



**CHAIN
EXPLORATION
CENTER**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



715.258.4151



www.chainexplorationcenter.org



www.facebook.com/CECwaupaca



OUR MISSION

To provide a place where children can explore their passions and gain a strong educational foundation through project-based learning in a collaborative community.

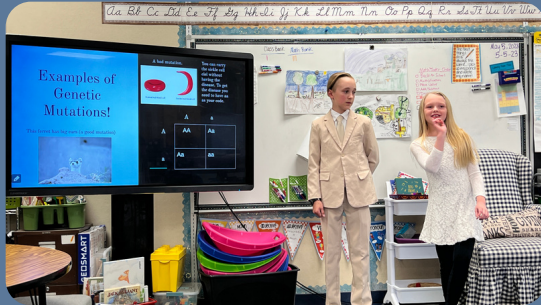


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PREPARED BY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
AND CEO, CARRIE NAPARALLA



CEO MESSAGE

The 2022-2023 school year was the culmination of my third year as administrator and CEO of Chain Exploration Center as well as the final year of the five year grant received through the Department of Public Instruction to develop and implement Chain Exploration Center. They say it takes a village. Well, it truly has taken a village to build a dynamic and distinctive learning opportunity within the School District of Waupaca. I am so very proud of everything the Governance Council, my staff, our families, and our students have navigated to get to this point. While there have been moments which have made us pause, reflect, and recalibrate, there are so many more moments to be celebrated and cherished. In addition to our project nights, Suzuki concerts, Creative Expressions evening, and holiday concert which annually showcase our students talents, this year our students were out and about expanding their knowledge visiting different parts of our state with field trips to Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton, Devils Lake, and Green Bay while some groups stayed local and visited the Fine Arts Festival at Danes Hall, Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst Junction, the Waupaca Curling Club, and Little Fat Gretchen's. While growing their knowledge, our students and their families were also growing their hearts. As a school family, we accumulated over 1,500 hours of service to others!

Generosity, kindness, compassion, and empathy toward others in our community were on display all throughout the year as demonstrated by the overwhelming success of our Powerful Penny Challenge and food drive. In addition, our 3rd and 4th grade students partnered with Pieceful Hands sewing group to sew pillowcases for patients at Children's Hospital and our 1st and 2nd grade students created birthday boxes for the Waupaca Food Pantry. The combined efforts of our Winter Gala fundraiser and Adventure Outfitters Chain O' Lakes Floatilla raised over \$30,000.00 toward our dock expansion, kayak launch, kayak storage, and other outdoor campus improvements. PTG Fundraisers supported field trips, staff appreciation efforts, and classroom activities.

Many of our live sources, who so willingly share their time, talents, and knowledge with our staff and students are family members. Every event, whether it be The Performing Arts Kids musical, the success of the CEC Emporium + Marketplace, Spring Fling dance, Back to School Cookout, environmental day, Corn Moon Corn Roast, or Game Night it is clear, without question, that we are a school family. A family that looks out for and takes care of one another. Our students spend several hours each week learning and playing together. Our older students support our younger students as book buddies, crafting companions, and project and portfolio pals. We are a village who comes together to celebrate and to support. I am so very blessed to be a part of this family. As I look to the future of Chain Exploration Center, I continue to be humbled and honored to lead our village. I look forward to having you along on this amazing journey.

Carrie Naparalla

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

OUR GOAL: UPHOLD THE MISSION

AS A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS AND AMBASSADORS, WE LOOK TO THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL TO GUIDE OUR DECISIONS, CONSIDER IMPACT, AND SEEK OUT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE SCHOOL.

OUR TEAM

Sandra Robinson, President

Background: Former School Board Member, Finance, & Education
Member since 2021

Ben Warren, Vice President

Background: Outdoor Adventure & Public Relations
Member since 2022

Becky Lange, Secretary

Background: Environmental Education, Youth Minister Leader SMM
Member since 2017

Autumn Beese, Treasurer

Background: Small Business Owner
Member since 2020

Megan Sanders

Background: Secondary Education--(Project-Based Learning and STEM)
Member since 2017

Thank you to our outgoing members for sharing their time, talent, and wisdom with us.

Christa Hemmila
Terra Morris
Kayla Van Dyke

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Mission: The mission of the Academic Excellence Committee is to monitor and evaluate student achievement and growth, curricular alignment, and charter benchmarks while staying true to the original mission, vision, and intention with which the charter was established.

Chair: Megan Sanders. **Committee Members:** Terra Morris / Mary Kaye Ristow / Sandy Robinson

2022-2023 Accomplishments:

Academic Excellence developed and presented for Governance Council (GC) review and approval: (1) "CEC Advisor Goals and Expectations" that are consistent with the CEC's mission, and reinforce our public communications describing the distinguishing features of the CEC as an option for students and families. (2) Proposals for academic sections of the charter contract expiring on 6/30/2023 (e.g., programming, curriculum, performance measures, evidence). (3) Criteria and processes for developing sustainable electives and course offerings (including health) for middle school grades. (4) Suggestions for the CEC Family Handbook to increase its value as tool for strengthening relationships with families in our school and district communities. (5) A goal to structure the CEC's Annual Report so that it serves as a monitoring piece useful to the CECGC and the Board of Education.

CHAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mission: The mission of the Chain Community Garden is to create and manage a place and space to provide fresh produce and agricultural opportunities to students and the community of Waupaca.

