



**DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by Heather Lines, M. Ed.

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## **Introduction**

Discovery Charter School is a public charter school, founded in 2016. It is located in the southeast metro area of Minneapolis and St. Paul, in Inver Grove Heights. During its first year, Discovery Charter School served 189 students in grades K-5. Discovery charter School offers an integrated curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM.

### **Vision Statement**

Discovery Charter School will embrace a multidisciplinary curriculum with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to provide a challenging learning environment that values creativity, diversity and multiculturalism to prepare its students for life-long learning, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving.

### **Mission Statement**

Discovery Charter School's mission is to prepare students to become excellent questioners, scientific thinkers and responsible citizens. Students will work respectfully and collaboratively applying scientific, technological and mathematical concepts and principles to develop a strong work ethic and critical thinking skills needed to solve problems in the real world and to prepare them for future academic success.

Authorizer for Discovery Charter School  
Novation Education Opportunities (NEO)  
3432 Denmark Avenue, Suite 130  
Eagan, MN 55123  
[www.neoaauthorizer.org](http://www.neoaauthorizer.org)

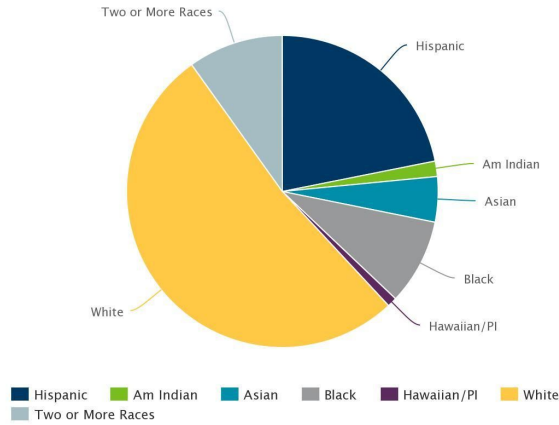
## **School Enrollment**

As a public charter, our school is free and all students are welcome. Bus transportation is available to those living in Inver Grove, South St. Paul, and Woodbury.

In accordance with state law, if we receive more applications than available seats, a lottery will held for admission.

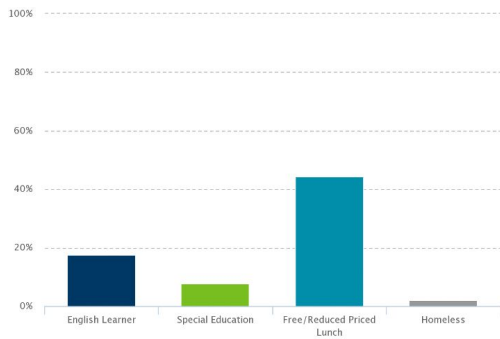
Our student to teacher ratio was 20:1 for the 2016-2017 academic year, with two classrooms per grade level.

Discovery Charter School's demographics are as follows:



Hispanic/Latino – 22%  
 American Indian/Alaska Native – 2%  
 Asian – 5%  
 Black/African American – 9%  
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 1%  
 White – 51%  
 Two or More Races – 10%

Discovery Charter School's Enrollment by Special Population:



English Learner – 18%  
 Special Education – 8%  
 Free/Reduced Lunch – 44%  
 Homeless – 2%

### Attrition

Moving into the 2017-2018 academic year, Discovery Charter had 220 students enrolled. Due to bussing boundary changes, DCS lost a number of families and the ADM dropped to 185 by the 10/1/2017 MARSS submission.

