



**BAY MILLS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



A History of Bay Mills Community College  
Charter Schools Office

# INTRODUCTION

## The Origins of the Bay Mills' Authorizer

It is impossible to talk about Bay Mills Community College Charter School's Office (BMCC CSO) without mentioning the rich heritage that comes from the authorizer, Bay Mills Community College (BMCC). Located on the southeastern shore of Lake Superior, the college started within the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As Michigan's first fully accredited, tribally-controlled college, BMCC meets the educational needs of a wide variety of students, from its remote, rural Main Campus, West Campus, off-campus sites, and online courses. BMCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

BMCC is one of three tribally controlled colleges in the State of Michigan, and the only community college in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula; it is committed to providing affordable, culturally relevant, accessible, and high quality educational opportunities to all tribal communities in Michigan and their neighbors.

It is easy to see how the college's mission translated to charter public schools. To date, Bay Mills Community College is the only federally recognized tribal college in the country to charter public schools. With 45 chartered schools serving more than 23,600 students throughout the state, BMCC ranks in the top three largest authorizers chartering Michigan Public School Academies.

## Why BMCC Charter Schools?

Bay Mills Community College Charter Schools Office supports a quality education to urban, minority and/or poor children. We use innovative oversight methods to ensure students attending our academies are prepared to be career and college ready. Our top priority is providing our academy boards with pertinent training so that they are able to make choices that are in the best interest of the students that attend their academies. Furthermore, Bay Mills Community College Charter Schools Office provides support for the professional development of school leaders and board members.



# TIMELINE

## Bay Mills Community College Timeline to Charter School

**1994:** Michigan law allows state universities and community colleges to be public charter school authorizers

**1997:** Bay Mills Tribal leadership initiated discussions with Michigan's Governor and Attorney General to clarify law regarding BMCC's ability to act as a public charter school authorizer

**2000:** Michigan law is amended to include tribally controlled colleges as public charter school authorizers; Bay Mills Community College charters its first two schools later that year

*Bay Mills Community College is involved with chartering schools to help students from all economic and social situations throughout the State of Michigan gain access to many educational choices and opportunities*



# FACTS

**BMCC Chartered Schools have provided quality education opportunities for Michigan students for over 20 years.**

Since 2000, BMCC has authorized 52 public charter schools throughout Michigan, with 45 charter schools with ongoing contracts.

The 45 schools that BMCC charter are in geographic areas that have many at-risk students or students who are educationally underserved.

Over 23,600 students with many students from minority groups, are educated at schools chartered through BMCC.

Over 48 percent of students enrolled at BMCC chartered schools are African American. In addition to the Native American students served, many Hispanic and Asian American students are also students.

The Ojibwe Charter School chartered through BMCC returns a K-12 school to the Bay Mills Indian Community for the first time since 1940, and educates about 147 students, most of whom are Bay Mills members. This school also restored the teaching of tribal language and traditions to students.

Over 78 percent of students enrolled at BMCC chartered schools meet federal requirements for a free or reduced school lunch.

# HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION?

## **Our Vision at the Bay Mills Charter School Office**

To assure a meaningful high school diploma for historically underrepresented children in Michigan

## **Our Mission at the Bay Mills Charter School Office**

To ensure a quality education for urban, minority, and/or poor children by improving and expanding educational opportunities through innovative oversight methods. To provide academy boards with the necessary support and training so that they may make educated decisions that are in the best interest for the students that attend their academies

## **Our Organizational Staff**

The staff at Bay Mills Community College Charter School Office brings passion, experience and expertise to assure accountability and innovation. Our staff serves as a resource on our four major components of oversight: academics, finance, compliance and governance. Charter School Office Staff listing.

## **Our Four Values Streams/Metrics**

Each of our school boards is provided with an annual report that reflects four value streams and metrics of the Bay Mills Community College Charter Schools Office: Academic Performance; Financial Stability; Compliance; and Governance. The academy boards use these reports to evaluate their academies annually. Because the boards are ultimately responsible for the successful operation of the academy, the information is critical to an academy's successful operation. BMCC CSO recognizes the value and power of an educated academy board, and seeks to provide them with the necessary support and training.

