



March 30, 2026

Dr. Eric Skanson, Director
STRIDE Academy, #4142-07
3241 Oakham Lane
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

Dear Dr. Skanson:

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires a review and comment statement on the educational and economic advisability of your proposed school construction project. Information supplied by your school and from Minnesota Department of Education sources is the basis of this review and comment. With this positive review and comment, charter school board approval is required for STRIDE Academy, #4142-07, to proceed with the proposed projects.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, requires the commissioner include comments from local residents in the review and comment. As of the date of this letter, no public comments have been received. In addition, Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, **requires the charter school board to hold a public meeting to discuss the review and comment prior to soliciting any bids for the construction, expansion, or remodeling of an educational facility.**

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72, **requires a school, prior to occupying a new or renovated facility after July 1, 2002, to submit a certification prepared by a system inspector to the commissioner and the building code official that will provide an occupancy permit.** The certification must verify that the facility's installed or modified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operates according to design specifications and code, a system for monitoring outdoor airflow and total airflow of ventilation systems has been installed, and any installed or modified heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system provides an indoor air quality filtration system that meets ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Standard 52.1.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kubesh, Education Finance specialist, at 651-582-8319 or chris.kubesh@state.mn.us. Thank you for working with us to improve school facilities for Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie L. Jett II'.

Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

Cc: Sara Fromm, School Board

Enclosure

**The Commissioner of the Department of Education
Review and Comment on the School Construction
Proposal of STRIDE Academy, #4142-07**

A review and comment must be provided on a school district construction project proposal before the district conducts a referendum, solicits bids, or issues bonds for the project. A project proposal has been submitted for review and comment according to requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.71, subdivisions 9 and 10, and Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72. The district provides the following information:

1. The geographic area and population to be served:
 - a. preschool through grade 12 student enrollment for the past five years, and
 - b. student enrollment projections for the next five years.
2. A list of existing school facilities:
 - a. by year constructed,
 - b. their uses, and
 - c. an assessment of the extent to which alternate facilities are available within school district boundaries and in adjacent school districts.
3. A list of specific deficiencies of the facility:
 - a. demonstrating the need for a new or renovated facility to be provided,
 - b. the process used to determine the deficiencies,
 - c. a list of those deficiencies that will and will not be addressed by the proposed projects,
 - d. a list of specific benefits that the new or renovated facility will provide to students, teachers, and community users served by the facility.
4. A description of the project, including:
 - a. specifications of site and outdoor space acreage,
 - b. square footage allocations for classrooms, laboratories and support spaces,
 - c. estimated expenditures for major portions of the project,
 - d. estimated changes in facility operating costs, and
 - e. dates the project will begin and be completed.
5. A specification of the source of project financing, including:
 - a. applicable statutory citations,
 - b. the scheduled date for a bond issue or school board action,
 - c. a schedule of payments, including debt service equalization aid, and
 - d. the effect of a bond issue on local property taxes by property class and valuation.
6. Documentation obligating the school district and contractors to comply with the following items:
 - a. Minnesota Statutes, section 471.345 governing municipal contracts,
 - b. sustainable design,
 - c. school facility commissioning under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72, certifying the plans and designs for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air filtration for an extensively renovated or new facility meet or exceed current code standards, including ASHRAE air filtration Standard 52.1,
 - d. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acoustical performance criteria, design requirements and guidelines for schools on maximum background noise levels and reverberation times,
 - e. state fire code,
 - f. chapter 326B governing building codes, and
 - g. consultation with affected government units about the impact of the project on utilities, roads, sewers, sidewalks, retention ponds, school bus and automobile traffic, access to mass transit and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Description of Proposed Property Acquisition / Renovations

STRIDE Academy (SA), #4142-07 currently serves approximately 809 K-8th grade students at its two school sites located in St. Cloud, Minnesota. K-4th grade students are served at a facility located at 3241 Oakham Lane and 5-8th grade students at a second facility located at 3701 33rd Street. The two sites are located one mile apart. SA's affiliated building company, STRIDE Academy Building Company (SABC) owns the property located at 3241 Oakham Lane. The second facility at 3701 33rd Street is currently leased from a third-party landlord.

SA, thru SABC, is proposing the acquisition of and minor building and site improvements to the second facility at 3701 33rd Street from the current third-party landlord. Proposed facility improvements include: bathroom renovations, gymnasium access upgrades, administrative office improvements, other minor interior renovations, parking lot resurfacing and HVAC upgrades.

The proposed facility acquisition and improvements will be financed by charter school revenue bonds, issued by the City of St. Cloud on behalf of SABC. Total project costs, including facility improvement and financing costs are estimated to be \$22,591,500 and would be completed in calendar year 2026. Estimated project cost components are as follows:

Estimated Project Costs	
Property Acquisition	\$ 19,413,000
Renovations to Existing Structure	\$ 675,000
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$ 714,495
Debt Service Reserve	\$ 1,528,392
Capitalized Interest	\$ 160,613
Contingencies	\$ 100,000
	\$ 22,591,500

SABC will be responsible for the annual debt service payments associated with the proposed project financing. SABC will, in turn, lease the facility on a long-term basis to SA. The charter school will use lease aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.22 and unrestricted general fund dollars to fund the annual lease payments.

SA has supplied enrollment and operating cost projections, showing they will have sufficient pupils and financial resources to fund the lease cost associated with the proposed projects. The proposed projects, under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.13, Subdivision 3, appear to be in the best interest of the charter school and addresses both current and long-term facility needs.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the charter school's executive director.



Willie L. Jett II
Commissioner

March 30, 2026

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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