

**TDW Academy of Educational Resources  
Science, Technology, English Language Arts, and Mathematics**

**MO CHARTER SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

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## **Introduction**

Two crucial events are taking place in the St. Louis metro area directly impacting low-income students and their communities. The first is the phase out of the VICC (Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation) program. Since 1981, the VICC program has given low-income and minority students school choice and accessibility to higher quality education outside of neighborhoods with dilapidated school buildings and challenged school districts where they live. In St. Louis we call this “busing” or “the deseg program”- and it’s all coming to an end by 2032, when the last lottery student is scheduled to graduate.<sup>1</sup> The second event is the opening of the NGA facility, a military operated organization that employs civilians with high tech and other professional skills needed to help secure our nation and monitor world events. The selected location of the facility has caused much debate around gentrification and jobs. The debate also presents a pressing question – will students who live in St. Louis city be ready for these jobs and other careers that impact the region and the globe?<sup>2</sup> The site is scheduled to open in 2025, just 7 years before the VICC program comes to a final close. Both events coupled with the ongoing challenges of providing students with safe, high quality social and academic environments comes down to one word - choice. A parent being interviewed by the St. Louis Post Dispatch, summed it up perfectly when she stated that it all “boils down to a choice” and went on to say that students want to attend a school where they can focus and “study”.<sup>3</sup> Will students finally have a choice of education that pushes them to think past their neighborhoods and into a world full of opportunities and innovations? TDW Academy of Educational Resources is a Non Profit educational service agency, committed to reaching and educating learners of all ages, and experienced in working with educators to help students learn and succeed. Our objective is to create a rigorous learning environment with a quality academic standard. We desire to assist students in achieving successful goals to compete in an ever-changing global society. We offer independent & AP curriculums, hybrid homeschool programs, ACT/SAT prep, & tutoring services. We are a 501c3 educational organization.

## **TDW Academy Mission**

Is to foster educational excellence and opportunity for all learners through collaboration, and leadership with the goal to produce a viable, strong and a globally aware workforce that will understand individual social and economic contributions to the bigger picture TDW Academy believes that obstacles to learning can be overcome, and, once that happens, learning is natural for everyone. By doing so we will cultivate generations of leaders and individual contributors with high aspirations that are inspired to make the global community a better place for all - beginning with the improvement of their local community.

## **Student Population**

TDW Academy will serve primarily a low-income student population in grades 7-12 across the St. Louis metropolitan area. Our decision to locate the school in north city was carefully considered after research determining that there are four public high schools, all of which are considered as underperforming, or not quality, within a three-mile radius of the NGA site and other key development corridors near downtown. This opens a great opportunity for TDW Academy to serve students that lack school choice in the area. The high school will begin its first two years serving 9 th and 10th grades and will increase the student population by adding 11 th grade by year three and 12th grade by year four. 1 3 By the fifth year the school will have reached its capacity goal of 460. By 2026, our plan is to have graduated a class of seniors that will 1) have earned industry recognized credentials for now and next generation technologies, 2) will be academically capable of entering a 2-or-4 year college or university and completing a degree, and 3) will be viable candidates for entry level career opportunities as interns or apprentices within the advancing industries that accept their industry recognized credential. As a goal, following our first renewal, our plan is to add 6th grade in 2027, 7th grade in 2028 and 8 th grade in 2029. By 2029, our expectation is to be at full capacity for both middle school and high school levels, using the middle school as a feeder for the high school. Gradually adding a younger pipeline to serve the high school will begin an early preparation of younger students for STEM based industry clusters opportunities in their community and will ensure the continued success of TDW Academy through a proactive recruitment and enrollment strategy.

<b>High School</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>330</b>

### **The target population of low-income can be characterized by:**

- High work hours, low pay
- Single parent householdLow work hours, low pay
- Uninsured or put off needed care
- Unbanked Housing insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Living in high crime neighborhood
- Living in challenged or unaccredited school district, Title I eligible
- Independent Learners

## **INNOVATIVE FEATURES**

- College readiness coupled with workforce preparedness to provide a safety net for all students
- Electives that encompass a range of STEM based industry recognized credentials
- Experiential learning centered on local and regional businesses doing global business
- A full remediation plan designed to prepare students for academic and workforce capabilities assessments at the front end of their educational experience
- Apprenticeship and internship opportunities by 12th grade with industry partners
- Personalized academic plans for each student based on initial ACT/SAT

## **School Design**

### **How Can Low-Income Students Connect with Independent & AP curriculums, hybrid homeschool programs?**

Hybrid learning is such a commonplace in today's digital age that it has become almost synonymous with "learning" itself. Also known as blended learning, hybrid learning is the idea that instruction can take place in both digital and physical environments.

