



EDUCATION ONE
AT TRINE UNIVERSITY

Public Hearing

Dynamic Minds Academy -South
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Public Hearing Agenda

Welcome + Opening Remarks: Brief overview of Education One and application process of Dynamic Minds Academy-South

Presented by Education One

Presentation of Charter Application (20-30 minutes)

Presented by Dynamic Minds Academy South

Public Comment

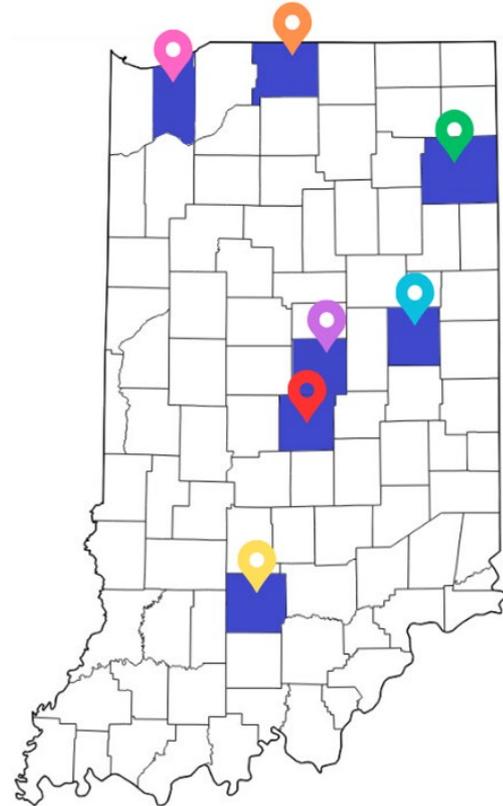
- Members of the public may provide verbal comments (limit: 2 minutes per speaker)

Closing Remarks + Next Steps

Presented by Education One

Education One

- Statewide University Authorizer, founded in 2012
- Portfolio Size: 16 schools (Fall 2025)
- Schools located in the following communities, with varied demographics and local needs:
 - Bedford
 - Fort Wayne
 - Indianapolis and Surrounding Areas
 - Muncie
 - Portage
 - South Bend
 - Statewide (Virtual)
- School Models/Types:
 - Standards-Based
 - Therapeutic Education
 - All-Girls STEM
 - Nature-Based Montessori
 - Project Based Learning
 - Alternative Education
 - Career and Technical Focus
 - Synchronous Virtual Learning
 - Traditional Model with high English Learner Enrollment



Guiding Principles

Our Guiding Principles serve as the foundation of who we are as an authorizer. They shape every aspect of our work, from how we make decisions and evaluate performance, to how we continuously improve and develop policies.

These principles ensure our actions remain mission-aligned, student-centered, and grounded in excellence.

- **Educator's Lens:** Our team's experience in education shapes how we support schools. Our processes reflect an understanding of what is needed to foster meaningful outcomes.
- **High Expectations:** Schools and Education One are held to high standards in academic, financial, and organizational performance with a focus on continuous improvement.
- **Commitment to Innovation:** Education One values schools that pursue innovative approaches and we model innovation in our authorizing practices through tailored oversight and partnerships.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** Education One fosters purposeful collaboration between Trine University and schools to enhance student outcomes.



Application Process

This phased process allows Education One to focus time and resources on proposals with the greatest potential for long-term success. Applicants are evaluated for academic design, organizational readiness, financial viability, and alignment with community needs. Only applicants who meet the required criteria may advance to each Phase.

Pre-Invitation

- Letter of Intent

Phase I

- Submission of Full Application

Phase II

- Conduct Capacity Interview

Phase III

- **Public Hearing**

Education One Board Meeting

- The Education One Board votes to approve or deny the application.
- Applicants are notified of the decision within 24 hours of the vote.



DYNAMIC MINDS
ACADEMY

GROW YOUR
OWN WAY!





