



EDUCATION ONE
AT TRINE UNIVERSITY

Public Hearing

**Rooted School Indianapolis
7-12 and K-6 Applications
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

Public Hearing Agenda

Welcome + Opening Remarks: Brief overview of Education One and application process of Rooted School Indianapolis

Presented by Education One

Presentation of Charter Application (20-30 minutes)

Presented by Rooted School Indianapolis

Public Comment

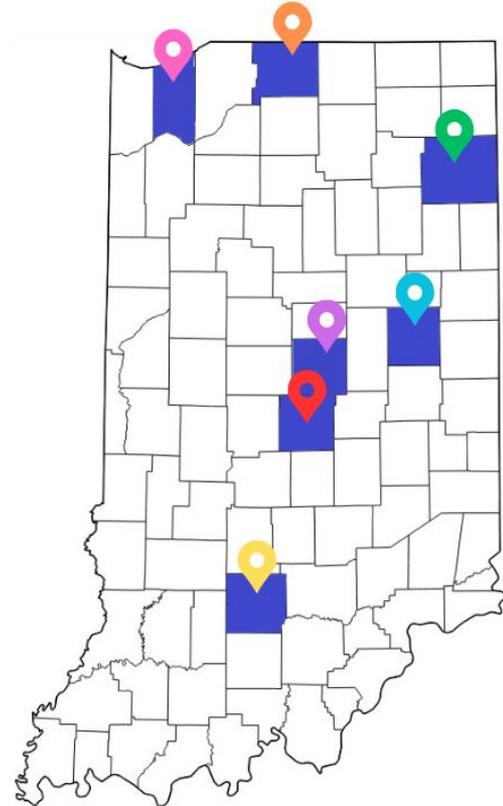
- Members of the public may provide verbal comments (limit: 2 minutes per speaker)

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
- Initial Proposal + Pitch Meeting
(Optional for Existing Schools)

Phase I

- Submission of Full Application

Phase II

- Conduct Capacity Interview
- School Site Visit
(Only for Existing Schools)
- Trajectory Timeline and Analysis Based on Current Authorizer Communication + Documentation
(Only for Existing Schools)

Phase III

- Attend a Board Meeting
(If Schedules Permit)
- **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.

Rooted School Indianapolis

Renewal Story: Six Years of Building Pathways to Financial Freedom

2026 Presentation |

Prepared for: Education One

Introduction of the Team

Board of Directors

Leigh Riley Evans- Board Chair

Nick Birch -Treasurer

Morgan Galbreth

Tenika Holden-Flynn

Chuong Nguyen

Amrutha Pulikottil

Leadership Team

Ma'at Lands- Founder/Executive Director

Dr. David McGuire

Dr. Devan Heiber

Why Rooted, Why Now

Demonstrating impact and clarifying the next 6-year chapter.

Rooted's Definition of Success

- Close the financial wealth gap within our students' lifetimes
- Students build durable skills + credentials + real work experience
- Goal: job offer in one hand, college acceptance in the other

Rooted's Overall Performance

- Evidence of academic progress & readiness outcomes
- Strong governance, compliance, and a sustainable financial position
- A clear case for responsible growth

Strategic Growth and Authorizer Transition Timeline

2020

Founding Year- 9th Grade
Builds foundational culture and systems

2021

Expansion to Grade 10
Academic systems strengthened

2022

Expansion to Grade 11 ,
Founded 7th grade
Financial Systems stabilized

2023

Full 9-12 model in place,
Expansion to 8th grade
Director of Academics-hired
Continue increase in academic growth

2024

Board discussion regarding current authorizer capacity
Initial exploratory conversation with Education One regarding potential authorizer partnership

2025

Board vote to pursue authorizer transition

How Rooted aligns to the proposed IDOE accountability direction

IDOE characteristic → Rooted design response

Academic Mastery

Aligned curriculum + targeted intervention; expansion begins earlier (Grade 6 → K–5) to strengthen literacy & numeracy foundations.

Career & Postsecondary Readiness

Work-based learning, paid internships, and credential pathways embedded in the model.

Communication & Collaboration

Project-based work and mentorship; professional skills practiced through real-world experiences.

Work Ethic

Advisory, 360 supports, attendance habits, and goal-setting tied to future pathways.

Civic, Financial, & Digital Literacy

Financial literacy is core to Rooted's mission; students learn tech skills and practical applications.

Bottom line: Rooted's model is already oriented toward the same "whole child + future-ready outcomes" framework Indiana is proposing statewide.

Rooted's model: "College + career" with a financial-freedom north star

A school design that intentionally links academics to skills, experiences, and real economic outcomes.

