



JENNINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

GRADES 7-12

Annual Report 2016-17

**Produced by Designs for Learning &
Jennings Community School
2455 University Avenue West
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114
<http://www.jenningsclc.org>**

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A charter school may combine this report with the reporting required under section **120B.11 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCESS FOR REVIEWING CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT; STRIVING FOR THE WORLD'S BEST WORKFORCE.**

Per...	Requirement	Included on page...
Statute	<p>Annual Report Posted to Website</p> <p>Is your annual report posted to the school website?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In addition to making the annual report accessible to your current stakeholders, it can also be a great marketing tool. Be sure to post it on your website where it can easily be found by those seeking to learn more about your school.</i> 	Yes
Statute	<p>Annual Report Distribution</p> <p>Was the annual report distributed to school employees, parents and legal guardians, and authorizer by publication, mail, or electronic means in a timely manner?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When your Annual report is uploaded to Epicenter, please provide a note that states how and when it was distributed</i> 	Yes
Statute	<p>School Enrollment</p> <p>Does it contain school enrollment data?</p> <p><i>Historical enrollment data by grade level and total count of students.</i></p>	Pg. 7
Statute	<p>Student Attrition</p> <p>Does it contain student attrition information?</p> <p><i>Attrition is measured as a percentage of students leaving each school year for any reason; transferring to another school, moving, expulsion, etc. You may choose to use the rate of attrition calculated one of two ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the Year Attrition Calculation <i>Number of students enrolled by October 1 who leave the school before the last day of the school year ÷ Number of students enrolled by October 1 who remain continuously enrolled to the last day of the same school year = within the year attrition rate</i> Year to Year Attrition Calculation 	Pg. 7

	<p><i>Number of students who left the school between the last day of previous year (2014-15) and first day of new school year (2016-17)* ÷ Number of students enrolled on the last day of previous year (2014-15)* = year to year attrition rate</i></p> <p><i>*For year to year calculation, be sure to eliminate any students not eligible to return from both counts (e.g. graduating seniors, or 5th graders in the case of a K-5 school, etc.)</i></p>	
Statute	<p>Governance and Management</p> <p>Does it contain an update on governance and management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Including board roster, board trainings, election process and committees</i> • <i>Including members of school leadership and their roles</i> 	Pgs. 8-9
Statute	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Does it contain an update on staffing structure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Including professional development activities for the year</i> • <i>Including roster of all staff and/or complete organizational chart</i> 	Pg. 10
Statute	<p>Finances</p> <p>Are there financial statements included?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Including balance sheet (audited or unaudited) as of June 30, 2016, statement of revenue and expenditures for year ending June 30, 2016, and information on current and projected fund balance</i> 	Pg. 11
Statute & Contract	<p>Academic Performance</p> <p>Is there an update on the academic performance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In alignment with the charter school contract academic and non-academic goals</i> • <i>In alignment with the charter school performance framework</i> 	Pg. 11
Statute	<p>Innovative Practices and Implementation</p> <p>Does the report discuss innovative practices and implementation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The school's annual report must document the implementation of the school's innovative practices, which include innovative learning opportunities, teaching methodologies, formats for measuring outcomes, formats of accountability and/ or professional opportunities for teachers.</i> 	Pg. 23
Statute	<p>Future Plans</p> <p>Does the report update on future planning?</p>	Pg. 25

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If applicable, include progress and updates on strategic plans, goals, and initiatives. 	
Statute & Contract	<p>Statutory Purposes</p> <p>Is there a summary on how the school is meeting the primary and additional purposes per MN Statute?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Including the primary purpose to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement.</i> <i>Including the selected additional purposes to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>increase learning opportunities for all pupils;</i> <i>encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods</i> <i>measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes;</i> <i>establish new forms of accountability for schools; or</i> <i>create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.</i> 	Pg. 6

Jennings Community School: Introduction

Jennings Community School, Minnesota Independent School District #4031, has completed eighteen years as an independent charter school, and is pleased to present this annual report for the 2016-17 school year!

The Jennings Community School vision statement is *Global Experiences to Change Lives*.