OUR TEAM



Dynamic Minds Academy

Samantha Bandy, Education Director

Aaron Wallace, Associate Education Director

Andrew Crum, Special Education Coordinator

Joshua Wolf, College and Career Coordinator

The Hope Source

Julie Gordon, President
Founder of DMA

Kasey Kanger, Clinical Services Director
Enrollment Coordinator

Tia Forthofer, Family Resources Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair
Amy Thornburg

Member for 2.5
years

Board Vice Chair
Katie Kunkel

Member for 2
years

Board Treasurer
Michael Gilbert

Member for 5.5
years

Member
Blair Dawson

Member for 1.5
years

Member
Amanda Scott

Member for 1.5
years

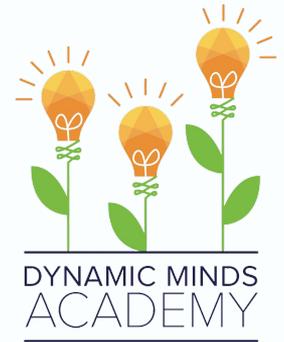
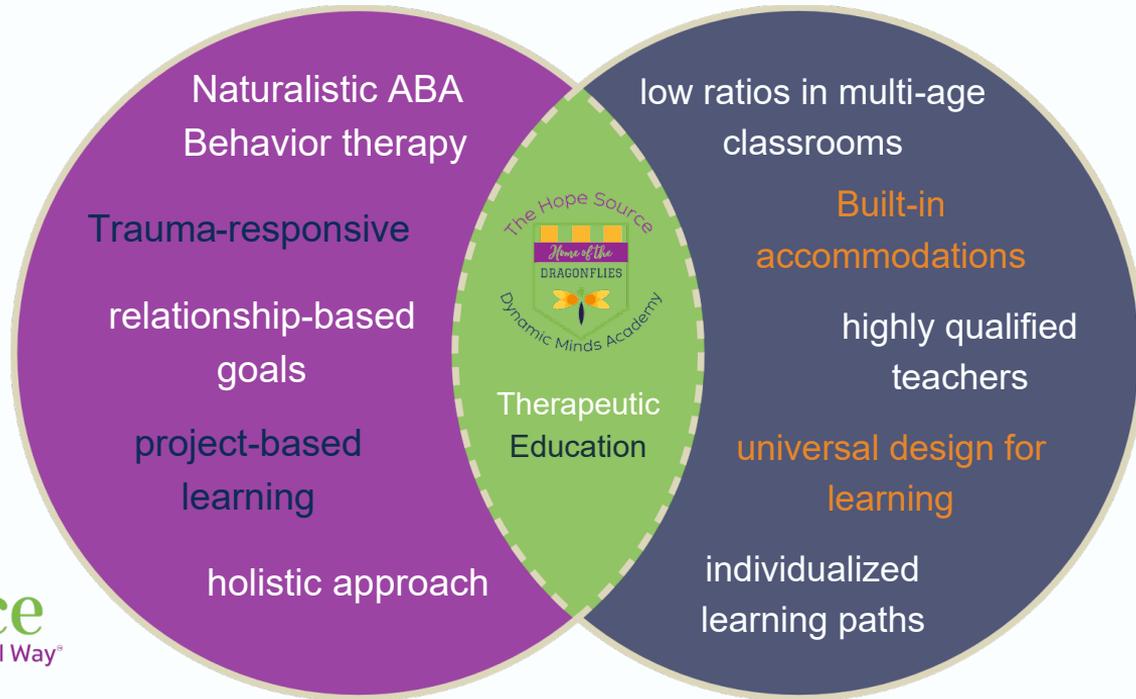
Member
Erin Fields

Member for 3
months



OUR MISSION

Dynamic Minds Academy aims to bridge the gap between treatment and education for students with autism spectrum disorder by providing evidence-based practices for personal growth within an optimal learning environment.



THE DRAGONFLY DIFFERENCE

- Dual enrollment in ABA therapy and education
- Year-Round Calendar (~240 school days)
- Support Services (speech, OT, PT, mental health)
- Therapeutic Labs for more intensive supports
- Vocational work experiences on and off-site through vocational labs
- Extra time for high school students to earn the diploma of their choice and achieve independence
- Family guidance sessions with BCBA's
- Balanced and Flexible Curriculums



institute for
multi-sensory
education



Math·U·See.



Day in the life of a

DRAGONFLY

MORNING

Morning is spent 1:1 with an RBT under the guidance of a BCBA, focusing on therapy goals through project-based learning and vocational activities