### Governance and Management

The Discovery Charter School Board of Directors 2016-2017 consisted of community members, teachers, and parents. There was some turnover in membership throughout the year but DCS Board proceedings remained in compliance with State of Minnesota. The authorizer, Novation Education Opportunities (NEO) monitored and recorded notes during Board meetings each month. Meeting minutes recorded by the Secretary reside on the DCS website. Hardcopies are secured in the office of the Director of Operations. The following members served on the Board of Directors for DCS in 2016-2017:

Name	Position	Affiliation	Date seated	Term end	Email
Muhammad Rizwan Farooq	Chairperson	Community Member	10/2015	12/2016	mrfarooq@discoverymn.org
Sam Master	Interim Chairperson	Community Member	1/2015	12/31/17	smaster@discoverymn.org
Tamer Sharafeldin	Vice Chairperson	Community Member	9/2014	10/2017	tsharafeldin@discoverymn.org
Ahmed Adam	Treasurer	Community Member	10/2016	Current	aadam@discoverymn.org
Shannon Benalshaikh	Ex-Officio Secretary	School Administrator	1/2015	Current	sbenalshaikh@discoverymn.org
Mary Pat German	Board Member	Teacher	11/2016	Current	mgerman@discoverymn.org
Ashley Feehan	Secretary	Teacher	4/2016	11/2016	afeehan@discoverymn.org
Norma Mejia	Board Member	Parent	2/2017	10/2017	nmejia@discoverymn.org
Dan Hurley	Ex-Officio	Executive director	2/2015	6/2017	dhurley@discoverymn.org

Board Training is up to date.

BOARD MEMBER INFO								TRAINING REQUIREMENTS		
Name	Status	Position	Board Seat	Term Start	Term End	6 Month	Training Status	FINANCE	GOVERNANCE	MANAGEMENT
Abbott, Jesse	Active	Member	Parent	9/28/2017	6/30/2019	3/28/2018	In Progress	6-Dec-2017		
Adam, Ahmed	Active	Treasurer	Community Member	10/28/2016	6/30/2019	2/28/2017	Compliant	7-Jan-2017	7-Jan-2017	7-Jan-2017
Benalshaikh, Shannor	Active	Ex-Officio	Ex-Officio- Director of Ops	1/31/2015		NA	NA			
German, Mary Pat	Active	Member	Teacher-319062	11/16/2016	6/30/2017	5/16/2016	Compliant	7-Jan-2017	7-Jan-2017	7-Jan-2017
Lines, Heather	Active	Ex-officio	Ex-Officio- Exec Director	8/22/2017		NA	NA			
Master, Samuel	Active	Board Chair	Community Member	1/30/2015	12/31/2017	7/30/2015	Compliant	12-Sep-2015	12-Sep-2015	12-Sep-2015
Ashbacher, Tony	Active	Secretary	Parent	10/28/2017	10/31/2020	4/28/2017	In Progress	6-Dec-2017		
Norma Mejia	Inactive	Member	Parent	Feb-17	9/28/2017		NA			
Sharafeldin, Tamer	Inactive	Vice Chair	Parent	1/1/2014	9/28/2017		Complaint	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15
Hurley, Daniel	Inactive	Ex-Officio	Ex-Officio- Exec Director	2/1/2016	6/30/2017		NA		NA	
Farooq, Muhammad	Inactive	Member	Community Member	10/21/2015	11/30/2016		Out of Compliance		08-Mar-16	
Feehan, Ashley	Inactive	Secretary	Teacher-452972	4/3/2016	11/16/2016		Compliant	22-May-16		
Ismail, Abir	Inactive	Board Chair	Community Member	1/30/2015	4/3/2016		Compliant	29-Aug-15	29-Aug-15	29-Aug-15
Glasch, Margeret	Inactive	Board Chair	Community Member	1/1/2014	6/30/2015		Complaint	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15
Diahame, Ndeye	Inactive	Member	Teacher-417992	1/1/2014	1/1/2015		NA		NA	
Blewett, Ellen	Inactive	Secretary	Community Member	1/30/2015			Compliant	29-Aug-15	29-Aug-15	29-Aug-15
Harb, Rania	Inactive	Member	Community Member	1/14/2014			Out of Compliance	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15
Yang, Pal	Inactive	Member	Community Member				NA		NA	

In lieu of a District Advisory Committee, five separate advisory committees make recommendations to the Board of Directors. These include: The Finance Committee, Curriculum Committee, Policy Committee, Personnel, and Governance Committees. These committees reflect the diversity of the district. They include teachers, parents, support staff, and other community members.