The JCS mission statement: *Jennings Community School students will work to become self-directed lifelong learners, productive workers, responsible citizens, and creative, healthy individuals.*

At JCS we strongly believe learning should take place within real-world, meaningful contexts, for students who learn best through experience. This is accomplished at JCS by providing students with rich project-based environments that allow them to explore their community first-hand; through extensive field learning experiences, community service projects, and investigation of real-world problems. Learning is exciting and critical to all students’ lives, and at JCS we are committed to helping young people rediscover their innate passion for learning!

The balance of the report is organized around the ten required elements of charter school annual reports as specified by Minnesota statute (M.S. 124D.10, subd. 14), with additional information that will help readers understand this school.

Primary and Secondary Purposes of a Charter School per MN Statute

- The primary purpose of a MN Charter School is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement. JCS addresses this by focusing on delivering individualized education to students who may have fallen through the cracks at other schools. Our staff advisors identify gaps in student learning and focus on developing core skills students will need as adults. Many of our students have several months or yearlong gaps in their education. Our program meets student needs in a collaborative process.
- Additional Purposes
 - Increase learning opportunities for all pupils: JCS works with students to identify how they learn best, and to identify their specific learning needs. Each student works with an advisor to develop a Personal Learning Plan. Students at JCS are also provided with several travel opportunities over the year, to expand and increase their awareness of current issues affecting national and global communities.
 - Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods: JCS teachers are a small group who work closely with each other to address student learning needs with a variety of tools. They are passionate about teaching and are not afraid of trying new teaching methods or tools. As such, students at Jennings learn in a variety of ways: seminar classes, project based learning, online learning tools, and real world experience.
 - Measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring options: JCS measures learning outcomes in a variety of ways: completion of credits, projects, time spent “on track” in school, a school survey, the Hope Survey, student performance, and student participation in their own learning career. Our teachers and administrative staff are continuously working to document student progress outside of the formality of standardized tests.
 - Establish new forms of accountability for schools: Developing new metrics to measure student progress is essential for JCS to maintain accountability to our mission and our stakeholders. We continue to work collaboratively to maintain accountability.
 - Create new professional opportunities for teachers: As a small school, all of our teaching staff are involved in leadership decisions. Our staff is experienced and passionate teachers; our unique teaching environment invites them to take the lead in student education and voice their opinions. We believe this is part of the reason our staff continues to work at our school, year after year.

School Enrollment and Student Attrition

Student Enrollment and Attrition Rates

This table identifies the number of students enrolled at the school during the, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and estimated 2017-18 enrollment. Data is based on October 1 enrollment.

The policy of Jennings Community School is to accept all students who request enrollment, as long as they are Minnesota residents and in grades 7-12. The Board has placed a cap on overall enrollment at 92. This has not yet been reached, but if it is reached students to be admitted will be selected by lottery, with the exception of sibling preference. Application/ enrollment forms are available at the school or online at <http://www.jenningsclc.org/enroll.php>.

During the 2015/16 school year, JCS Served 74 students. 19 of those students did not re-enroll at JCS for 2016/17. 15 of the students graduated. 67% of students re-enrolled.

JCS has a charter for grades 7-12. The school welcomes middle school students as well and has begun to enroll them in small numbers. Middle-school students are integrated with high school students in the advisory settings. They are also expected to propose and learn to utilize Project Based Learning methods, though with a concentration on the Minnesota standards in for 7th and 8th grade students. JCS's 7th and 8th grade students are also eligible to attend all seminars and participate in trips and exhibitions.

School Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	Growth Rate ¹
2013-14		0	2	7	18	47	74	+4%
2014-15	1	0	1	10	19	53	62	-16%
2015-16	5	1	6	12	17	33	74	+17%
2016-17	1	10	6	26	33	60	136	+83%
Estimated 2017-18							92	

It is worth noting that enrollment at JCS typically climbs throughout the year, so that the October 1 figures included in the table above, will under-state the school's enrollment. Another notable characteristic of the JCS student body is that seniors have been greatly over-represented during the past three years. As of October 1, 2016, JCS had 70 students enrolled.

¹ Calculated based on change from 10/1 of the previous school year to 10/1 of the reported school year, divided by the previous year's figure.

Governance, Management, and Director's PDP

Governance and Board Training

The Jennings Community School is governed by a six-member Board, with membership as noted in the table below. Board Training was completed by all board members on December 15th, 2015. Board Training covered Governance & Management, School Finance, and Human Resources. Board Training was provided by Designs for Learning.

