

September 27, 2025

Commissioner Jett
Minnesota Department of Education
Via email

Dear Commissioner Jett,

Below is the University of St. Thomas' statement of financial expenditures related to authorizing duties for fiscal year 2025, pursuant to *Minnesota Statute*, 124E.05, subd. 8.

The University of St. Thomas (St. Thomas) is a private higher education institution whose mission is "to educate students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good." St. Thomas has found that acting as a charter school authorizer is a valuable way in which to work toward achieving its mission and honor its commitment to quality education. Our programmatic mission is "to advance the common good by using quality authorizing practices to oversee and promote the health of a portfolio of charter schools that demonstrably assist students in reaching their full academic and human potential." We also operate in accordance with our core values which include respecting the whole student, educational equity, valuing multiple educational models, empowered autonomy, excellence-first authorizing, and being reflective practitioners. More information on our mission, core values, and current strategic goals can be found on our website and in our Approved Authorizing Plan. The current St. Thomas portfolio includes fourteen charter schools. We did not add, close, or transfer any schools during FY2025.

The following statement is based on unaudited financial information, as St. Thomas' fiscal year 2025 audit is not yet complete. It is important to note that the expenditures shown do not include the substantial value of the resources, space, and faculty time donated by St. Thomas. These in-kind contributions on the part of the institution and its members greatly benefit the authorizing program and allow us to add value to our community. St. Thomas spent \$232,908.00 on authorizing-related activities during the 2024-2025 school year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). St. Thomas received \$337,911.00 in revenue via fees from charter schools for authorizing-related activities during the same period.

Sincerely,

The Authorizing Team
University of St. Thomas

CC: Paula Higgins, Minnesota Department of Education

University of St. Thomas Authorizer Income and Expense Report Detail		
FY 2025 Income and Expense Report Detail		
Income		Notes
Charter school fees		
<i>Academias La Paz</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Community of Peace Academy</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School</i>	\$7,281.00	
<i>Face to Face Academy</i>	\$11,402.00	
<i>Global Academy</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Hiawatha Academies</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Hope Community Academy</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Metro Deaf School</i>	\$7,281.00	
<i>Northwest Passage High School</i>	\$20,707.00	
<i>Spero Academy</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>PIM Arts High School</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Twin Cities Academy</i>	\$29,124.00	
<i>Twin Cities German Immersion School</i>	\$29,124.00	
Other income sources		
<i>Organizational support (internal)</i>		<i>The University of St. Thomas provides substantial in-kind support. See note below.</i>
<i>Contributions/Donations (external)</i>	\$0	
<i>Grants (external)</i>	\$0	<i>The program has access to up to \$12,500 of funding (\$2,500 per year for each of five CSP Grant years) via MDE's Federal Charter Schools Program Grant.</i>
Total Income =	\$337,911	
Expenses		Notes
Personnel Salaries and Benefits	\$225,364.23	<i>Includes salary and benefits for authorizing program staff as well as payments to individuals hired for specific purposes such as interpretation services or consultants with expertise in a certain educational philosophy useful in evaluating a specific school.</i>
Personnel subtotal	\$225,364.23	
Administrative/office expenses		
<i>Professional fees (staff development/conferences/workshops/training/dues/subscriptions)</i>	\$3323.11	<i>NACSA, MACSA/MACS Memberships, NACSA Conference, regional conferences, etc.</i>

<i>Transportation and Travel</i>	\$22.70	<i>Costs in this area were lower due to staff not seeking mileage reimbursement during FY2025.</i>
<i>Office space use/lease</i>	\$186.53	<i>The university uses a system of budgeting/accounting where units pay a share of their responsibility for shared services/overhead such as payroll, facilities, maintenance, etc.</i>
<i>Office supplies and equipment</i>	\$474.02	<i>Includes computer leases, printing charges, software leases, and other office supplies.</i>
<i>Other</i>	\$3537.41	<i>School leader gatherings, food, parking, etc. generally fall into this category. Also included in this category are translator fees.</i>
Administrative/office expenses subtotal	\$7543.77	
Total Expenditures =	\$7543.77	
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$105,003.00	
<i>It is important to note that although UST shows a net income, this is only possible due to the substantial in-kind support provided in the form of faculty expertise, and more, the actual costs of which would far exceed current income. For example, the conservatively estimated value of the over 250 hours of time donated to the program by faculty with expertise in general and special education, finance, accounting, leadership, and governance during FY2025 would easily cost in excess of \$50,000 if valued at current market rates.</i>		