*The Finance Committee* reviews finances and provides direction for the Board for fiscal responsibility and ensures that organizational funds are being distributed and spent appropriately.

*Curriculum Committee* explores options for instructional materials to meet the needs of students and teachers in fulfilling the mission of the school. For Discovery Charter School, the STEM curriculum Pitsco was chosen to replace STEM FUSE.

Policy Committee will work to establish and review school policies.

*Governance Committee* will oversee the ongoing Board evaluation process and conduct regular re-examination of the school's mission, vision, and bylaws. This committee will also establish personnel, practice procedures.

*Personnel Committee* will conduct annual reviews of, and establish goals for the Executive Director.

Advisory Committee Member	Role in District	Committee(s) Served
Andy Xiong	Curriculum Director	Curriculum
Mark Erikson	Parent	Policy
Ahmed Adam	Community Member	Finance

Mary Pat German	Teacher	Curriculum, Finance, and Personnel
Jennifer Abbott	Parent	Finance
Shannon Benalshaikh	Support Staff	Finance and Policy
Ann Yang	Consultant for DCS	Finance
Sam Master	Board Chair	Finance, Personnel, Policy
Ken LaCasse	Parent	Finance and Policy
Ashley Feehan	Teacher	Personnel, Curriculum
Dan Hurley	Administrator	Finance, Policy, Curriculum, Governance
Tamer Sharafeldin	Community Member	Curriculum

#### Staffing for 2016-2017

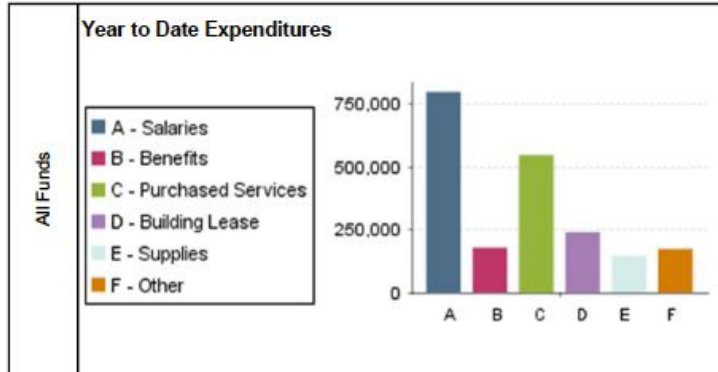
Name	Assignment	File Folder #	Start Date	End Date
Dan Hurley	Executive Director	410812	2/1/2016	6/30/2017
Andy Xiong	Curriculum Director	354401	3/1/2016	6/30/2017
Shannon Benalshaikh	Director of Operations	NA	7/1/2016	Current
Jessica Stevens	Kindergarten Instructor	438551	8/15/2016	Current
Lisa Schneider	Kindergarten Instructor	494011	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Heidi Johnson	Grade 1 Instructor	413416	8/15/2016	Current
Joshua Johnson	Grade 1 Instructor	478202	9/9/2016	6/9/2017
Mary Pat German	Grade 2 Instructor	319062	8/15/2016	Current
Ashley Kariniemi	Grade 2 Instructor	488914	8/15/2016	Current
Rachel McConnon	Grade 3 Instructor	495502	8/15/2016	Current
Jenna Whiting	Grade 3 Instructor	492966	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Mikayla Curtis	Grade 4 Instructor	493536	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Jennifer Roberts	Grades 5-6 Instructor	448106	8/15/2016	6/9/2017

Jay Johnson	Phy Ed Instructor	371491	8/30/2016	10/13/2017
Jenna Jacobsen	Spanish Instructor	496456	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Joanna Fliegelman	Music Instructor	445572	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Yoselin Lopez	Paraprofessional	NA	8/15/2016	Current
Alicia Landa	Administrative Assistant	NA	8/22/2016	Current
Lea Rydel	Paraprofessional	NA	8/15/2016	Current
Noelia Mejorado	Educational Assistant	NA	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Abigail Akyigyina	Educational Assistant	NA	8/15/2016	6/9/2017
Lisa Farley	Food Service	NA	8/15/2016	6/9/2017