AFTERNOON

Instruction in a DMA classroom or therapeutic lab

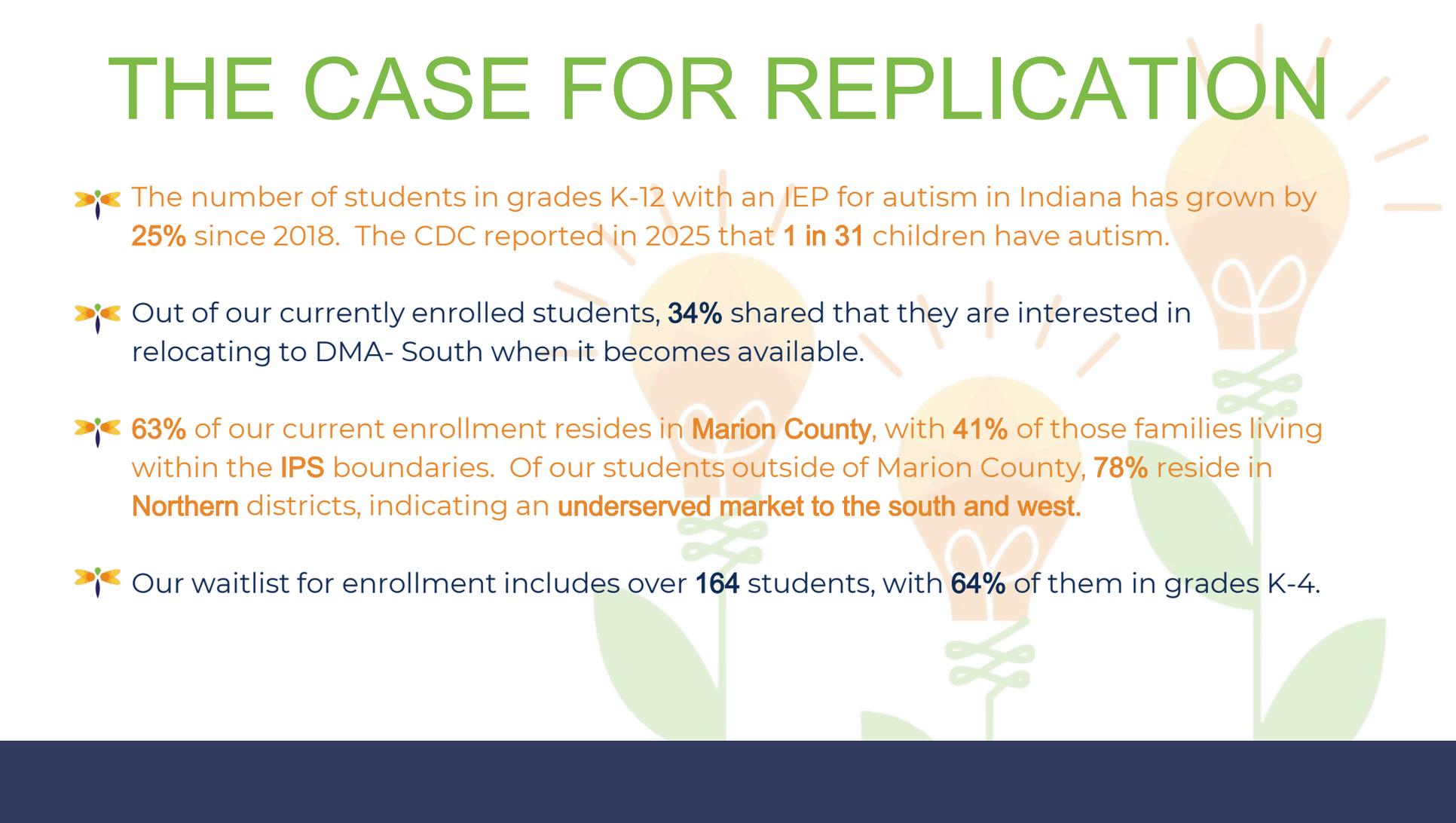
- Reading and Math Instruction using our balanced and flexible curriculums
- Therapeutic Lab Groups focused on Scientific Inquiry
- Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Mental Health Services
- Recreational, Music, and Art groups
- Ratios are 1:1 or 1:3 depending on student age and need



HISTORY OF RESULTS

- ✿ DMA opened in **2019** with **112** students in grades K-12, our current enrollment is **135** students.
- ✿ Student retention rate for 2025-2026 is **97%**. We are at a **94%** enrollment capacity in the current facility.
- ✿ Our current staff retention rate is **83%** for both certified and classified staff. **100%** of DMA administrators have been with the organization since **day one**. Also, **86%** of our teachers have been with the organization for **more than one year**.
- ✿ Instruction has been rated at **“Meets Expectations”** for **six years** running by Education One measured through instructional walkthroughs.
- ✿ **72%** of our **36** alumni earned a traditional diploma in an average of **6 years**.
- ✿ Our suspension ratio is **7 per 100** special education students compared to **31 per 100** for IPS Special Education Students. **100% of our students have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).**

THE CASE FOR REPLICATION

The background features three stylized lightbulbs on green stems with leaves. The lightbulbs are yellow and orange, with radiating lines above them, suggesting ideas or inspiration. The stems and leaves are a light green color.