2016-17 Election Date: October 19th, 2016

2017-18 Anticipate Election Date: October 25th, 2017

Jennings CLC's governing board has six members, as shown in the table below. School board terms are two years.

2016-17 School Year Jennings CLC School Board

This table contains information for ALL board members.

Name	Board Position, Group Affiliation	Date Seated	Term Expiration	Contact Information	Member Meeting Attendance Rate
Wayne Jennings	Chair; Community member	Oct. 2012	Oct. 2018	651 644-2805; wayne@designlearn.net	70%
Sara Segar	Member; Teacher (443910)	April 2013	Oct. 2017	651 649-5403; sara@jenningsclc.org	80%
Cailin Rogers	Community Member	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2017	cailin@sapcc.org	60%
Val Honey	Member; Teacher	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2017	val@jenningsclc.org	80%
Laurie Crever	Community Member	Aug. 2016	Oct. 2018	crevlori@msn.com	90%
R'elle Robinson	Student Member	Aug. 2016	Oct. 2017	relle@jenningsclc.org	80%
Natasha Harwell	Parent Member	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2018	natasha@jenningsclc.org	40%
Andreas Jurewitsch	Teacher Member	Jun. 2017	Oct. 2017	andreas@jenningsclc.org	100%
Terms which expired during the 2016/17 school year:					

Name	Board Position, Group Affiliation	Date Seated	Term Expiration	Contact Information	Member Meeting Attendance Rate
Antisar Vickers	Parent Member	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2016	antisarvickers@gmail.com	

Management

Jennings Community School is managed by its director, in collaboration with the school’s small staff.

2016-17 School Management and Faculty Information

The table below contains information for ALL members of the school management/administrative team and also includes faculty employed by the school that did not serve as a classroom teacher (e.g. curriculum coordinators, social workers, counselors, administrative assistance, paraprofessionals, custodial, technology, librarians, etc.)

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment	Years Employed by the School	Left During 2015/16	Not Returning 2016/17
Bill Zimniewicz	296323	Director	11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara Betru	N/A	Administrative Assistant	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Director’s Professional Development Plan

The JCS Director is Bill Zimniewicz, he has a Master’s degree in Teacher Leadership and has directed other programs previously. He holds a current K-12 Principal Administrative License. Bill holds an MA in Teacher Leadership from the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Zimniewicz attends the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs conference annually and attends MDE training for charter school directors. He participates in the Pillsbury United Communities' Directors' Roundtable (monthly meetings of directors of charter schools authorized by Pillsbury) and has served on an advisory committee set up by Pillsbury to evaluate Pillsbury-authorized schools.

Staffing

2016-17 Teaching Faculty Information

The following table contains information for ALL teachers employed by the school or providing services contractually (e.g., special education teacher, reading specialist, speech therapist).

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment/ Subject	Left During 2016/17	Not Returning 2017/18
Sam Eberhart	473798	Advisor; Social Studies; multiple subjects with Innovative Program waiver	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Val Honey	334763	Advisor; WBL Coordinator, LA multiple subjects with Innovative Program waiver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristyn Martin	477575	Special Education, ASD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara Segar	443910	Advisor; Science; multiple subjects with Innovative Program waiver	X On leave until 2018/19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Zimniewicz	296323	Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andreas Jureswitsch	417686	Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron Bloom	495188	Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Claire Henning	484310	Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

87% of teaching staff at JCS are returning for the 2017/18 school year.

As a part of our World's Best Workforce plan and Professional Development plans, all JCS staff attend the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs MAAP conference annually; each teacher has a 3-point professional development plan, and JCS provides support for teachers to attend training in their area of specialty. Time is built into the school schedule for staff to meet every week to compare results, problem-solve and support each other to more effectively meet student needs.

Finances

For questions regarding school finances and for complete financials for 2016-17 and/or an organizational budget for 2017-18, contact:

Name: Bill Zimmiewicz

Position: Executive Director

Phone: 651-649-5403

Email: bill@jenningsclc.org

Designs for Learning provides accounting services for Jennings Community School.

Information presented below is derived from preliminary audit figures. The full financial audit will be completed and presented to the Minnesota Department of Education and Pillsbury United Communities no later than December 31, 2017.

