

NORTHERN KANE
Educational Corp.

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



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A LETTER FROM THE NKEC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Cambridge Lakes Learning Center Community,

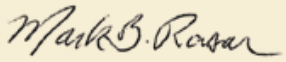
As the charter holder for Cambridge Lakes Charter School (CLCS), Northern Kane Educational Corporation (NKEC) is proud to manage the Cambridge Lakes Learning Center (CLLC) campus. This management corporation governs its onsite entities, including Cambridge Lakes Charter School, School's Out, Cambridge Lakes Preschool, and The Cambridge Lakes Academy. Our mission as a management corporation transcends traditional academics, prioritizing the development of the whole child.

Established in 2004, NKEC is dedicated to broadening educational horizons through innovation, choice, transparency, and active community involvement. As our organization and school community continues to grow, our students and their best interests will remain at the forefront of every decision we make. We are dedicated to serving our students and families in all our endeavors.

Over the past year, our organization developed a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the future of our school community. This roadmap represents a significant investment in our organizational infrastructure, ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of the learners we serve.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our students, faculty, staff, families, and the entire school community. It is through your commitment, as stakeholders, that we are able to create learning opportunities for a future that is yet to be created.

Sincerely,



Mark Rasar, NKEC CEO

WHAT WE BELIEVE

MISSION

Our mission for Cambridge Lakes Learning Center is to educate children by cultivating curiosity, challenging minds, and inspiring excellence through collaborative learning experiences.

VALUES

- The Whole Child
- Curiosity in Action
- Growth Through Challenge
- Shared Responsibility
- Creative Problem-Solving
- Excellence with Integrity

PRINCIPLED • EMPATHETIC • REFLECTIVE • EXPLORING • PLAYFUL • RESILIENT

Portrait of a Learner

SAPIENTIA

Est. 2007

Cambridge Lakes Charter School

Love Learning. Love School.

PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

Attributes that reflect our students, faculty, and staff during their journey at CLCS:

- Principled
- Empathetic
- Reflective
- Exploring
- Playful
- Resilient

DECISION PARAMETERS

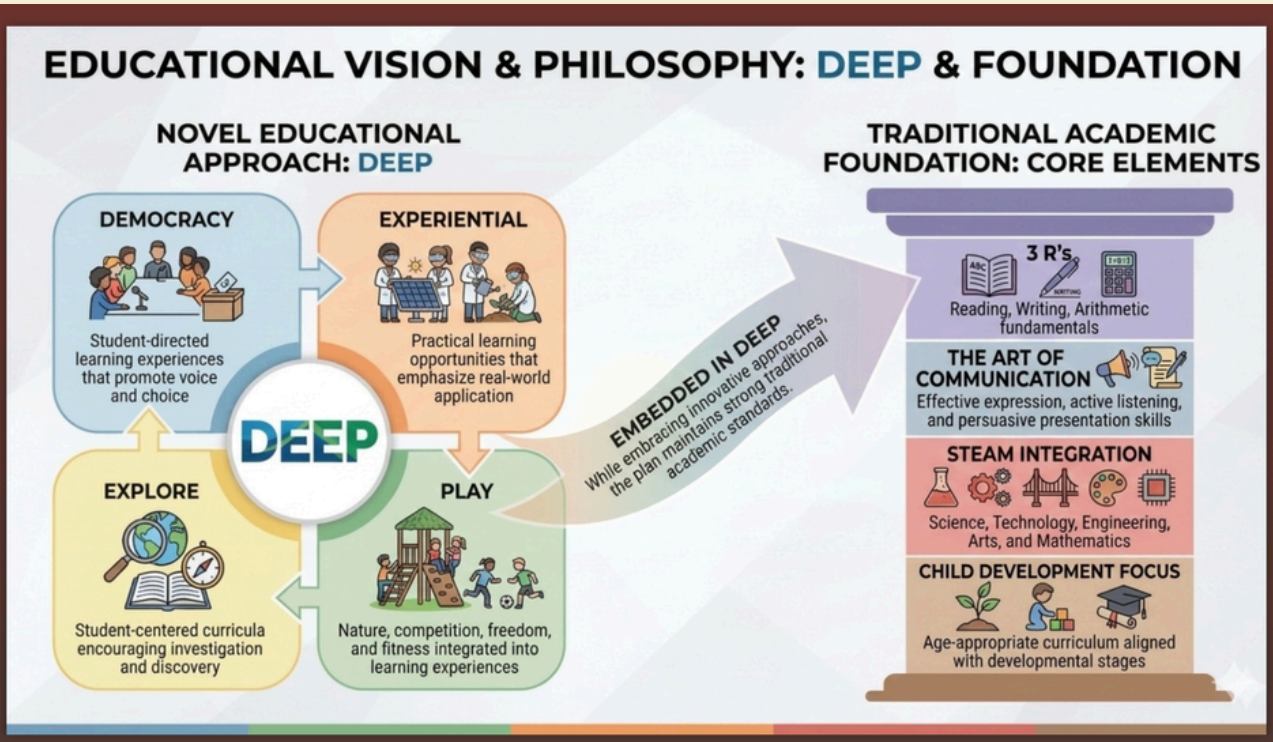
1. **Put children first** — Does this clearly benefit students?
2. **Invest in our people** — Does this support and respect our staff?
3. **Use data** — Is this informed by evidence and measurable?
4. **Learn by doing** — Does this allow us to evaluate and improve?
5. **Lead with trust and respect** — Does this build trust with our community?
6. **Steward resources responsibly** — Is this financially and operationally sound?
7. **Embrace productive risk** — Is this a thoughtful, mission-aligned risk?
8. **Act with our school community in mind** — Does this strengthen our families and partners?

