

Northern Michigan University

LETTER GRADE¹

F

Overall Score: **24.8**

- Number of Schools: **10**
- Total Enrollment: **4,377**
- Michigan Charter Market Share: **3.03%**

Demographic Breakdown:
41.7% African American Students
16.9% Latino Students
8.7% American Indian Students
77.7% Low-Income Students

Is the authorizer approving high-performing charter operator openings?²

60.0

Is the authorizer overseeing a portfolio of schools that is as good as, or better than, other school options available to parents?³

14.3

Is the authorizer improving its chronically failing schools?⁴

0.0

Northern Michigan University (NMU) was the worst performing authorizer on the scorecard. NMU's failure to act has meant that more than 4,000 Michigan students continue to attend chronically low-performing schools.

- All but one of its schools failed the ETM minimum quality standard. This standard measures whether student improvement within a school is as good, or better, than the average improvement in the local school district and state average, or if a school is above the state average for student performance.
- Not only that, six of its seven schools actually failed the “as good or better” test for three consecutive years.
- Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy in the Upper Peninsula had about 40 percent of its American Indian students proficient in math in 2013-14. The school also ranked in the bottom five percent of schools for three consecutive years, from 2010-11 to 2012-13. This is significant given that it's rare for a school to rank among the worst schools statewide for multiple years, let alone three years in a row.

NMU's schools' academic performance is as distressing as its recent decision-making. NMU engaged in two instances of “authorizer shopping” – approving a school that previously received its authorization from another authorizer, despite the schools' previous poor academic performance. This strategy is often used by low-performing schools or operators to find an authorizer with the lowest academic requirements, mainly to avoid closure.

- George Crockett Academy of Detroit was previously authorized by Ferris State University. The school placed near the bottom quarter of all public schools on the state's accountability rankings for 2013-14.
- Francis Reh Public School Academy of Saginaw was also authorized previously by Ferris State University. Just 16 percent of Hispanic students were proficient in math at Francis Reh Public School Academy in 2013-14.



www.edtrustmidwest.org/accountability-for-all

The Education Trust—Midwest

Note: Number of schools as of fall 2015. Enrollment and demographic information as of 2014-15.

1 Letter grades are as follows: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 50-69, F: 0-49.

2 This score represents the percentage of schools the authorizer opened from fall 2011 to fall 2015 that were managed by operators that met a statewide minimum quality standard over three years (between 2011-12 and 2013-14). An operator did not meet our statewide minimum quality standard if more than half of its schools failed a statewide minimum quality standard for three consecutive academic years, 2011-12 through 2013-14. Authorizers that did not open new school between fall 2011 and 2015 were not scored for this category.

3 This score represents the percentage of an authorizer's current schools that met a statewide minimum quality standard over three consecutive academic years, 2011-12 through 2013-14.

4 This score represents the percentage of an authorizer's schools that were among the state's bottom five percent of lowest-performing schools for two consecutive academic years (any two consecutive years between 2011-12 and 2013-14), remain open, and did not demonstrate above state average improvement in the second year, out of the authorizer's schools that were among the bottom five percent for the first time between 2010-11 and 2012-13.