has never been in Statutory Operating Debt.

Innovative Practices

At SciTech Academy, every student is unique, and learning should be personalized to meet their individual needs. The School offers a variety of learning opportunities to ensure that every student can reach their full potential, including:

- *Personalized Learning*: The School offers personalized learning opportunities to the students, which are designed to meet their individual needs. The teachers and staff work with each student to develop a learning plan that is tailored to their strengths, weaknesses, and learning style. This approach ensures that every student can learn at their own pace and achieve academic success.
- *Project-Based Learning*: The curriculum incorporates project-based learning, which allows students to apply their knowledge to real-world problems. This approach encourages students to think critically, collaborate, and communicate effectively, which are essential skills for success in the 21st century.
- *STEM Series*: The school offers a STEM series that encourages students to explore, experiment, and think critically about science, technology, engineering, and math. The STEM series is designed to be hands-on and engaging, allowing students to learn through experimentation and discovery.

Finally, SciTech Academy seeks to involve its parents in support of student learning. There are Parent Academy events quarterly, to which all parents are invited. At these events, parents are able to learn from school staff about the school, its programs, how to support their students in completing homework, how to engage with the school, and the role of special education services in addressing specific learning needs. This is particularly important given our population of recent immigrants / English Learners.

SciTech Academy believes that learners acquire genuine self-esteem through the challenge of academic accomplishment. The school puts in place high expectations so that all its students will obtain the knowledge and skills they need for success in their further education and careers. The school follows a rigorous curriculum that is a systemic, progressive program with

mastery of specific knowledge and skills at each grade level. The program is aimed to be challenging but not too difficult for average students.

With a focus on mastery of core knowledge and skills, teaching methods provide appropriate support and challenge for all students. Integrated assessment to confirm student progress and identify the need for intervention or further improvement.

Future Plans

For the future, SciTech Academy plans to retain the successful elements of the program that has been built over the past five years, while continuing to strive for improvements to bring students to the point of closing achievement gaps, including ensuring that all students read well, and meet or exceed state standards in mathematics and science.

Plans include continuing to support all teachers in their professional learning to maximize the effectiveness of the teaching staff. SciTech Academy teachers are supported in their professional learning through participation in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) guided by professionals such as the University of Minnesota (see https://fastforsuccess.umn.edu/about) and Solution Tree (see https://www.solutiontree.com/our-solutions/plc-at-work).

SciTech Academy worked with PLC at Work from Solution Tree on math instruction and classroom culture throughout the 2022-23 school year, an initiative that was begun during 2020-21 and has continued since. For the 2023-24 school year, a math interventionist is being added to the staff to further assist with this aspect of the program. To improve reading instruction, Scitech Academy is utilizing FAST for Success-Reading from the University of Minnesota, with regular training and coaching for instructional staff. Solution Tree will assist with science instruction as well, starting 2023-24. Through these efforts, Scitech Academy expects to make consistent improvements to the instructional program, resulting in more and more positive academic results over the 2024-2028 contract term, toward the long-term goal of becoming a model STEM school, which other educators will visit to learn from.

Another element Scitech Academy plans for the future is to establish a tech hub at the school. This is envisioned as a room with equipment and materials for students to be exposed to engineering, robotics, 3-D printing, and programming. SciTech Academy leadership is seeking to build a collaboration with STEM specialists at the University of Minnesota and business organizations in the technology sector. The school currently offers coding classes and Technology Times.

World's Best Workforce Report

District or Charter Name: SciTech Academy, Charter School #4261-07

WBWF Contact: Abdisallam Abdulle

Title: Director / Principal

Phone: (612) 886-5083

Email: aabdulle@scitechacademymn.org

WBWF Survey MDE Submitted Report

WBWF Requirement: For each school year, the school board must publish a report in the local newspaper, by mail or by electronic means on the district website.

Provide the direct website link to the district's WBWF annual report. If a link is not available, describe how the district disseminates the report to stakeholders:
https://scitechacademymn.org/combined-worlds-best-workforce-wbwf/

MDE Submitted Report Click here to enter

Annual Public Meeting

WBWF Requirement: School boards are to hold an annual public meeting to communicate plans for the upcoming school year based on a review of goals, outcomes, and strategies from the previous year. Stakeholders should be meaningfully involved, and this meeting is to occur separately from a regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Provide the date of the school board's annual public meeting to review progress on the WBWF plan for the 2022-23 SY: ***September 30, 2022.*** On the last Friday in September Scitech Academy holds a community meeting including the Board and families – parents and families are invited, and school leadership updates community attendees regarding school goals and progress.

Goals and Results

All Students Ready for School
Does your district/charter enroll students in Kindergarten? Yes

Goal	Result	Goal Status
PR-K goal is to achieve a 5% improvement in performance on pre-K specific assessments, ensure that 60% of students perform at or above the benchmark level on assessments taken at the beginning of kindergarten, and achieve an 60% completion rate for kindergarten screening within the next academic year.	Provide the result for the 2022-23 SY that directly ties back to the established goal. Fastbridge screen test on Fall, Winter and Spring shown the categorized resulte administered by District Assessment Adminstors.	***Check one of the following:*** ___ On Track (multi-year goal) ___ Not On Track (multi-year goal) _X_ Goal Met (one-year goal) ___ Goal Not Met (one-year goal) ___ Met All (multiple goals) ___ Met Some (multiple goals) ___ Met None (multiple goals)

All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy

Goal	Result	Goal Status
All third graders can read at grade level. Student Achievement Level, Reading as measured by Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment: Third-grade students who are continuously enrolled (from Oct. 1) will decrease the '*does not meet'* and '*partially meets*' categories from the FY 2023 baseline by 3% annually.	Baseline established, spring 2023: MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 31 of the 34 3rd graders at Scitech Academy who took the MCA, or 91%, scoring in either '*does not meet'* and '*partially meets*' categories	On Track (multi-year goal, established per revised charter contract, effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028)

Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups

Goal	Result	Goal Status
All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed, assessed with reference to English Learners, via ACCESS for ELLs, Average Progress Toward Target: Per the MN Report Card, and for all grades measured, English Language proficiency (ELP) *will* increase annually, closing the	Baseline established, spring 2023: MN Report Card data for spring 2023 shows 56 of 193 students at Scitech Academy, or 29%, who took the ACCESS (WIDA) achievement met their growth targets (Statewide percentage was 28.9%)	On Track (multi-year goal, established per revised charter contract, effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028)

Goal	Result	Goal Status
gap between SciTech Academy and Statewide performance. SciTech will increase their achievement level by 1.5 percentage points per year.		

All Students Career and College-Ready by Graduation

Not applicable for K-8 School

All Students Graduate

Not applicable for K-8 School