### *Academic Performance*

The Bay Mills Community College Charter School Office has shifted away from solely relying on the state assessment to determine student academic achievement and growth. Our goal is to ensure students that attend our academies are career and college ready. Students are required to be assessed using a nationally norm referenced assessment twice per year. Nationally norm referenced assessments are valuable in allowing academies to compare how their students rank nationally and display proficiency and growth.

### *Financial Stability*

Bay Mills Community College Charter School Office closely scrutinizes the financial sustainability of each of its schools. Leases, management agreements, long term financing, purchases and all other costs are closely examined. An academy's budget, monthly financial reports, and annual audits provide essential data in analyzing an academy's financial viability.

### *Compliance*

Each academy is expected to meet all authorizer, state, and federal requirements. Essential documents are uploaded to an online document management system called Epicenter. Epicenter allows BMCC as an authorizer to assess whether an academy has submitted required documentation in a timely manner and cross checks for accuracy. It allows for immediate feedback as to the compliance status of an academy.

### *Governance*

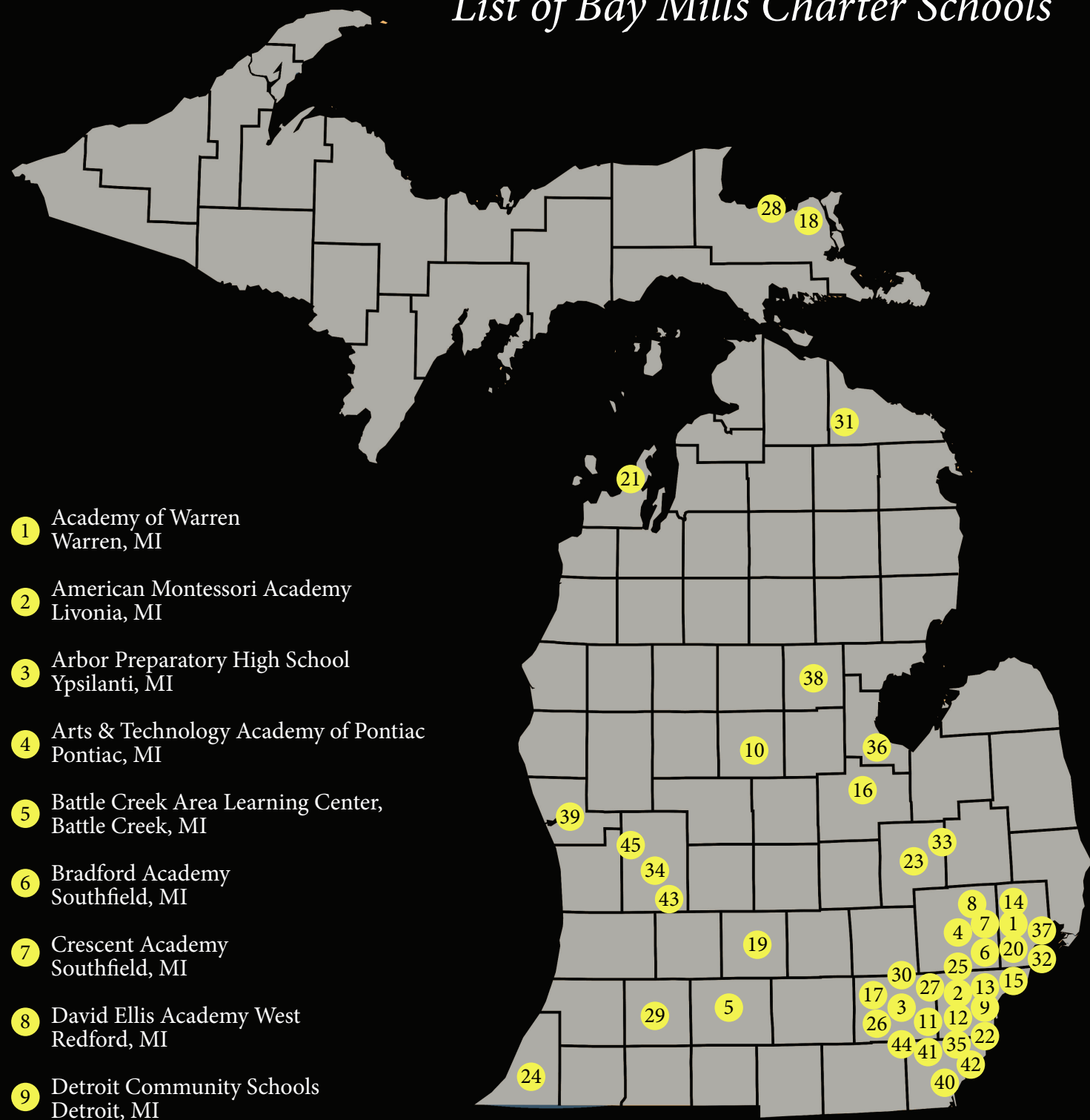
Field representatives monitor an academy's compliance and board governance through academy site visits and attendance at monthly board meetings. Reports are completed after each visit. Academy issues are reported to the Charter School Office and interventions planned when needed. Training and support are provided to academy boards to ensure they have the necessary information to make informed decisions regarding their academy.