- The number of students in grades K-12 with an IEP for autism in Indiana has grown by **25%** since 2018. The CDC reported in 2025 that **1 in 31** children have autism.
- Out of our currently enrolled students, **34%** shared that they are interested in relocating to DMA- South when it becomes available.
- **63%** of our current enrollment resides in **Marion County**, with **41%** of those families living within the **IPS** boundaries. Of our students outside of Marion County, **78%** reside in **Northern** districts, indicating an **underserved market to the south and west**.
- Our waitlist for enrollment includes over **164** students, with **64%** of them in grades K-4.

FUTURE HOME OF THE DRAGONFLIES



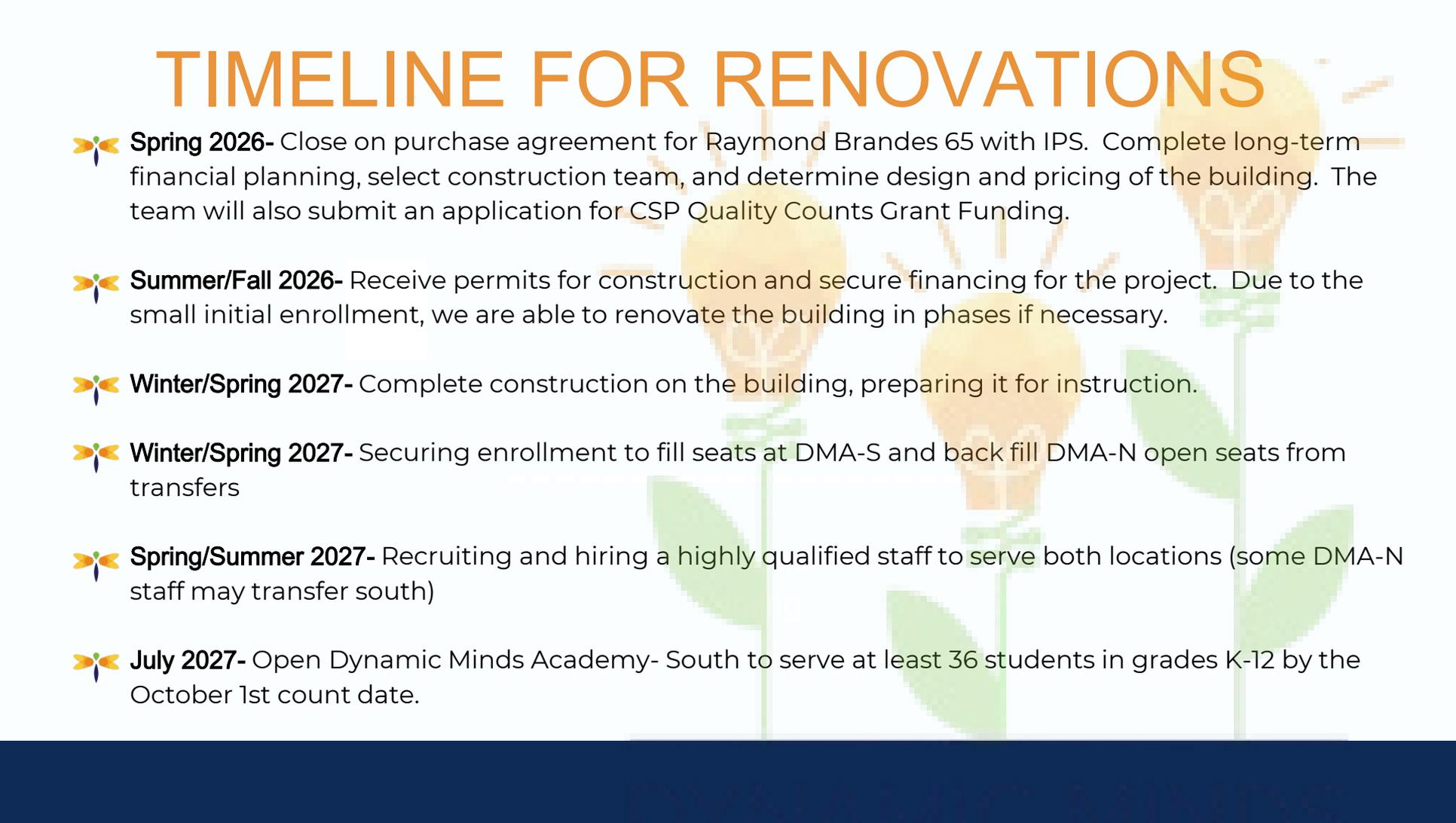
4065 Asbury Street, Indianapolis, IN 46227

