
Alternative Learning Centers

SWWC's ALCs are State of Minnesota approved programs, not GED programs. The ALCs provide eligible students the opportunity to work toward high school graduation and earn a diploma from their home district. SWWC ALCs are located in Pipestone and Windom.

Eligibility

To become an eligible student of an SWWC ALC, students must be between ages 12 and 20, and meet one of the following qualifications:

- Behind in graduation credits
- Pregnant or a parent
- Assessed as chemically dependent
- Victim of physical or sexual abuse
- Experienced mental health problems
- Experienced homelessness anytime within the last six months
- Expelled or excluded from a school district
- Speak English as a second language or has limited English proficiency
- Referred by two of the following: District, Parent, or Community Support Service

Enrollment

All agencies, schools, parents or individuals (18 and over) must contact the ALC Intake Worker or Program Administrator to refer a student and begin the enrollment process.

Contact Information

Stephanie Strenge, Program Administrator, Stephanie.strenge@swwc.org

Nicole Larson, Intake Worker, Nicole.larson@swwc.org

Windom Phone: 507-831-6935

Pipestone Phone: 507-825-5858

Targeted Services

Targeted services are out of school time elementary and middle/junior high-level programs for at-risk students. Programming occurs on an extended day/year basis. **Only ALCs can apply to provide Targeted Services.**

For Districts Providing Targeted Services through SWWC ALCs:

SWWC will bill districts a 4% fee, which covers the cost of:

- Reporting to MDE including ADMs, and
- Support with program and finance questions.

PROGRAM NAME	ADM	EXT ADM	TOTAL	RATE	REVENUE DISTRICT GENERATES	4% SWWC Fee
Sample School 1	0.00	0.68	0.68	6,583.55	4,476.81	179.07
Sample School 2	0.10	0.26	0.36	6,841.96	2,463.11	98.52
Sample School 3	0.00	6.14	6.14	6,425.20	39,450.73	1,578.03
Sample School 4	1.89	13.90	15.79	6,841.96	108,034.55	4,321.38
Sample School 5	0.34	12.53	12.87	6,695.16	86,166.71	3,446.67

For funding purposes, student membership is reported in hours. Funding is a pro-ration of the general education revenue, generated by students' instruction time (membership). Targeted Services students will not generate compensatory revenue at the ALC because students have already been counted at their elementary or middle school.

Because many ALCs work with a number of school districts, the statute defined minimum ADM is used as the divisor.

- Kindergarten (850 hours)
- Grades 1 through 6 (935 hours)
- Grades 7 through 12 (1020)

There are no additional monies provided for transportation.

State Approved Alternative Programs

Districts that choose SWWC as their ALC for targeted services **must** ensure that:

- Learning experiences are centered around ensuring grade progression;
- An appropriately licensed teacher is providing the instruction;
- Services are provided to at-risk students in kindergarten through 8th grade (Minnesota statute 124D.68);
- Services must supplement and not supplant and must occur on an extended day/year keeping the student in the traditional system;
- Programming should meet individual learning styles and should have a social/emotional component;
- Remediation should not be the sole focus (Minnesota statute 123A.06);
- Students must qualify to be in an ALC funded targeted services program;
- Each student is provided a Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.128, Subdivision 3);
- A parent/guardian signs the registration form for the extended day/year program, as well as their child's CLP; and
- Programming is not drop-in and students are scheduled into instruction that meets whole-learner needs to increase academic achievement.

Students qualify based upon informal and formal district assessment measures such as NWEA, MAP, MCA, DRA, and district reading and math benchmarks. Students are selected for participation because they have demonstrated academic performance below grade-level expectations, are at-risk for failing to meet the state's academic content standards, or have social challenges that may put them at-risk of not being successful in school.

Types of services that do not generate extended time funding through targeted services:

- Homework help
- Clubs
- Music/Art lessons
- District program-required initiatives (such as International Baccalaureate)

Contact Information

Stephanie Strenge, Program Administrator

Stephanie.strenge@swwc.org

507-360-1876

State Approved Alternative Programs

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery is a strategy that allows students to recover course credit in courses that are required for graduation. Several modes of credit recovery are commonly offered, including online courses, course retake, packet work, and instructor developed modified courses. SWWC offers Credit Recovery courses working directly with students and schools can run their Credit Recovery programs through SWWC's ALC.

For Districts Running Credit Recovery through SWWC ALCs:

SWWC will bill districts a 4% fee, which covers the cost of:

- Administration and reporting of the ALC, including three year annual review requirements;
- Reporting to MDE including ADMs; and
- Support with program and finance questions.

Districts that choose SWWC as their ALC for credit recovery **must:**

- Ensure that an appropriately licensed teacher is providing the instruction;
- Establish credit recovery criteria and programming; and
- Administer the credit recovery program, which includes completing a CLP for each student.

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STARRS Online Academy

Approved by MDE, **STARRS Online Academy** is a non-diploma program that expands educational opportunities [for students in our member school districts](#). With the ability to remain enrolled in their home district, students can take **STARRS Online Academy** online courses to continue to meet their graduation requirements. These courses are taught by Minnesota licensed teachers who specialize in online teaching through the use of interactive and engaging course experiences. This program also meets Minnesota Academic Standards and uses assessment tools to measure student progress.

Offering **STARRS Online Academy** gives alternatives to students who may be:

- Looking for courses not offered in their district.
- Looking for flexibility.
- Experiencing mental or physical health issues.
- Credit deficient and wanting to graduate.
- Struggling with a traditional school environment.
- Having difficulty with a teacher.

Enrollment

Students must complete the “Online Learning (OLL) Supplemental Notice of Student Registration” form and a 10-day notice to their enrolling school.

STARRS Online Academy Will:

- Ensure all courses are taught by Minnesota licensed teachers and meet or exceed state academic standards;
- Maintain weekly contact with parent/guardian student and district contact regarding student progress and provide final grades for all courses; and
- Provide special education direct services and case management for enrolled students, which includes the following:
 - The enrolling district will provide a representative to attend all IEP team meetings;
 - The enrolling district will report the student in MARSS; therefore, all costs related to providing special education direct services and case management provided by SWWC will be billed directly to the enrolling district and entered in the enrolling district’s SEDRA; and
 - After enrollment, SWWC will calculate usage for each district and send a separate contract for Special Education Services.

State Approved Alternative Programs

Districts Will:

- Identify a district contact person to maintain enrollment, approve courses, maintain transcripts and award diploma to students who complete district graduation requirements;
- Provide required state testing;
- Allow student access to district technology for completion of courses for enrolled students; and
- Pay any additional costs above the estimated amount per semester credit at the end of the year.

Fee Assessment

A separate Tuition Agreement will be completed for STARRS Online Academy.

Contact Information

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