FY17 Finances	Fund 1	Fund 2	Fund 4
Total Revenues	\$1,158,838.65	\$35,789.57	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,063,279.87	\$35,789.57	-
Net Income	\$95,558.78	\$0.00	-
Total Fund Balance	\$233,803.18	\$0.00	-

Overview

FY17 was a financially solid year. Actual enrollment was closely aligned with projected and budgeted enrollment.

Revenues

The majority (95%) of Jennings' revenue comes from the state of Minnesota, including General Education Aid, Special Education Aid, and Lease Aid. Other revenue sources include the federal government and local donations and grants. Revenue is closely tied to enrollment figures.

Expenses

Jennings expends approximately half of its revenue on staff salaries and benefits. Other large expenditure categories include purchased services, facilities rental and maintenance, and supplies.

Net Income and Fund Balance

Jennings Community School began FY17 with a fund balance of \$138,000. Fund balance increased by \$96,000 during FY17 to a June 30, 2017 balance of \$234,000. Jennings' goal for the future is to grow their fund balance by 5% each fiscal year. As of June 30, 2017, the fund balance is at 22.13% of annual expenses incurred for the year.

World's Best Workforce Annual Budget

The school's mission aligns closely to the principals and ideas of the World's Best Workforce. As such, all school expenditures are geared towards the World's Best Workforce. There is not separate budget tied WBWF goals.

Academic Performance

Program Summary

The Jennings Community School program is built around six key program features: Small School; Travel; Global Awareness; Focused Education; Reflection; and Academic Content and Credits.

JCS's educational program has been revised several times since the school's inception in the fall of 1998. Since 2008-09 JCS has utilized a project-based learning model supplemented by traditional instruction in core areas. JCS continually seeks to revise the program to improve the school, ensuring powerful and effective learning experiences for all. To this end, school leadership seeks to assess every aspect of the school including personnel, facilities, operations, assessment data use, and technology.

The curriculum has been revised in a way that shows academic progress throughout the year consistent with the Minnesota State Standards. Goal setting and updating of student progress/credits earned are now done quarterly. To track student progress toward graduation, JCS uses a credit system, in which one credit is generally equivalent to one semester's work. Students can also earn fractions of credits. When teacher/advisors award students credit, much is contemplated. How comprehensive or complex was the project? How many hours did the student document? What was the quality level of the final product? What Minnesota Grad Standards were completed? For seminars, trips, and service learning activities, the same questions are addressed. Other learning requirements—viewed as essential for youth—have

been added to the curriculum. JCS students are now required to demonstrate how they have met four Transformational Learning Outcomes² before graduation.

The three-credit Capstone Senior Project is required before graduation and includes a special presentation night for senior projects only. Senior projects include Transformational Learning Outcomes and incorporate an emphasis on career/work and college readiness.

Travel away from the school site remains an important part of the JCS program! JCS staff seek to ensure that all students have the opportunity to travel, encouraging students who have not yet taken trips through the school to do so when the next travel experience is being planned. Major trips are connected with a seminar, in which students do research in advance on topics connected with the place they will visit.

² Developed in the 1990s with New American Schools funding, the Community Learning Centers model calls for all students to meet Transformation Learning Outcomes by becoming a: Responsible Citizen; Productive Worker; Self-Directed Lifelong Learner; and Creative, Healthy Individual.

Academic Goals and Indicators, 2016-17



Charter Contract Goals: Jennings Community Learning Center

School Year: 2016-17

ACADEMIC and NON ACADEMIC GOALS	REPORTED PROGRESS	NOTES
<p>Reading</p> <p>Goal 1:</p> <p>At least 50% of JCLC students who are continuously enrolled from October 1 will meet or exceed their Growth Targets on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test in Reading.</p> <p>Goal 2:</p> <p>At least 80% of JCS students who are continuously enrolled from October 1 and in regular attendance will complete their reading personal learning plans as tracked by advisors.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met</p> <p>x Goal currently not met</p>	<p>23% of students met their growth targets on the MAP Reading.</p> <p>Reading Seminar runs from 11-11:50 am daily, with 5-6 groups per quarter. All students participate in reading group each quarter. Which group they participate in depends on their personal learning plan. Our JCLC tracking system keeps track of each hour a student earns. When a student is in his/her reading group during hour 3 they get LA (for Lang. Arts) in their tracking system. Thus, 25 hours in LA means all students met this goal.</p>

