

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center SY 2024-25 Statement of Income and Expenditures

This statement of income and expenditures related to authorizing activities for SY 2024-25 is provided pursuant to MN Stat. 124E.05, Subd. 8 and MN Stat. 124E.17 Subd. 2(b). This report is based on unaudited financial statements and has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education via email on September 30, 2025. If additional information is needed, please contact Erin Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing by phone at (612) 331-4181 or by email at anderson@ospreywilds.org.

Executive Summary

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (Osprey Wilds or OW, formerly the Audubon Center of the North Woods or ACNW) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Sandstone whose mission is to instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning. Osprey Wilds has a Charter School Division (CSD) that carries out activities related to charter school authorizing. OW's charter school authorizing mission is to ensure quality academic and environmental literacy outcomes for Minnesota students through effective charter school authorizing.

Osprey Wilds authorized 35 operational schools during the 2024-25 school year. There were two schools in the start-up phase: Angela Day School for Liberation and Progressive Education (Minneapolis) and United Academy of Excellence and Leadership (Brooklyn Park). During SY 2024-25, OW terminated the contract of St. Cloud Social Justice Academy, a pre-operational school. Osprey Wilds did not renew the contract of one authorized school, Cannon River STEM School (Faribault), and as a result it closed at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Central Lakes Adventure School (Pillager) merged with Harvest Best Academy effective July 1, 2025. (HBA is the surviving entity.) Osprey Wilds did not open any new schools in the fall of 2024 and considered, but did not approve, one new school application. OW did not consider or approve any change in authorizer requests and did not agree to mutual nonrenewal with any currently authorized schools.

There were no personnel changes in the OW CSD during SY 2024-25. Erin Anderson continued in the role of Director of Charter School Authorizing. Emily Edstrom Moore, Ashley Estis, Patrick Hartman, and Addie Mazza continued in the roles of Authorizing Specialist. Jolene Palme continued in the role of Charter School Finance & Compliance Analyst. Depending on the time of year and capacity needs of the program, staff FTE ranges from 5.5-6.0.

Contracted consultants provided additional support to ensure the CSD's capacity to provide quality oversight to schools, and OW staff in Sandstone provided administrative, HR, accounting, environmental education, leadership, and governance support totaling approximately 0.25 FTE. In 2025, the Osprey Wilds continued to develop and implement a data submission portal, Aerie, which replaced Epicenter in 2024 as a tool to ensure compliance, convey clear expectations to schools, and support document management.

In addition to Aerie, the CSD continued to use a wide array of monitoring tools and communicated them to schools through use of a shared spreadsheet. In addition to the many tools that were created during SY 23-24, during 2024-25 OW created tools for monitoring Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) Plans, conducting annual financial evaluations, and a curriculum audit as part of the renewal process. OW also developed, prototyped, and launched two new oversight processes: an online learning program expansion application and a change in location application.

Osprey Wilds continued to invest in professional development for CSD staff through attendance at NACSA training webinars and the NACSA Financial Oversight Community, participation in the Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers, and attendance at other relevant conferences and workshops. For example, CSD staff participated in training related to Title IX, school law, mandated reporting, structured literacy (i.e. the Science of Reading), nonprofit finance and sustainability, responsive goals, and equity.

During 2024-25 OW continued to use an asynchronous, self-paced training course for CSD staff and contract evaluators on conducting site visits. In addition to establishing inter-rater reliability, the course builds authorizer capacity to give robust, aligned, and high quality feedback to schools following a site visit in order to support high quality charter schools. OW also documented many Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the work of the team related to the operations performance evaluation, background check monitoring, and coordinating renewal site visits.

In addition, OW invested in the development of charter school leaders and board members through a robust calendar of charter school support, development, and technical assistance. An example of activities OW offered in 2024-25 include:

- Issues of *The Sounding Board* on the following topics:
 - Maximizing Stakeholder Surveys
 - Ensuring Transparent and Effective Communication Outside Board Meetings
 - Disseminating Information about the School
- New board member training that included new statutorily required topics
- Support to implement new requirements related to board member assessment and evaluation
- *Charter School Board University* book study
- Dissemination of an Annual Report template, model Procurement Policy, Cell Phone Policy toolkit, model Library Materials Policy, model Student Journalism Policy
- MN Open Meeting Law virtual attendance checklist
- Guidance and training regarding the Science of Reading and related statutory requirements
- Guidance and training related to changes in Title IX requirements
- Training and resources on media relations, financial audits, building the school budget, legislative changes, academic performance, cybersecurity, and other topics

