



For Immediate Release

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DECEMBER 18, 2025

The Lincoln Academy Earns Five-Year Charter Renewal from the University of Wisconsin Office of Educational Opportunity

BELOIT, Wis – The Lincoln Academy (TLA) announced today that it has received official notice of a full five-year charter contract renewal from the University of Wisconsin Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO), the statewide authorizer responsible for approving and overseeing the school's charter contract. This renewal affirms TLA's strong academic growth, operational performance, and commitment to providing families with a high-quality educational option.

TLA received a 100% cumulative score on their Performance Framework and positive feedback on the review of its current contract renewal criteria related to the school's obligations as outlined in its charter contract.

"We are honored to earn renewal from the Office of Educational Opportunity," said Dr. Kristi Cole, TLA CEO. "This is a significant milestone for our school and a reflection of the hard work of our scholars, staff, and families. At TLA, we hold high expectations for every child, and our team shows up every day with a commitment to excellence and a belief in what is possible. This renewal validates that our instructional model and school culture are working—and that our scholars are achieving."

Since opening in 2021, TLA has expanded academic offerings, developed a robust career exploration program for all grade levels, and increased its partnerships with local businesses and community organizations to connect scholars with real-world learning experiences. The school continues to see strong enrollment demand from families across the region.

Dr. Cole continues, "The OEO's decision confirms that TLA is providing a high-quality, future-focused education in Beloit. Our latest state report card confirms the progress we're making, and demonstrates the areas where our scholars have exceeded the state averages in academic performance. We operate according to our Three Pillars: Academic Rigor, Character Development, and Career Exploration. We are proud of the progress made thus far and energized for the years ahead."

The charter renewal allows TLA to continue operating as a tuition-free public school open to all Wisconsin families.

Upcoming Open Enrollment Period for 2026-2027 School Year

Enrollment for new K4-12 scholars at TLA is February 1-28, 2026. Enrollment applications are open to any Wisconsin family with school aged children that would like to enroll at TLA. TLA is a public school. There is no tuition or cost to attend. Enrollment is open to everyone with a Wisconsin home address. Families can apply online or by appointment in person at the school.

The open enrollment application process for TLA is the same as it is for any public school in the state. In addition to filling out the application, families will need to submit both proof of Wisconsin residency and review of a birth certificate for the enrolling scholar. Families can review enrollment information at www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com/enroll.

If more applications are received than there are seats available, a public, random lottery will be held in March 2026 to determine enrollment for the available seats and the waitlist order for the coming year. Only completed applications received by midnight on the last day of February are eligible for the lottery process.

Dr. Cole adds, “Children that are currently three years old but will be four years old on or before September 1, 2026 are eligible to apply.”

About The Lincoln Academy

The Lincoln Academy (TLA) is an innovative K4–12 public charter school in Beloit, Wisconsin, chartered through the University of Wisconsin System’s Office of Educational Opportunities. Since 2021, TLA has provided a free, high-quality education for Wisconsin families, with enrollment determined by a random lottery when the number of applications exceeds available seats. Learn more at www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com.

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