NORTHERN KANE Educational Corp.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031

Focus 1: Experiential & DEEP Learning

- Priority: We will provide an innovative and flexible environment to cultivate meaningful learning experiences.



Focus 2: Dynamic, Mission-Driven Educators and Staff

- Priority: We will recruit, develop, and retain high quality professionals who drive excellence across our organization.

Focus 3: Responsible Resource Stewardship

- Priority: We will meet the terms of our charter agreement and demonstrate areas of excellence.

Focus 4: School Identity and Visibility

- Priority: We will cultivate greater community understanding and respect for our school's mission and work.

THE YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

2025-2026 Updates



New Main Entrance - 2025

Prior to the conclusion of the previous school year, a new main office was constructed to enhance security and provide a more welcoming space for visitors located closer to the main entrance. The updated main office will serve as a centralized location for all visitors as the years follow.



Communications Arts Lab & Science Labs - 2025

The Communications Arts Lab and Science Labs have undergone complete remodels to keep pace with the growing fields. These spaces now feature enhanced technology and equipment, enabling students to fully engage in their learning and apply their knowledge both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.



In-House Food Service Program - 2025

The Food Service Program is now operated in-house. Students are benefiting from this change, as they now enjoy a more fresh and varied selection of food options that still meet all nutritional requirements.



PreK-Before and After Care - 2026

In order to provide flexibility for our families, School's Out and Cambridge Lakes Preschool partnered to offer before and after school care for families.





Coyote Corner Podcast - 2026

The student-led podcast, "Coyote Corner," takes a deeper dive into Cambridge Lakes Charter School. By interviewing different leaders, the podcast helps listeners understand what makes CLCS unique from schools in the surrounding area and what new developments are in the works for our school community.



Strategic Planning - 2026

The new Strategic Plan has been developed with input from various stakeholders throughout the school year, including students, parents, staff, and community leaders. This collaborative effort has established a new mission, a defined set of values, clear parameters and focus areas. The next phase involves developing specific implementation plans to ensure our school upholds these elements, always acting in the best interest of Cambridge Lakes Learning Center as a whole.

NORTHERN KANE *Educational Corp.*

LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Experiential Learning

HOW OUR STUDENTS LEARN

Our primary goal is to provide students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences that challenge them and help them grow throughout their educational journey. To do this, our curriculum is built on David Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory. This foundational educational model shows that deep, lasting learning happens when students naturally move through a cycle of doing, reflecting, thinking, and applying what they have learned (Kolb, 2015).

According to Kolb (1984), "ideas are not fixed… but are formed and re-formed through experience" (p. 26). This means our classrooms focus on deep thinking and true understanding, prioritizing cognitive engagement over factual retention. For us, learning is not just about getting the right answer on a test; it is about the journey of discovery and understanding the steps it took to get there.