In the spirit of the additional purpose of charter schools identified in MN §124E.01 Subd. 1(3),

“measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes,” through 2024-25 Erin was part of the A-GAME Coalition of Early Adopters that worked to develop responsive goals, unique to individual schools, that are focused on measuring academics, engagement, mission, and real world readiness. Erin and Patrick were part of a cohort of authorizers working to identify “indicators of distress” in charter schools and apply those indicators throughout OW’s monitoring processes. As part of that work, the CSD created a map of resources available to charter schools in Minnesota to support work in seven key areas commonly related to charter school failure. This resource map serves as a form of voluntary technical assistance for schools that Osprey Wilds has identified as exhibiting indicators of distress or, through their own processes of reflection and evaluation, have internally identified one or more of these characteristics.

In spring 2025, OW launched an annual survey to schools to receive feedback from schools about its charter school support, development, and technical assistance offerings and fulfilling its role as an authorizer. OW used this data and constructive feedback to inform technical assistance in 2025-26.

For the school year ending June 30, 2025, Osprey Wilds CSD had \$657,713 in revenues, \$655,809 in expenditures, and a surplus of \$1,904 from authorizing activities. Revenues came from authorizer fees and a stipend for serving on the A-GAME (Assessing Global Access, Academics, Mission, and Equity) Coalition of Early Adopters (\$2,400). Osprey Wilds also realized significant savings in software and technology fees due to the implementation of Aerie, an OW-developed data submission portal for use with authorized schools. (In previous years, OW contracted for this service.) OW continued to invest in ensuring there is appropriate experience, expertise, and skills on the team to sufficiently oversee its portfolio of charter schools. As a result, in FY25 OW realized increased costs related to contract evaluators and legal fees.

Osprey Wilds will continue to invest in authorizing activities for SY 2025-26. At the beginning of the school year, OW again launched its Charter School Support, Development, and Technical Assistance Calendar which outlines the templates, guidance, support documents, training, webinars, and required meetings that schools can anticipate throughout the year. OW continues to invest in Aerie and developing and refining its suite of compliance and monitoring tools and rubrics to ensure schools comply with statute and uphold the public trust. Further, at the beginning of FY24 OW submitted a significant revision to its Approved Authorizing Plan (AAP) which will be in use to conduct 2025-26 evaluations. This revision provides schools with greater transparency about what is being evaluated and greater alignment to relevant statute and regulations.

Staff in the Charter School Division continue to be an active part of the Osprey Wilds JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee. The CSD annually develops a DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Action Plan and works to implement the identified goals. In SY 2024-25, the CSD piloted an equity decision-evaluating tool. This tool is meant to evaluate decisions using a holistic and growth mindset approach to equity. Its purpose is to keep equity as the focal point of discussions about action planning, decisions, and implementation processes. It

forces an "equity pause" (a time to pause the process to reflect and name what we might do better in the support of anti-racism, equity, and inclusion). Going into 2025-26, the CSD is streamlining its DEI goals with its annual work cycle, providing proactive technical assistance that is designed to alleviate or offset the greater burden of compliance on smaller schools, and establishing an annual feedback loop with schools.

The OW Charter School Division continues to develop its monitoring and oversight practices in response to the challenges schools are facing from Covid-19, staffing shortages, academic data limitations, emergent funding gaps as federal emergency funding ends, and other hurdles. OW will continue to invest significant time and resources into improving oversight processes in these new circumstances and ensuring resources are focused on core oversight responsibilities and implementing the Approved Authorizing Plan (AAP) with fidelity.

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center School Year 2024-25 Statement of Income and Expenditures

Income Source	Amount	Description
Charter School Authorizing Fees	\$655,313	See attached spreadsheet for a schedule of fees from each school
Grants (external)	\$2,400	A-GAME Coalition of Early Adopters, Year 3 of 3
Total Income	\$657,713	