<p>Math:</p> <p>Goal 1: At least 50% of JCLC students who are continuously enrolled from October 1 will meet or exceed their Growth Targets on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test in Mathematics.</p> <p>Goal 2: At least 80% of students in regular attendance who are continuously enrolled from October 1 and in regular attendance will complete their math personal learning plans as tracked by advisors.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>39% of students met their growth targets on the NWEA MAP Mathematics.</p> <p>In advisories in the morning students are either completing Khan Academy Math or working from Mathematics curriculum with direction from advisors. Mathematical concepts are in 90% of student projects.</p>
<p>Post---Secondary</p> <p>Assessments</p> <p>Goal 1:</p> <p>At least 90% of JCLC juniors and seniors will have taken the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) or the Accuplacer by the end of the 2014-15 school year. The ASVAB and Accuplacer are alternative assessments that can now qualify students to meet graduation requirements. JCLC will provide opportunities for students to take both assessments.</p> <p>Goal 2:</p> <p>At least 25% of JCLC seniors will take the ACT or SAT by the end of the 2014-15 school year.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal met</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>70% of students took the ASVAB or Accuplacer.</p> <p>Met, 20% of Seniors took the the ACT or SAT.</p>

<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>JCS will track the post-secondary plans of all graduates, and attempt to contact them during the summer/fall after their graduation from JCS to determine status of application to post-secondary education, military, full-time employment, vocational, apprenticeship or other status indicators.</p>		<p>12/21 in college, 5/21 working, 1 waiting to start college, the status of 2 is not known and 1 did not graduate and has not re-enrolled.</p>
<p>Financial:</p> <p>During Fiscal Year 2015, JCLC will increase its fund balance by at least 5%.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>JCS fund balance increased by 69%, or \$96,000</p>
<p>Operations:</p> <p>Each Advisor at JCLC will develop and lead at least one seminar per quarter. The seminars focus on specific learning outcomes linked to the state graduation standards. Seminars are typically inter-disciplinary, allowing students to meet standards and earn credits in multiple areas. JCLC is planning to offer the seminars during the same hour each day, and require every student to be enrolled in a seminar.</p> <p>At least 90% of students in regular attendance who are continuously enrolled from October 1 will complete at least one student-initiated project by the end of the school year as measured by advisors.</p> <p>At least 90% of students in regular attendance who are continuously enrolled from October 1 will</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>Each advisor leads at least one Seminar.</p> <p>100% of students completed their goal.</p>

<p>complete an assessment of progress toward JCS Transformational Outcomes twice per year (fall and spring).</p>		<p>100% of continuously enrolled students completed the Transformational Outcomes students in fall and spring.</p>
<p>Governance: The JCLC Board will schedule at least two planning meetings to review and update the school's Strategic Plan. The 2014-15 year is year 3 of JCLC's five-year Strategic Plan.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>Two meetings held.</p>
<p>Family Engagement: At least 30% of JCLC students will plan and execute one student led parent-student-advisor conference during the 2013-14 school year.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>100% of students participated in this.</p>
<p>Hope Study: JCLC students who remain continuously enrolled will show positive differences in the Hope Study indicators; JCLC students will continue to show higher Hope Study ratings than students at traditional schools.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>Data was not released to JCS on our HOPE Survey Results.</p>
<p>Community Integration: JCLC will carry out outreach activities by participating in at least three major community events during 2016-17.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal partially met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal currently not met</p>	<p>JCS worked did a Community Clean-Up day, works with Urban Boat Builders, Breaking Free Fundraiser, Holocaust Survivor speaking event hosted at JCS.</p>

Results for the Academic Goals are summarized below.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Reading results

JCS used the Northwest Evaluation Association's MAP test as a tool to track student learning in Reading and Math during 2016-17, for the sixth consecutive year. The MAP is a well-known norm-referenced test that measures student abilities in areas covered by the state academic standards. An amount of "projected growth," to the next test window, is identified based on a "pre" test score, in this case, the Fall result, which was then compared with spring "post" test results. Growth norms for this test are created by NWEA, based on large samples of students who take the tests nationwide, such that every student has a 50% chance of meeting or exceeding the Growth Target. Thus, if more than 50% of students at a given school are meeting or exceeding their growth targets, the school as a whole has out-performed the national norming group for that subject.

Twenty-two students took the Reading MAP in fall and spring during the 2016-17 school year. Of these twenty-two students, twenty-three percent met their growth targets.