Because of this, we view learning as a continuous journey, not just a final score or grade (Kolb, 1984). Highlighting the power of hands-on learning, Kolb (1984) wrote:

> ***Immediate personal experience is the focal point for learning, giving life, texture, and subjective personal meaning to abstract concepts and at the same time providing a concrete, publicly shared reference point for testing the implications and validity of ideas created during the learning process. (p. 21)***

By keeping students actively involved in their own education, we help them learn how to think for themselves, preparing them to succeed in an ever-changing world.

TRADITIONAL VS. EXPERIENTIAL

While we always stay grounded in core academic standards, we use experiential learning to meet the unique needs of every student. We use our school's flexibility to design customized learning paths through immersive, real-world experiences. This ensures that our teaching directly matches how students learn best.

LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Experiential Learning (continued)

Traditional Learning	Experiential Learning
Transfers, Explains, Knowledge - Skills	Develops Knowledge - Skills - Emotions via Experience
Prescribed Fixed Design Content	Flexible, Open Possibilities
Suitable for Groups and Fixed Outcomes	Individually Directed, Flexible Outcomes
Time Bound Measurable Components	Not Time Bound - More Difficult to Measure
For External Needs (Organization, Exams, etc.)	For Internal Growth and Discovery

Kolb's theory states that true learning connects abstract ideas to the real world through a simple four-step cycle:

- **Concrete Experience:** Actively doing an activity or experiment.
- **Reflective Observation:** Thinking deeply about what just happened.
- **Abstract Conceptualization:** Making sense of the experience and forming new ideas.
- **Active Experimentation:** Testing out these new ideas in different situations.

This approach is highly valued in modern education, job training, and professional careers because it bridges the gap between textbook theory and real-life practice.