Expenditures	Amount	Description
Personnel Charter School Division (includes all payroll expenses, e.g. FICA, benefits, retirement)		
Osprey Wilds Staff Expenses	\$446,703	1.0 FTE Director of Charter School Authorizing 4.0 FTE Charter School Authorizing Specialist 0.625 FTE Finance & Administrative Support Total FTE: 5.625
Charter School Evaluators and Consultants	\$44,975	Contracted consultants and evaluators
Personnel Expenditures Subtotal	\$491,678	
Charter School Oversight, Professional Development, and Professional Expenses		
School site visits and meetings	\$10,641	Mileage, food, lodging, and parking
Trainings, meetings, and PD for schools	\$4,148	Includes charter school support, development, and technical assistance activities
OW Staff PD (travel, lodging, food, fees)	\$4,646	Includes professional development, staff meetings, and authorizing meetings
Legal fees	\$34,608	
Software and technology	\$7,763	License and development fees for Aerie, Dropbox, and software to support remote work
Oversight Expenditures Subtotal	\$61,806	
Administrative/Office Expenditures		
Rent	\$679	Storage unit
Office supplies and equipment	\$636	
Telecommunications	\$4,321	
Insurance	\$2,000	
Postage	\$430	Includes PO Box
Memberships, dues & subscriptions	\$12,345	Includes NACSA, MACSA, MACS, and NAAEE
Office Expenditures Subtotal	\$20,411	
Osprey Wilds Indirect Costs		
OW Indirect Costs	\$81,914	12.5% of authorizing fees
Other Expenditures Subtotal	\$81,914	
Total Expenditures	\$655,809	

Fund Balance Information

Beginning of Year Fund Balance = \$112,025 (16.4% of FY24 expenditures)

Net Income (Deficit) = \$1,904

End of Year Fund Balance = \$113,929

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center SY24-25 Authorizing Fees by School

SCHOOL	FEE PAID
Academic Arts High School	\$ 11,649.01
AFSA K-12	\$ 29,126.00
Angela Day School	\$ 0.00
Aurora Charter School	\$ 29,126.00
Aurora Waasakone Community of Learners	\$ 13,461.76
Cannon River STEM School	\$ 25,552.23
Central Lakes Adventure School	\$ 7,281.00
Crosslake Community School	\$ 29,126.00
Discovery Public School of Faribault	\$ 7,281.00
Discovery Woods Montessori School	\$ 8,681.58
East Range Academy	\$ 16,539.69
Endazhi-Nitaawiging	\$ 12,300.80
Excell Academy for Higher Learning	\$ 29,126.00
Glacial Hills Elementary School	\$ 9,980.34
Great Expectations School	\$ 12,490.57
Harvest Best Academy	\$ 29,126.00
Higher Ground Academy	\$ 29,126.00
La Crescent Montessori and STEM School	\$ 9,589.33
Laura Jeffrey Academy	\$ 15,475.12
Metro Schools	\$ 29,126.00
Minnesota Wildflower Montessori School	\$ 7,281.00
New Discoveries Montessori Academy	\$ 21,564.86
Noble Academy	\$ 29,126.00
North Lakes Academy	\$ 29,126.00
North Shore Community School	\$ 29,126.00
Northern Lights Community School	\$ 10,468.17
Oshki Ogimaag Charter School	\$ 7,281.00
Partnership Academy	\$ 29,126.00
Prairie Seeds Academy	\$ 29,126.00
Riverway Learning Community	\$ 15,424.79
Swan River Montessori Charter School	\$ 17,777.42
Technical Academies of MN	\$ 16,582.43
Three Rivers Montessori	\$ 13,021.21
United Academy of Excellence and Learning	\$ 0.00
Vermilion Country School	\$ 7,574.73
Voyagers Expeditionary School	\$ 14,813.62
World Learner School	\$ 23,728.84
TOTAL	\$ 655,312.50

Due to a math error in 2023-24, some schools' authorizer fee in 2024-25 is \$2 more than the statutory maximum authorizer fee. That is an adjustment to account for the error in FY24. For 2024-25 authorizer, schools were not assessed more than allowed by charter school law.

**Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
Charter School Division**

Balance Sheet 06/30/2025

ASSETS

Current Assets

Non-Restricted Investment Funds

SPMF Charter School Division Fund #704983 113,790.98

Total Non-Restricted Investment Funds 113,790.98

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable 0.00

Total Accounts Receivable 0.00

Other Current Assets

Prepaid Expenses 1,271.50

Total Other Current Assets 1,271.50

Total Current Assets 115,062.48

TOTAL ASSETS 115,062.48

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable 4,797.86

Total Accounts Payable 4,797.86

Other Current Liabilities

Accrued Wages & Related 26,615.53

Accrued Interest 0.00

Current Portion of LT Debt 0.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 26,615.53

Total Current Liabilities 31,413.39

Total Liabilities 31,413.39

Equity

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions 81,745.15

Net Income 1,903.94

Total Equity 83,649.09

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 115,062.48