JCS staff have observed severely test-adverse behavior by many students, especially in the spring, toward the end of the school year and after having taken tests such as the MCAs and college-placement tests. School leadership discussed this in the spring of 2014 and planned for changes in 2014-15 to encourage more-consistent participation and effort. Advisors were responsible for testing students and preparing students for it. As a result, JCS received higher participation and success on MAP testing than in previous years. The MAP will continue to be the responsibility of Advisors during 2017-18.

Reading Plans

During the 2015/16 school year reading Plans became reading group, running from 11-12pm each day. This was continued for the 2016/17 school year. Students who excel at reading can read independently. The goal is to read a book a month, non-fiction and fiction. If the group reads a short novel, we will finish the month using short stories. A book club was started for students who are planning to go to college, to assist them in reading literature expected for college.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Mathematics results

Eighteen students took the Math MAP in the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017. Of the eighteen students who took the Math MAP both times during 2016-17, thirty nine percent made their growth targets.

The caveats noted in the section on MAP results in Reading apply here as well: data from this small a number of students are not necessarily representative of the whole student population, and many students may not have tried their best on this assessment.

Mathematics Plans

In Math as well as Reading, each student was to have an annual Personalized Learning Plan, tracked and updated by advisors, and including goals and instructional activities in math, individualized to meet students' needs. However, while students did have math plans in their PLP, the plans were not consistently implemented and tracked. Each student advisor utilized their own system for tracking and follow up. Therefore the results are a bit inconsistent.

Creating an effective math program for our student population has been an ongoing challenge for JCS. Assessment and observational data consistently show that many students attended school sporadically before enrolling at JCS, and are far behind in basic academic skills, especially mathematics. Alternative means of communicating key math concepts, through inquiry-based and hands-on activities, are likely to help such students learn essential concepts in math.

To reach goals in math, students work with their advisors to identify specific steps they will take to improve their math knowledge. Students' math programming may include math courses, Khan Academy and APEX Math as online options, math work packets, or small instructional seminars. In addition to the labs and individualized projects there are upper level seminars, and a Final Project by which growth in math knowledge is to be demonstrated by the end of the school year.

Additional Data on Academic Progress

Alternative strategies for gauging student productivity are to analyze the proportion of time students spend on-task, and the number of credits they earn. Time-on-task is tracked by JCS teacher-advisors in time tracking app that has been customized for the school; each day, each advisor records proportion of time on-task, of the 6 hours in the school day, for their advisees who were present that day. Students may earn additional credit in terms of time-on-task if they complete projects in less time than projected or if they work additional hours outside the school day. For any given quarter, a handful of students will have over 100% time-on-task.

Credits are awarded on a quarterly basis; a student making the expected progress toward graduation will earn 2.5 credits per quarter. It is worth noting, however, that JCS serves many students with multiple risk factors such as homelessness, involvement with the legal system, and a history of inconsistent school attendance prior to enrolling at JCS. About one-fourth of the students have active IEPs.

Post-Secondary Assessments – ASVAB or Accuplacer

The first Post-Secondary Assessment target called for at least 90% of juniors and seniors to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) or Accuplacer by the end of the school year. Review of JCS attendance data showed there were 10 seniors who were required to take one of these tests. Seven of 10 seniors took the Accuplacer or ACT (70% of seniors). Those who did not take one of these tests were not required to for the degree program they were entering into. The three students who did not take these tests applied to Culinary Arts school, and two had already secured a job for after school.

JCS now expects all seniors who choose college as their career plan to take the Accuplacer; this is being administered at St. Paul College several times during the school year.

Post-Secondary Assessments – ACT or SAT

Five students took the ACT with writing during the 2016-17 school year. Jennings Community School offered the ACT on site on April 19th, 2017.

Operational

Non-Academic Goals and Indicators, 2016-17

In addition to its three Academic Goals, Jennings CLC had six non-academic goals, addressing the following areas: Financial, Operations, Governance, Family Engagement, the Hope Study, and Community Integration. The six non-academic goals and results were as follows:

- **Financial Goal:** During Fiscal Year 2015, JCS will increase its fund balance by at least 5%.
 - The general fund balance increased by 69%, \$96,000 dollars
- **Operations Goal:** Each Advisor at JCS will develop and lead at least one seminar per quarter. The seminars focus on specific learning outcomes linked to the state graduation standards. Seminars are typically inter-disciplinary, allowing students to meet standards and earn credits in multiple areas. JCS is planning to offer the seminars during the same hour each day, and require every student to be enrolled in a seminar.
 - **Met Goal,** Each advisor lead quarterly seminars.
- **Governance Goal:** The JCS Board will schedule at least two planning meetings to review and update the school's Strategic Plan. The 2014-15 year is year 3 of JCS's five-year Strategic Plan.