Opening **Fall 2027** to serve grades K-12

Enrollment Projections:

- Year 1- 36 students
- Year 2- 60 students
- Year 3- 82 students
- Year 4- 110 students
- Year 5- 121 students

TIMELINE FOR RENOVATIONS



-  **Spring 2026-** Close on purchase agreement for Raymond Brandes 65 with IPS. Complete long-term financial planning, select construction team, and determine design and pricing of the building. The team will also submit an application for CSP Quality Counts Grant Funding.
-  **Summer/Fall 2026-** Receive permits for construction and secure financing for the project. Due to the small initial enrollment, we are able to renovate the building in phases if necessary.
-  **Winter/Spring 2027-** Complete construction on the building, preparing it for instruction.
-  **Winter/Spring 2027-** Securing enrollment to fill seats at DMA-S and back fill DMA-N open seats from transfers
-  **Spring/Summer 2027-** Recruiting and hiring a highly qualified staff to serve both locations (some DMA-N staff may transfer south)
-  **July 2027-** Open Dynamic Minds Academy- South to serve at least 36 students in grades K-12 by the October 1st count date.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ARIZONA AUTISM
CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1937

PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUE	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
DMA North	\$3,301,387.73	\$3,466,498.87	\$3,491,112.81	\$3,555,712.75	\$3,622,068.69	\$3,690,396.62
DMA South	\$616,338.80	\$2,221,095.33	\$1,400,789.92	\$1,947,082.06	\$2,628,144.77	\$2,978,334.53
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,917,726.53	\$5,687,594.19	\$4,891,902.73	\$5,502,794.81	\$6,250,213.45	\$6,668,731.15
EXPENSES	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
DMA North	\$2,798,085.10	\$3,001,735.03	\$3,057,739.78	\$3,090,268.74	\$3,287,105.14	\$3,323,153.12
DMA South	\$616,338.80	\$1,347,403.48	\$1,523,109.89	\$1,737,673.70	\$1,972,564.89	\$2,198,322.72
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,414,423.90	\$4,349,138.51	\$4,580,849.67	\$4,827,942.44	\$5,259,670.04	\$5,521,475.84
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$503,302.63	\$1,338,455.68	\$311,053.05	\$674,852.37	\$990,543.42	\$1,147,255.30

Public Comment

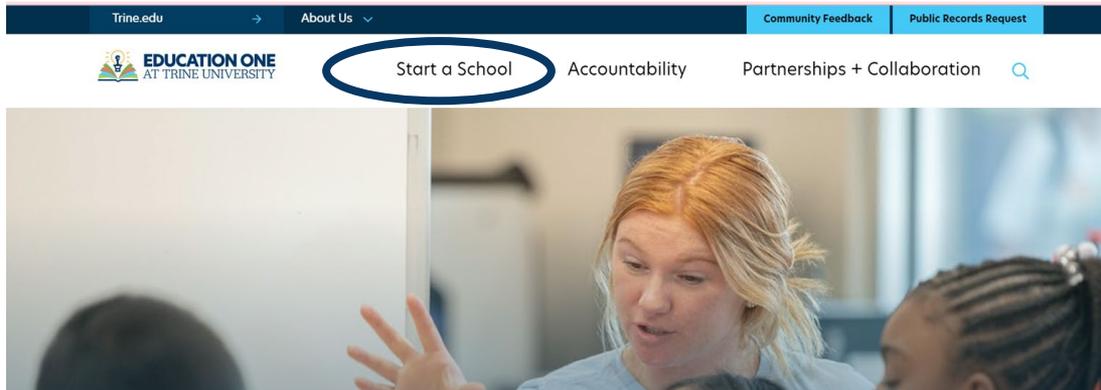
Your Voice Matters: Members of the public are invited to speak either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed charter school.

- **Time Limit:** 2 minutes per person
- **Prefer to Submit Written Comments?** Use our Online Public Comment Form available through Friday, March 6, 2026. Scan the QR Code to access the form:



Next Steps

- A copy of the school's full application is available at www.education1.org



- Public Comment results available Friday, March 6, 2026
- Education One Board Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026
- Contact Information: emily@education1.org