Many pedagogical methods that take place in a traditional classroom are very conducive to online learning. For instance, a round robin – which involves students generating ideas on a piece of paper then passing to another student to critically assess and add ideas – is simple to translate to the online environment. Discussions can take place in person or in online forums. Students can submit work online, and receive feedback from teachers electronically as well.

Technology has enabled instructors not only to add to the traditional classroom experience, but to transform it overall. Instructors don't simply sub out teaching that would have taken place online, but instead are able to run class in different ways.

For instance, classes that are only held once a week in person have traditionally been hamstrung when it comes to daily activities, because students can only submit once per week. Now, however, teachers can ask students to submit a short reflection, subsection of a paper, problem set or other type of homework on a daily basis. This gives the teacher a better chance to integrate with students and give them the best chance to succeed.

## **Engagement & Recruitment**

TDW Academy is currently fully involved in community research and engagement. To date, the organization has conducted surveys and collected a range of ordinal and ratio data from high school students and parents/guardians within targeted St. Louis City Zip codes. Most notably, of 137 surveys of parents/guardians, 94% answered “YES” to supporting a ‘new charter high school and/or middle school in their community that would help prepare their young people post secondary educational life .We will continue to fully engage parents, community stakeholders and youth in the targeted metro community. Our key engagement and recruitment methods include demographic and ethnographic research used to improve program delivery, quarterly community meetings, social media, blogging and published articles, advertisement, quarterly sponsored youth and community talks from leaders in public and private sectors. In addition to traditional students, we will have active enrollment slots open for recent drop-outs that want to return to high school as well as special needs students. We will host small, semi-annual community summits to encourage dropout re-enrollment and to engage special needs families.

## **Operational/Financial**

## **Achieving Outcomes**

TDW Academy has goals, tactics and strategies in place for budgeting, earning revenue, management, sourcing and community engagement. Beginning the process of searching for grants, private donors, and corporate sponsorships early and continuously will help us achieve our financial goals. There is also a detailed strategy in place to recruit highly qualified teachers and administrative personnel to manage departments including finance, programs, compliance and legal, curriculum and instruction, parent/guardian involvement and marketing and outreach. To achieve our academic goals, we will use a blended learning approach that includes traditional, experiential, online and thematic. Connecting career opportunities with our school’s theme and curriculum will help students to understand how high school and postsecondary education is important to obtaining success in the future. Our career program infuses traditional CTE mechanisms with other key information important to high school students including salary expectations; cities and countries with growing sectors; cities, states and nations they can travel to with certain careers; and high-level government positions they can aspire to fill at the state or national level. Students’ progress along with teacher development will be tracked using assessments every quarter as well as evaluations.

## **Founding Team**

The founding team will consist of seven to twelve members rotating in three-year terms. The founding team will include:

Dr. J Wimbley-Mendoza- President & Founder/Education Advocate  
Dr. Gregory Cosby- Vice President/Educational Administrator/Education Expert  
Mr. Germitrious Dixson- Director Of Education/Charter Education Advisor  
Mr. Harold B. Clark- Chief Of Operations/ Financial Consultant  
Mr. Georin LaGrant- Assistant Chief Of Operations/Financial Consultant  
Ms. Martha Moran- Chief Legal Advisor/Attorney  
Ms. Shaneca Davis- Assistant Legal Advisor/Paralegal  
Ms. Rosalind Lester- Community Coordinator/Entrepreneur  
Mrs. Quiana Calvin- Assistant Community Coordinator/Entrepreneur  
Ms. Ada Clark- Assistant Community Coordinator/Entrepreneur  
Mr. Jermaine Harvey-Public Relations & Media/Media Expert  
Mr. Zacchaeus M, Windham- Media & Publishing/Media Consultant

