



For Immediate Release

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The Lincoln Academy Aligns Into Trailways Conference for 2027-28 School Year

BELOIT, Wis – The Lincoln Academy (TLA) is excited to announce that its membership into the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association (WIAA) has been elevated to full membership as of October 2025, and has been approved to align into the Trailways Conference for the 2027-28 school year. This change will positively impact TLA's high school athletics program and other extracurricular programming at the school.

Full WIAA membership means that TLA will be able to participate in the post season tournament series for sports that meet specific WIAA requirements. Conference alignment means that TLA will have a preset schedule with conference schools for team sports, and individual sports will compete at conference meets and tournaments. TLA athletes will also be eligible to receive conference awards.

TLA's full WIAA membership may also create future opportunities for sports co-ops as TLA continues to grow its athletic programming. TLA's conference alignment will offer competition in non-athletic activities as TLA establishes additional programming - including Music, Visual Arts, Academic Bowl, Math Meet, and Forensics.

Chelsea Wain, TLA Athletic Director, states, "This is really exciting news for our scholar athletes, and non-athletic scholars alike. The alignment into the new conference will provide several new opportunities for our scholars to showcase their talents. This is a really great accomplishment for a new school, as building an athletic program from the ground up is not a simple process. I came on board at TLA in August 2025, where many of the foundational pieces were in place to aid in achieving this goal. We appreciate all scholars and families for being patient with us along this journey, and we are excited to see where the future alignment will take us."

The WIAA organizes high schools into 49 conferences based on school size and location. Its purpose is to oversee interscholastic athletics, promote sportsmanship, and ensure uniformity of standards. The Trailways Conference membership will be fully activated with the 2027-28 school year.

About The WIAA

The WIAA is a private, non-profit organization that regulates and organizes high school sports in Wisconsin. Governed by a Board of Control, it serves as the governing body for 515 member high schools, sets regulations, establishes eligibility rules, and manages tournament structures. Learn more at www.wiaawi.org.

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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