Two meetings held.

- **Family Engagement Goal:** At least 30% of JCS students will plan and execute one student led parent-student-advisor conference during the 2016/17 school year.

Comprehensively complete.

- **Hope Study Goal:** JCS students who remain continuously enrolled will show positive differences in the Hope Study indicators; JCS students will continue to show higher Hope Study ratings than students at traditional schools.

The EdVisions Hope Study is based on research into factors that determine students' overall outlook. It uses a combination of survey items to assess students' status on several variables which are factors important to success in school and in life. The survey variables are Autonomy, Belongingness, Goal Orientation, Academic Press, Engagement, and Hope.

Results from the HOPE Study have not been shared with JCS at the time of this report (October 2017). This is due to processing difficulties at EdVisions.

- **Community Integration Goal:** JCS will carry out outreach activities by participating in at least three major community events during 2016-17.

JCS worked did a Community Clean-Up day, works with Urban Boat Builders, Breaking Free Fundraiser, Holocaust Survivor speaking event hosted at JCS.

Program Successes

Some of the successes and best practices in place at Jennings CLC during 2016/17 included the following.

JCS continued to press positive working relationships with students. Student retention is good overall; students who are succeeding in the program tend to remain for multiple years. One of the program's successes in 2016-17 was in travel-based learning with several successful trips carried out during the year. Highlights of trips taken during 2016/17 are:

MAAP STARS Fall Conference - As happens every year, six students and teacher, Kristyn Martin attended the MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference held at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls Minnesota. MAAP STARS is the youth organization connected with MAAP (Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs). One student per school may be nominated to run for officer for the organization; and a Jennings' senior ran and was elected MAAP STARS officer.

She received officer training in November 2016, and she, along with another student served on a student panel at the Minnesota School Board Association Annual Conference.

Canoe Trips - There were two Boundary Waters canoe trips—one in the fall and the other in spring.

MAAP STARS Spring Conference - Eleven students participated in the MAAP STARS Spring Conference that was held on April 25 and 26 in Bloomington, Minnesota. There were hundreds of students who attend alternative and progressive charter schools from across Minnesota who participated.

Jennings Community School performed beyond our expectations. These students collectively won twelve plaques. Three of those plaques were for first place finishing.

Washington DC – Twelve students traveled to the nation’s Capital. There they visited the usual monuments and places: Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian Institute, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington, etc. Perhaps the most memorable for most of the students was their visit to Howard University. Howard is a United Negro College Fund institution. There, the students and their chaperones had a chance to visit with many of Howard’s students.

One of our greatest successes is getting students from school to work and or college. We are getting students to enroll in higher education and stay enrolled. They are equipped to do this because of the life skills we build in school.

JCS students continued to participate in MAAP STARS (Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, and Self-esteem). 6 JCS students attended the fall MAP STARS conference at Camp Ripley, central Minnesota. 13 JCS students competed in the MAAP STARS Spring Conference in April, where they won 12 awards, 3 of them first place awards. At this conference, students from across the state compete and participate in a number of activities, many of which are career or work related (e.g. interviewing, public speaking, management decision making). of the medals won were for Life Plan Projects, there are only eight medals awarded in this category.

JCS’s connections with area business and organizations continued strong during 2016-17. The JCS director continues to attend meetings of the Midway Chamber of Commerce and the local community council, bringing students along as well. In the fall of 2015, JCS students attended the Midway Chamber’s conference where they connected with community organizations; representatives of several local organizations were invited to visit the school. During 2014-15 JCS also developed a connection with the St. Anthony Park Community Council, and with the Keystone Center Food Shelf.

Senior capstone projects continued as an effective practice during 2016-17. Students are responsible for identifying and describing the project, which culminates in a research paper / write-up of results and public presentation. Project topics during 2015/16 included: Auto Mechanic, Culinary School, Graphic Design, and Commercial Art & Teaching.