Core components

- Personalized learning + advisory
- 360 supports: social-emotional + wraparound
- internships + adult mentorship
- Industry-aligned certifications and postsecondary pathways
- Financial literacy embedded in the student experience
- Growth in programming and community partnership

The student goal

**"Job offer in one hand
and a college acceptance
letter in the other."**

Partnership-driven design

Rooted's program is explicitly built around local partnerships that shape skills, credentials, and work-based experiences.

Community Landscape Alignment

Middle School Support Continuum: Launching with Grade 6 strengthens academic transition from elementary to secondary, including targeted summer learning supports

Sibling Access & Family Stability: Families expressed desire for siblings to attend one coherent school pathway

K–5 to 6 Coherence: Expansion ensures academic, cultural, and instructional continuity from early literacy through middle grades.

Parent & Community Surveys: Feedback indicates demand for earlier grade access and a unified college & career pathway beginning in elementary years

Strategic K–12 Vision: Phased expansion supports long-term sustainability while maintaining quality and operational readiness.

Grade 6 Expansion

Strengthen the bridge into the 7–12 pathway and improve readiness outcomes.

Why Grade 6 first

- Earlier onboarding into Rooted culture, advisory, and 360 supports
- More time to build literacy, numeracy, and learning habits
- Earlier exposure to “career engagement” and financial literacy
- Reduces transitions that can disrupt student progress

What will change for students

- A Grade 6 “launch year” focused on foundational skills + identity as a learner
- Strong reading + math acceleration blocks
- Advisory routines and goal-setting from day one
- Introductions to career pathways through projects and community partnerships

This expansion is aligned to IDOE’s direction: “the essential building blocks are literacy & math in early grades,” with increasing emphasis on skills, experiences, and credentials as students progress.

K–5 foundation

Begin the pathway earlier to accelerate reading, math, and lifelong skills.

Why K–5

- Literacy and numeracy are the highest-leverage levers for later success.
- Earlier intervention reduces the need for remediation later.
- Families gain a stable, mission-aligned option for a full K–12 journey.
- Rooted can develop the “skills and experiences” continuum over time, not as an add-on.

K–5 design principles (draft)

- Strong early literacy (science of reading aligned)
- Daily math reasoning and fluency
- SEL + habits of success embedded in classrooms
- Age-appropriate financial & digital literacy experiences
- Family partnership as a core strategy

Alignment to the proposed state model

IDOE’s proposed system keeps literacy and math at the center in early grades while still valuing civic/financial/digital literacy and skill development over time—exactly the pathway Rooted intends to build starting in K–5.

Teaching and Learning Model

Hybrid Learning 7-12

Self-Directed Learning: Encourages students to set personal goals and manage their own learning pace through tailored resources.

Small Group Instruction: Facilitates personalized learning experiences in small cohorts to enhance student engagement and understanding.

Project-Based Learning: Integrates real-world projects to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in students.



Hybrid Learning K-6

Developmental Shifts: Tailored strategies for younger learners' growth and engagement in a hybrid model.

Guided Discovery: Foundational skill-building through short, high-engagement lessons and structured, gamified practice to bridge the gap between play and academic autonomy.

New Learning Strategies: Incorporates play-based learning and collaborative projects for effective skill-building in K–6.

Core Curriculum

Curriculum	Grade Level	Focus
Illustrative Mathematics	7-12	Active, Problem-Based Learning & Conceptual Understanding
Engage NY	9-12	Evidence-Based Analysis of Complex Texts
Amplify ELA	6-8	Interactive, Text-Based Inquiry Through Digital Storytelling
OpenSci	9-11	Real-World Inquiry Through Student-Led Storylines
McGraw Hill (Social Studies)	9-10	Inquiry-Based Literacy Through Multiple Perspectives
EL Education Language Arts	K-5	Content-Based Literacy That Builds Mastery, Character, and High-Quality Work
Envision Mathematics	K-6	Conceptual Understanding Through Visual Models and Problem-Based Learning

Academic Achievement Highlights

- **Three-Year ELA Surge:** Middle school ELA proficiency increased by 20% from 2023 to 2025, representing a four-fold increase in just two years.
- **SAT/PSAT Benchmarks:** The percentage of 11th-grade students meeting the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) benchmark grew 14% from 2023 to 2025, nearly tripling college-readiness indicators.
- **ELL Breakthrough:** In 2025, the ELL subgroup achieved 40% ELA proficiency on ILearn.

Rooted's model is already oriented toward the "whole child + future-ready" framework Indiana is proposing statewide. By expanding, we ensure that the growth we've already proven becomes the standard for every child from Kindergarten through career.

