

Charter School Consultant Survey

Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Center for School Change

This survey was conducted over the spring and fall of 2005 and replaces the previous consultant survey from 2004. Ratings for consultants evaluated by less than two charter school respondents were not included. The number of respondents ranged from 2 – 11.

The Center for School Change would like to thank the following seventy-two charter schools for taking the time to participate in the survey: Academia Cesar Chavez, Achieve Language Academy, Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy, Augsburg Academy for Health Careers, Avalon Charter School, Beacon Academy, Birch Grove Community School, BlueSky Charter School, Central School, Community of Peace Academy, Concordia Creative Learning Academy, Coon Rapids Learning Center Charter School, Cyber Village Academy, Cygnus Academy, Dugsi Academy, Duluth Public Schools Academy (DPSA) Edison Charter School, Eagle Ridge Academy, ECHO Charter School, El Colegio Charter School, Emily Charter School, Four Directions Charter School, Fraser Academy, Friendship Academy of Fine Arts Charter School, General John Vessey Leadership Academy, Great River School, Harbor City International School, Harriet Bishop Academy, High School for Recording Arts, Higher Ground Academy, HOPE Community Academy, Jennings Experiential High School, LaCrescent Montessori, Lafayette Charter School, Lakes Area Charter School, Lakes International Language Academy, Liberty High Charter School, Mary McEvoy Early Literacy Academy, Math and Science Academy, Minneapolis Academy, Minnesota North Star Academy, Minnesota Online High School, New Heights School, New Millennium Academy, New Spirit School, North Lakes Academy, Northern Lights Community School, Nova Classical Academy, Odyssey Charter School, Oh Day Aki Charter School, Pillager Area Charter School, River Heights Charter School, Riverway Learning Academy, Sage Academy, Schoolcraft Learning Community, Sobriety High, Sojourner Truth Academy, St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Studio Academy, TEAM Academy, TrekNorth High School, Twin Cities Academy High School, UBAH Medical Academy, Urban Academy, Voyageurs Expeditionary High School, Watershed High School, WISE Charter School, World Learner School of Chaska, Worthington Area Language Academy, and Yankton Country School.

We would also like to thank the following three charter school sponsors for their participation: Audubon Center of the North Woods, Friends of Ascension, and Volunteers of America.

Caution: Several charter directors made a key point about changes in personnel at firms listed. In many cases, the consulting firms have a small number of employees. When one person leaves, this can make a huge difference.

So we encourage charter public school board members, directors and staff to use this report as ONE source of information. But before making any final decisions, you should do the things that are recommended in the case studies, such as checking about whether there have been personnel changes since fall, 2005, asking for references, being very clear and explicit about the work that you want done, when it should be completed, how much the person/company will be paid, etc.

Consultant (alphabetically by service provided)	Average Score	Number of Respondents	Score Range (one or more responses)
	1) Dissatisfied 2) Somewhat Dissatisfied 3) Satisfied 4) Very Satisfied 5) Highly Recommend		
ACCOUNTING			
Beltz, Kess & Associates	2.8	8	1.0 - 5.0
Designs for Learning	2.5	8	1.0 - 4.0
Non-Profit Solutions	1.5	2	1.0 - 2.0
School Business Solutions	4.3	11	1.0 - 5.0
AUDITS			
Larson Allen	4.8	4	4.0 - 5.0
Miller McDonald Erickson Moller	4.5	2	4.0 - 5.0
BUSINESS			
Designs for Learning	2.5	2	1.0 - 4.0
School Business Solutions	3.8	4	2.0 - 5.0
School Start	2.5	4	1.0 - 4.0
CURRICULUM			
Instructional Designs	4.2	6	3.0 - 5.0
School Start	2.5	2	2.0 - 3.0
EVALUATION			
Cheryl Lange	4.7	7	4.0 - 5.0
HUMAN RESOURCES			
Designs for Learning	2.5	2	1.0 - 4.0
IT			
Designs for Learning	2.3	8	1.0 - 4.0
LEGAL			
Briggs & Morgan	4.7	3	4.0 - 5.0
PAYROLL			
ADP	3.5	2	2.0 - 5.0
Beltz, Kess & Associates	2.5	4	1.0 - 4.0
Designs for Learning	2.4	5	1.0 - 4.0
EdVisions	4.5	2	4.0 - 5.0
School Business Solutions	3.7	3	1.0 - 5.0
PROJECT MANAGEMENT			
Designs for Learning	2.5	2	2.0 - 3.0

Consultant (alphabetically by service provided)	Average Score 1) Dissatisfied 2) Somewhat Dissatisfied 3) Satisfied 4) Very Satisfied 5) Highly Recommend	Number of Respondents	Score Range (one or more responses)
SPECIAL EDUCATION			
916 NE Metro School District	5.0	2	5.0 - 5.0
Bob Wedl	5.0	2	5.0 - 5.0
Carol Mellon	4.5	2	4.0 - 5.0
Designs for Learning	3.0	6	1.0 - 4.0
Lifetrack Resources	5.0	2	5.0 - 5.0
MACS	3.0	3	4.0 - 5.0
MN Special Education Project	4.5	8	4.0 - 5.0
SPEECH			
Lifetrack Resources	4.0	2	4.0 - 4.0
STRATEGIC PLANNING			
School Start	2.6	7	1.0 - 4.0
TAXES			
Beltz, Kess & Associates	2.3	4	1.0 - 3.0
Designs for Learning	2.0	3	1.0 - 4.0
School Business Solutions	5.0	3	5.0 - 5.0
WORKSHOPS			
Designs for Learning	2.5	2	1.0 - 4.0
Instructional Designs	4.5	2	4.0 - 5.0
School Start	1.5	2	1.0 - 2.0
OTHER SERVICE			
Designs for Learning	2.2	5	1.0 - 4.0
Instructional Designs	4.0	3	3.0 - 5.0
Lancer Catering	3.5	2	3.0 - 4.0
MACS	4.5	2	4.0 - 5.0
School Business Solutions	4.0	4	1.0 - 5.0
School Start	2.2	11	1.0 - 4.0