Program Challenges

Jennings Community School underwent staffing changes between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Our math instructor left after his two-year commitment at Jennings ended. JCS filled his position with a part-time instructor who was shared with another district. This arrangement presented a series of scheduling challenges.

JCS also hired two Americore Fellows to assist with Reading and Mathematics interventions. Neither position remained filled for the duration of the school year.

Innovative Practices and Implementation

As a project-based urban school that facilitates student learning through frequent travel to remote sites, Jennings Community School is a highly innovative charter school! In addition to the project-based and field-learning focus, described elsewhere in this report, innovative practices JCS had in place during 2016-17 included:

- JCS students continued to participate in the MAAP STARS (Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, and Self-esteem) Spring Conference. Students won 12 awards. Three awards in first place. A judge from the St. Anthony Bugle said that there was “no contest between JCS and everyone else”.
- All staff attended the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs conference in the winter of 2016; non-staff members of the JCS board were invited as well. JCS’s participation in MAAP has continued strong since, with JCS teachers filling the positions of MAAP Chair and Treasurer for the 2014-16 term. Kristin headed the conference Development Committee. Bill Zimniewicz was on a panel of experts and presented with the International Speaker from Finland. Several other staff presented or worked on conference development.
- JCS seeks to build partnerships with organizations serving the homeless, connecting with these organizations via the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. This effort was in response to staff’s realization that many of our students are homeless, and that the school needs to more effectively serve these students. JCS staff provide resources for homeless students and continue to expand their knowledge base regarding what’s available.

- JCS helps students build job skills by supporting them in creating resumes and applying for entry-level positions. JCS continues to work to provide internships for its students.
- Reading groups, described above in the Academic Goals and Indicators section, were another innovative feature, in place since the spring of 2013.
- JCS is improving its utilization of technology. Every student has a computer, with Microsoft Office installed, to use at their personal work station (one-to-one student to computer ratio).
- Presentation nights continue to be an important feature of the program. At these events students give demonstrations and lectures to other students, parents, staff and community highlighting projects they have completed at JCS.

Authorizer

Jennings Community School's authorizer is Pillsbury United Communities. The 2016-17 school year was the third year of JCS's authorizer contract with Pillsbury; the contract was renewed in the spring of 2014 for another term, this time for four years.

Authorizer contact is Larry McKenzie (mckenziel@puc-mn.org; 612 302-3409).

Non-profit Status

Jennings Community School is a nonprofit corporation registered as a Charity with the Minnesota Attorney General's office. Its current status is active; see <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Charities/CharitySearch.asp>. JCS also is a tax-exempt "501(c)3" organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Future Plans

Continue to work on stable enrollment and increased attendance with students. School stability is essential to student achievement and success. With increased enrollment and attendance JCS will hire additional teachers to give staff more time for teacher prep and relationship building. This is to improve staff climate and reduce teacher burnout. It will also give students more variation and opportunity to work.

The long-term vision for the school is to increase the fund balance to \$500,000 or 20%, whichever is more.

To develop an Endowment fund of donations from the community. To develop a second source of income for the school based on personal and organizational giving.

Improve on our project based learning model and student travel model. To have all students complete a post-high school career-oriented program.

Develop a base of community and volunteer experts who spend time working with students.

A mentoring program for students is in development for the 2018/19 school year, in accordance with the strategic plan.

During the 2018/19 school year, JCS will be taking students on a European trip.

During the 2017/18 school year JCS will partner with the Midway Chamber of Commerce to develop a 2019 calendar to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Midway Chamber of Commerce. The calendar will include the start dates of the business and include information about their business in the calendar. This enables students to develop relationships with business in the Midway area, and produce a deliverable.

The strategic plan will be completed during the 2017/18 school year. There are five goals in the strategic plan:

1. Maintain and ensure authentic school philosophy and program.
2. Provide a holistic approach to meeting the physical, mental, and emotional needs of students.
3. Acquire financial and human resources to meet programmatic and administrative needs.
4. Expand engagement with community and parent, guardian, or invested adult constituents.
5. Develop an evaluation system that measures success relevant to the mission and vision. The Succession Plan for the current Director will be finalized and approved by the board during the 2017/18 year.

Trips currently planned for 2017/18 are:

- Students will travel to Hawaii in September of 2017
- New York City in February of 2018
- Chicago, Fall of 2017