Academic Achievement Highlights

Year	School	SAT ELA Proficiency %	SAT Math Proficiency %	Founded
2023	RSI	28%	6%	2020 (1st year data)
2023	CS #1	40%	14.3%	2019
2023	CS #2	18%	4%	2004
2023	CS #3	39%	0%	2013
2023	CS #4	30.6%	13.3%	2017
2023	CS #5	28.2%	12.8%	2004
2023	IPS	16.6%	4.3%	n/a
2023	State	49%	30%	n/a
2025	RSI	20%	15%	(3rd year data)
2025	CS #1	35.9%	10.9%	2019
2025	CS #2	10.9%	1.6%	2004
2025	CS #3	24.1%	3.4%	2013
2025	CS #4	52.3%	19.5%	2017
2025	CS #5	34.3%	8.6%	2004
2025	IPS	18%	6.3%	n/a
2025	State	54%	25%	n/a

Year	School	ILEARN ELA	ILEARN Math	Founded
2024	Rooted	14.8%	5.6%	1st year as 7/8
2024	CS #6	19.1%	6.2%	2017
2024	CS #7	11.4%	4.6%	2004
2024	CS #8	14.9%	9.7%	2020
2024	CS #9	19.1%	23.5%	2017
2024	CS #10	29%	8.3%	2019
2025	Rooted	25%	12.5%	2nd year as 7/8
2025	CS #6	17.5%	8.2%	2017
2025	CS #7	13%	9.7%	2004
2025	CS #8	16.3%	7.2%	2020
2025	CS #9	28.5%	11.5%	2017
2025	ICS #10	0%	7.7%	2019

School	ELA	Math	Both	Notes
Rooted - 2024	14.8%	5.6%	1.9%	1st year as 7/8 Middle School
Rooted - 2025 (8th Grade)	36%	13%	13%	2nd Year as 7/8 Middle School
Rooted - 2025 (ELL)	40%	13%	13%	

****2025 cohort is the first group of students who completed middle school during COVID****

Next Phase of Growth: Areas of Instructional Effectiveness

Elevating Educator Excellence

We are strengthening our impact by pairing an aligned, research-backed curriculum with intensive instructional coaching to ensure rigorous, high-quality instruction in every classroom.