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## List of Bay Mills Charter Schools



- 1 Academy of Warren  
Warren, MI
- 2 American Montessori Academy  
Livonia, MI
- 3 Arbor Preparatory High School  
Ypsilanti, MI
- 4 Arts & Technology Academy of Pontiac  
Pontiac, MI
- 5 Battle Creek Area Learning Center,  
Battle Creek, MI
- 6 Bradford Academy  
Southfield, MI
- 7 Crescent Academy  
Southfield, MI
- 8 David Ellis Academy West  
Redford, MI
- 9 Detroit Community Schools  
Detroit, MI

- 10 FlexTech High School - Shepherd  
Shepherd, MI
- 11 Fortis Academy  
Ypsilanti, MI
- 12 Frontier International Academy  
Hamtramck, MI
- 13 George Washington Carver Academy  
Highland Park, MI
- 14 Great Oaks Academy  
Warren, MI
- 15 Hamtramck Academy  
Hamtramck, MI
- 16 International Academy of Saginaw  
Saginaw, MI
- 17 Keystone Academy  
Belleville, MI
- 18 Lake Superior Academy  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- 19 Lansing Charter Academy  
Lansing, MI
- 20 Laurus Academy  
Southfield, MI
- 21 Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy  
Suttons Bay, MI
- 22 Life Skills Center of Pontiac  
Pontiac, MI
- 23 Madison Academy  
Flint, MI
- 24 Mildred C. Wells Preparatory Academy  
Benton Harbor, MI
- 25 Mt. Clemens Montessori Academy  
Mt. Clemens, MI
- 26 Multicultural Academy  
Ann Arbor, MI
- 27 Oakside Prep Academy  
Waterford, MI
- 28 Ojibwe Charter School  
Brimley, MI
- 29 Paramount Charter Academy  
Kalamazoo, MI
- 30 Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy  
Plymouth, MI
- 31 Presque Isle Academy  
Onaway, MI
- 32 Prevail Academy  
Mt. Clemens, MI
- 33 Richfield Public School Academy  
Flint, MI
- 34 River City Scholars Charter Academy  
Grand Rapids, MI
- 35 Start International Academy  
Dearborn Heights
- 36 State Street Academy  
Bay City, MI
- 37 Taylor Exemplar Academy  
Taylor, MI
- 38 Three Lakes Academy  
Curtis, MI
- 39 Three Oaks Public School Academy  
Muskegon, MI
- 40 Triumph Academy  
Monroe, MI
- 41 Universal Learning Academy  
Dearborn Heights, MI
- 42 University YES Academy  
Detroit, MI
- 43 Vista Charter Academy  
Grand Rapids, MI
- 44 Vista Meadows Academy  
Dearborn Heights, MI
- 45 Wellspring Preparatory High School  
Grand Rapids, MI



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**GET IN TOUCH**

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