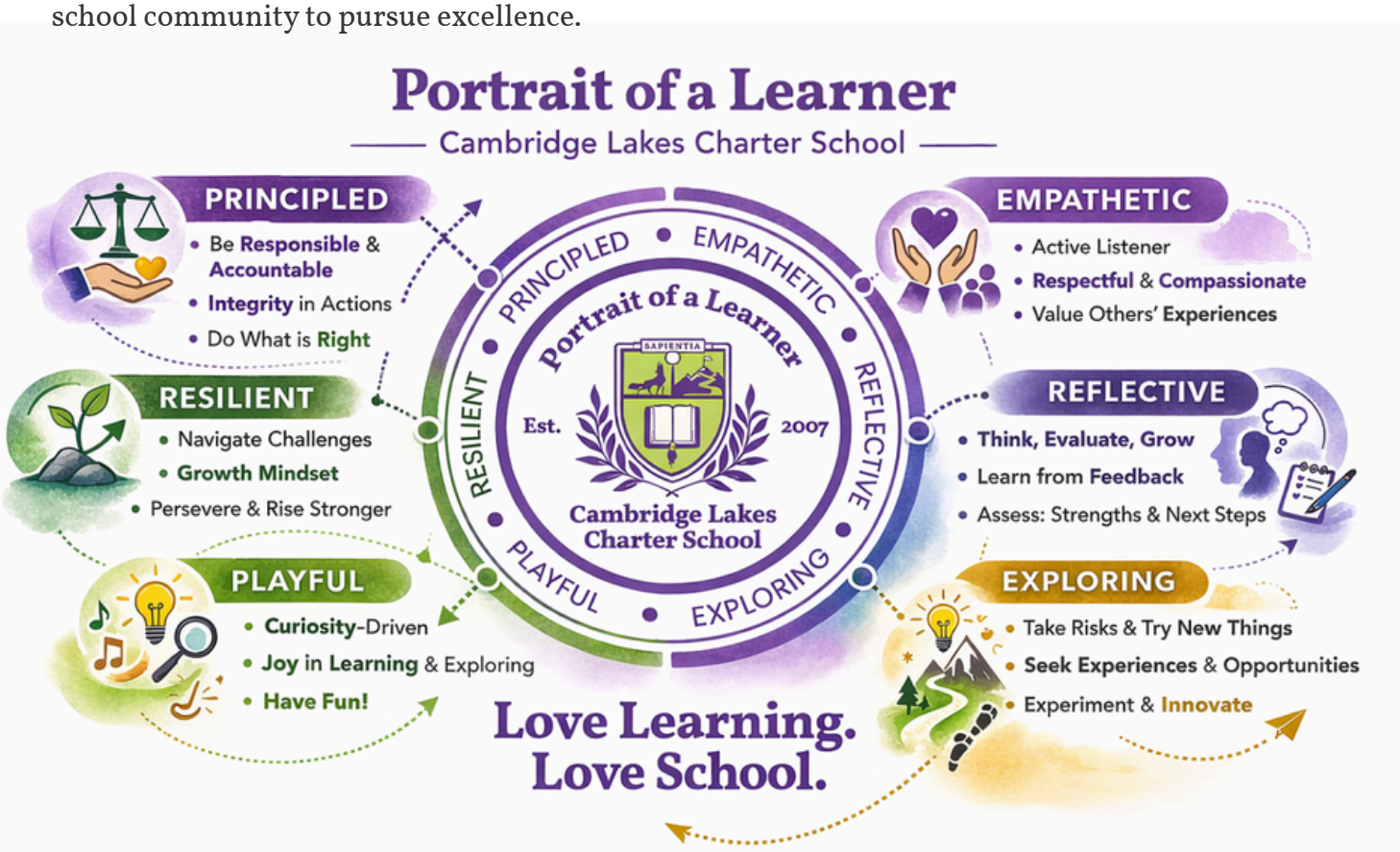
FOSTERING SCHOOL-WIDE GROWTH

We are committed to fostering growth not just in our students, but also in our staff and families. We make this happen by giving our teachers the latest training, research, and resources to bring these exciting learning experiences into the everyday curriculum. Our educators stay at the forefront of teaching practices through active learning communities, teamwork, and continuous professional development.

CLCS PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

The Portrait of a Learner represents our strategic vision, integrating specific skills, traits, and mindsets that define who we are as a learning community. This framework is designed for every learner within our school community, including students, faculty, staff, and families.

The following characteristics exemplify who our learners are and who they will continue to become throughout their academic journey at CLCS. Our Portrait of a Learner expands the definition of student success beyond academic achievement to also include identity development, social-emotional growth, and the adaptability needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. More than aspirations, these qualities reflect our commitment to providing the foundational skills, mindsets, and supports that empower every member of our school community to pursue excellence.



BUILDING THE FUTURE:

RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATIONAL MODEL



DEEP LEARNING

Cambridge Lakes Charter School is grounded in the educational philosophy of DEEP Learning: Democracy, Experiential, Explore, and Play. This model integrates innovative, student-centered experiences with rigorous academic standards. While these dynamic approaches expand opportunities for discovery, traditional core instruction remains central. By embedding DEEP Learning practices within a strong academic foundation, the school strengthens student understanding and creates meaningful connections to real-world experiences.

Democracy: Student-directed learning that promotes voice and choice. Learners collaborate, make meaningful decisions about their learning paths, and express diverse perspectives within a classroom culture of shared responsibility and mutual respect.

Experiential: Practical learning that emphasizes real-world application. Learners engage in hands-on, authentic experiences that connect academic concepts to meaningful contexts, fostering problem-solving, reflection, and transferable skills.



Explore: Student-centered learning driven by investigation and discovery. For example, learners engage with nearby lakes and natural environments to observe, question, and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Play: Student-centered learning driven by nature, fitness, and freedom. Active movement and meaningful interaction with peers and the environment foster creativity, resilience, and problem-solving.

INVESTING IN OUR EDUCATORS

EMPLOYMENT PACKAGE OPPORTUNITIES

Employer-Paid Health Insurance

$30K Basic Life Insurance Policy Paid by Employer

Professional Development & Mentoring Program

Certified Teacher: Teacher Retirement System (TRS)

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

The Professional Excellence Framework is a multi-tiered implementation guide built on a foundational premise: sustainable performance cultures must be purposefully and thoughtfully sequenced. Each year builds intentionally on the last, ensuring that shared commitments, goal architecture, and compensation decisions emerge from a culture of evidence and excellence.

The focus of Year 1 was building capacity and trust, prioritizing professional growth over evaluation.

- **Co-Creation of Goals:** Faculty and staff collaborated with supervisors to design observable, standards-aligned goals and engaged in mid-year reflections.
- **Strategic Incentives:** Instructional Practice Advancement compensation (IPA) was tied directly to participation.
- **The Foundation:** Grounded in the research, this approach established the psychological safety and intrinsic motivation necessary for meaningful accountability.