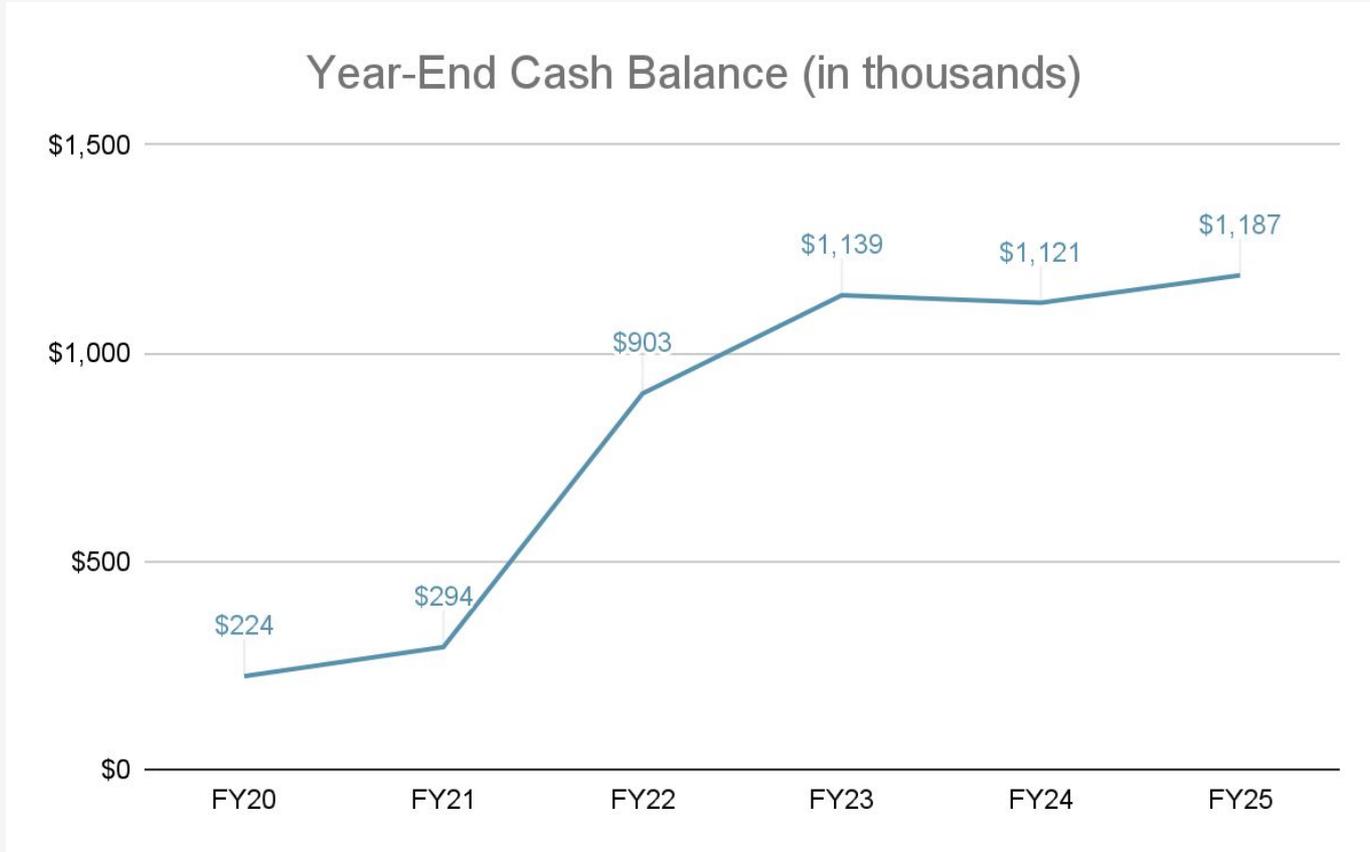
Precision in Instructional Execution

Our focus has shifted to the "art of the delivery" to increase consistency in lesson execution, data-driven practices, and targeted interventions to accelerate academic growth.

Empowering Individual Pathways (Special Populations)

We are deepening our "360-degree" support model to ensure that our English Learners, students with IEPs, and other special populations realize personalized pathways, equitable access, and strong progress toward college and career goals.

Rooted has managed finances effectively, building a healthy cash balance



Rooted can continue to sustainably expand its mission

FY26 (Current) - FY33 Projections

(in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33
Revenue	\$3,289	\$3,138	\$3,302	\$3,688	\$5,049	\$4,912	\$5,364	\$5,382
Expenses	3,636	3,109	3,185	3,622	4,470	4,827	5,301	5,557
Net Income	(\$347)¹	\$29	\$117	\$66	\$579	\$85	\$64	\$274
End Cash	\$1,200	\$1,229	\$1,346	\$1,412	\$1,991	\$2,076	\$2,139	\$2,414

Assumptions

- Major Revenue Sources: Basic Grant, Charter Innovation Grant/Ops Levy, Federal Titles, Meal Program, CSP (early/expansion years)
- K–2 added FY30; phased 3–5 expansion through FY33
- Conservative staffing ramp and facility planning ensure sustainability

¹FY26 projected loss attributed to expenses recognized FY26 for restricted grant funds received and recognized as revenue in FY25

Rooted's Commitment to our Students and Community

Rooted was founded to expand opportunity, not just access to school, but access to college, career, and financial freedom.

Every decision, from authorizer alignment to financial planning, has been guided by one question: ***What gives our students the strongest chance to thrive?***

We remain committed to building a school community where students are known, supported, and prepared for the future they deserve.

Public Comment

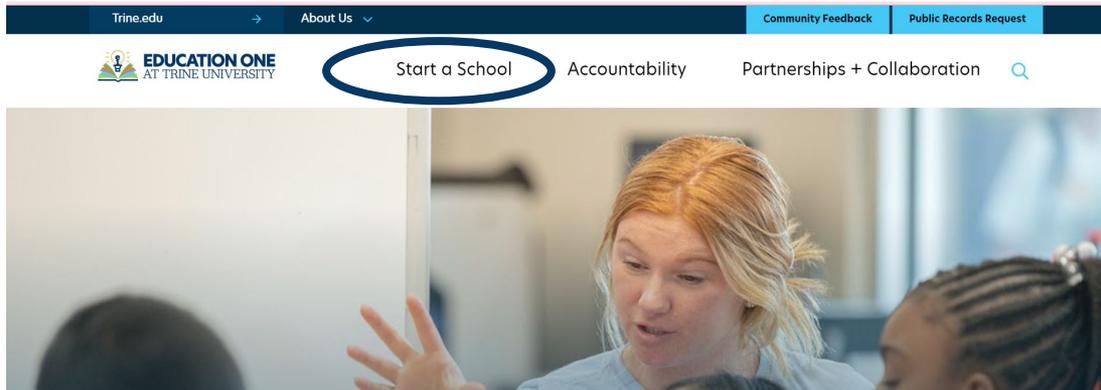
Your Voice Matters: Members of the public are invited to speak either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed charter school.

- **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