Finances

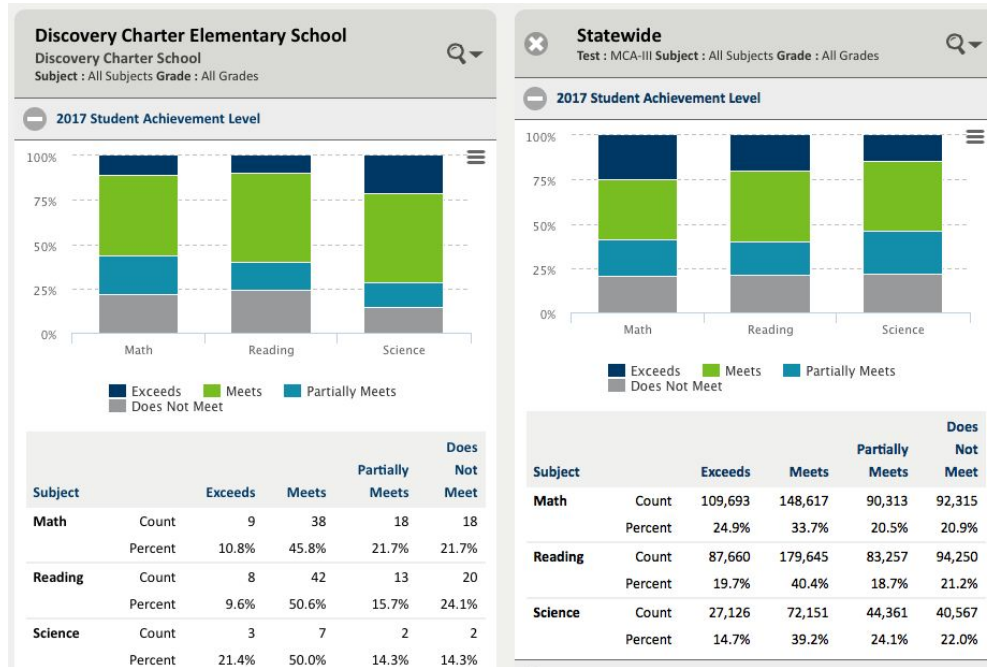
## Discovery Charter School Reporting Period Overview for SFY 2016-2017



Fund 01	Year To Date	Actual	Current Budget	% of Budget
	Revenue	\$2,005,977	\$1,973,851	102%
	Expense	\$1,954,508	\$1,879,269	104%
	Net	\$51,468	\$94,582	

All Funds	Cash On Hand At - 6/30/2017	\$50,176	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
	Cash On Hand At - 6/30/2017	\$50,176	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
	Change In Cash On Hand	\$0	Net change: 0%
	Cash On Hand At - 6/30/2016	-\$9,921	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
	Cash On Hand At - 6/30/2017	\$50,176	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
	Change In Cash On Hand	\$60,097	Net change: -606%

## Academic performance



## Innovative practices and Implementation

Innovative practices for Discovery Charter School are encompassed in the mission and vision of the school. It embraces an integrated curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The sciences are explored through reading, writing, math, social studies, physical education, music, and art.

## Changes for 2017-2018

- 1.) Start and end times for the school day were modified to ensure transportation times of current transportation company, Monarch. Looking forward to 2018-2019, DCS may try to readjust the schedule to its original times, pending survey results.
- 2.) Bus transportation boundaries were narrowed in order to manage transportation costs.

- 3.) STEM Fuse curriculum was replaced with the Pitsco. As the preferred STEM curriculum is implemented, the administration and staff will work to integrate those units into other areas of the curriculum. The curriculum committee will now be an administrative committee managed by the Executive Director.
- 4.) Staffing changes for 2017-2018 include the addition of a STEM specialist and Art Specialist.
- 5.) Board Development Committee started in Fall of 2017. The Board Development Committee will work to enlist candidates who will provide diversity in culture, vocation, and education. It will also facilitate and manage the voting process.