INVESTING IN OUR CAMPUS

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

2025

Our objective is to enhance the efficiency, security, and scalability of our technology infrastructure. With a growing reliance on digital tools for instruction, administration, and communication, we recognized the need for expert support to maintain, monitor, and advance our IT environment.

2026

NKEC is upgrading its door access control systems to streamline campus entry and strengthen building security. Enhancing these systems ensures a well-regulated environment for students and staff during school hours. By establishing clear, controlled access points, we can improve day-to-day operational efficiency while maintaining a safe and welcoming campus.



FISCAL YEAR 2026

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed budget for Northern Kane Educational Corp. (NKEC) for Fiscal Year 2026 outlines key financial goals, including employee compensation, student success, capital improvements, and strategic plan development, all reflecting the corporation's ongoing commitment to growth and sustainability.

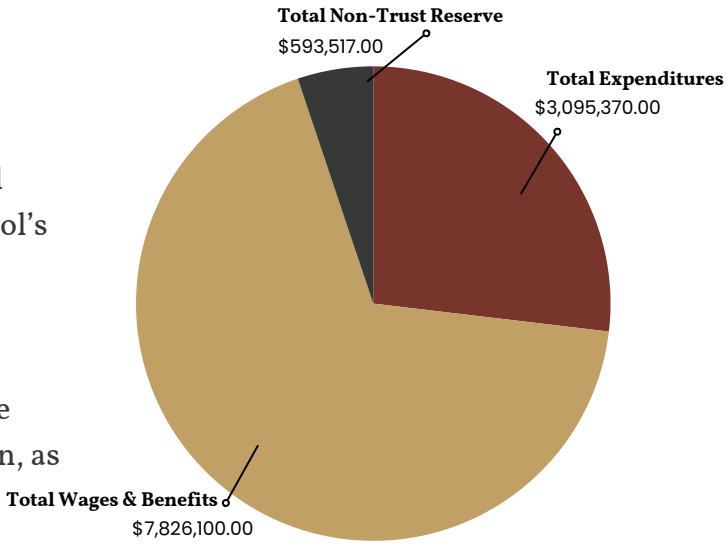
Unit	Revenues
Corporate	$ 300,000.00
Charter School	$ 10,250,500.00
Preschool	$ 468,600.00
School's Out	$ 257,300.00
CL Learning Center	$ -
TCLA (Academy)	$ 736,837.00
Studio	$ 1,750.00
Total Revenues	**$ 12,014,987.00**

Revenue

The total revenue generated amounts to **$12,014,987**, with the bulk derived from tuition and fees from both the K-8 charter school and the charter Academy. The projected revenue is based on a $14,556.74 estimated PCTC rate from D300, which serves as a foundational element in budgeting and financial planning.

Expenses

Personnel wages and benefits total **$7,826,100**, covering corporate administration, charter school staff, and preschool personnel, reflecting the school's investment in human resources vital for quality education and support services.



Meanwhile, expenditures, totaling **$3,095,370**, are driven primarily by depreciation and amortization, as well as bond interest obligations. These financial commitments underscore the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility and long-term planning.

The organization has set aside a non-trust reserve of **$593,517** to support operational needs and future initiatives, providing flexibility for unexpected expenses and long-term goals while ensuring financial stability and strategic investments.

Conclusion

The FY26 Budget reflects the strategic plan of the Corporation. This Budget includes funds to cover wages and benefit increases aimed at helping retain and attract staff, student success, capital improvements, and an expansion of revenue streams.

WHO WE ARE

Northern Kane Educational Corporation (NKEC) broke ground on the Cambridge Lakes Learning Center in 2007. NKEC manages all entities housed within the Cambridge Lakes Learning Center Campus including Cambridge Lakes Charter School, The Cambridge Lakes Academy, Cambridge Lakes Preschool and School's Out.

Upcoming NKEC Board Meetings:

All meetings are held at 7PM on the Cambridge Lakes Learning Center campus unless otherwise communicated.

Scan the QR code to view all upcoming meetings.

References

Kolb, D. A. (1984). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development.* Prentice-Hall.

Kolb, D. A. (2015). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development* (2nd ed.). Pearson Education.

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