Chair: Mary Kaye Ristow / Kayla Van Dyke-Griena / Megan Sanders (2023). **Committee Members:** Becky Lange / Mary Kaye Ristow / Kayla Van Dyke-Griena

2022-2023 Accomplishments:

The Garden Committee: (1) Planned and maintained a garden that welcomed community members and organizations (plots "paid for" with 20 hours of summer garden service), Wednesday-morning community workdays, CEC student and Advisor participation, summer school classes, produce harvests to fight community food insecurity, community events – and chickens! (2) Partnered with FoodWise and the Waupaca Area Public Library to offer community activities at the CEC; including a Strawberry Moon walk, story time, and strawberry snacks; and story time and a garden tour during our annual Corn Roast. (3) Benefited from grants from the Waupaca Community Foundation (2022), and the American Transmission Company's "Trees for Threes" program. (4) Developed plans for a summer Garden with even more community plots and involvement.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

Mission: The Cultivating Connections Committee is dedicated to establishing and maintaining an environment that promotes cultural, mental, and social health by supporting the adoption of attitudes that contribute to positive well-being and providing information, activities and services designed to support the initiative.

Chairs: Christa Hemmila / Terra Morris. **Committee Members:** Autumn Beese / Christa Hemmila / Terra Morris / Kayla Van Dyke-Griena

2022-2023 Accomplishments:

The Committee focused on various areas of health/wellness and culture throughout the 2022-2023 school year: (1) Because the mission/vision of Cultivating Connections is to enhance the health and wellness of students and staff within the CEC, we wove multiple aspects of health into each activity and goal: physical, social, mental, intellectual, and spiritual. (2) The Committee strived to build connections with students, staff, CEC personnel, School District personnel, GC members, and the community. Activities that focused on culture/climate included the "Be Kind" campaign, Holiday Luncheon for staff, back-to-school cookout, GC members dining together at a local restaurant, Valentine cards for local nursing homes, Corn Roast, and Foundry in a Box. (3) A goal for 2023-2024 is to create marketing opportunities for the CEC, and promote ways to share student and staff experiences with others.

EVOLVING EXCELLENCE

Mission: The mission of the Evolving Excellence Committee is to uphold the mission of the Chain Exploration Center and the Governance Council through the continuous exploration, recommendation, and implementation of governance best practices and policy-making; while cultivating positive relationships with our authorizer, our district, and the community at large.

Chair: Sandy Robinson. **Committee Members:** Becky Lange / Megan Sanders

2022-2023 Accomplishments:

Evolving Excellence developed and presented for Governance Council review and approval: (1) Proposals for governance sections of the charter contract expiring on 6/30/2023 (e.g., GC composition and authority, CEC staff hiring and evaluations, relationships within and services requested of the school district, policy issues). (2) Scrutiny of charter contracts from other school districts and WRCCS, and DPI benchmarks. (3) Plans for GC professional development at each CECGC monthly meeting starting in July 2023. (4) Planning for the evaluation of CEC Administrator, GC recruitment, and development of a 2023-2024 monitoring schedule during summer 2023.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

FUNDRAISING & FINANCE

Mission: The CEC Fundraising and Finance Committee mission is to bridge the difference between the SDW's financial support and what the CEC needs to fulfill its mission in providing a place where children explore their passions with collaborative community.

Chair: Ben Warren. **Committee Members:** Autumn Beese / Kayla Van Dyke-Griena

2022-2023 Accomplishments:

Fundraising and Finance Committee had a productive and successful year! We determined which outdoor spaces around our beautiful campus are in greatest need of improvement, and worked collaboratively with our District's Maintenance Team to determine how best to meet those needs. Our premier Winter Gala raised \$7,200.08 to fund improvements to our outdoor campus, including a kayak launch and dock expansion on Silver Lake. Thank you to all who supported and continue to support our fundraising efforts.



2022-2023 STAFF

ADVISORS

Discoverers: 4K and Kindergarten
Amber Koski, Katelyn Pauling

Pathfinders: First Grade and Second Grade
Kristin Doscher, Lori Wolff

Trailblazers: Third Grade and Fourth Grade
Catherine Seifert, Holly Olsen

Innovators: Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade
Brianna Hass, Mackenzie Loken

Voyageurs: Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade
Ty Natzke, Devon Feldt

SUPPORT STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Brenda Plum

Custodian: Kaycee Cook

Educational Assistants: Vanesa Buhler, Brianna DePorter, Barb Rusch, Kelli Turner

Food Service: Cindy Christenson, Shari Erickson

Health Aide: Rebecca Lewis-Clifton

Media Center Assistant: Becca Bauer

SPECIALISTS

Art: Mackenzie Burns

Counselor: Susan Dolski

Fitness: Cory Scott

Instructional Coaches: Tricia Deuman, Tricia Nevala, Wendy VandenBush

Interventionist: Karen Koehler

Library/Media Specialist: Chris Jaenke

Music: Emma Kelley

Psychologist: Jennifer Gross

Social Worker: Anne Collins-Reed

Special Education: Jennifer Miller

Speech/Language Therapist: Michelle Guay

Best wishes to our library/media specialist Chris Jaenke on her retirement.

Congratulations to our special education advisor Jennifer Miller. She will be continuing her work as a full time special education teacher at WLC.

We wish our non-returning staff Vanesa Buhler, Alex Coenen, and Brianna Deporter well on their next adventures.

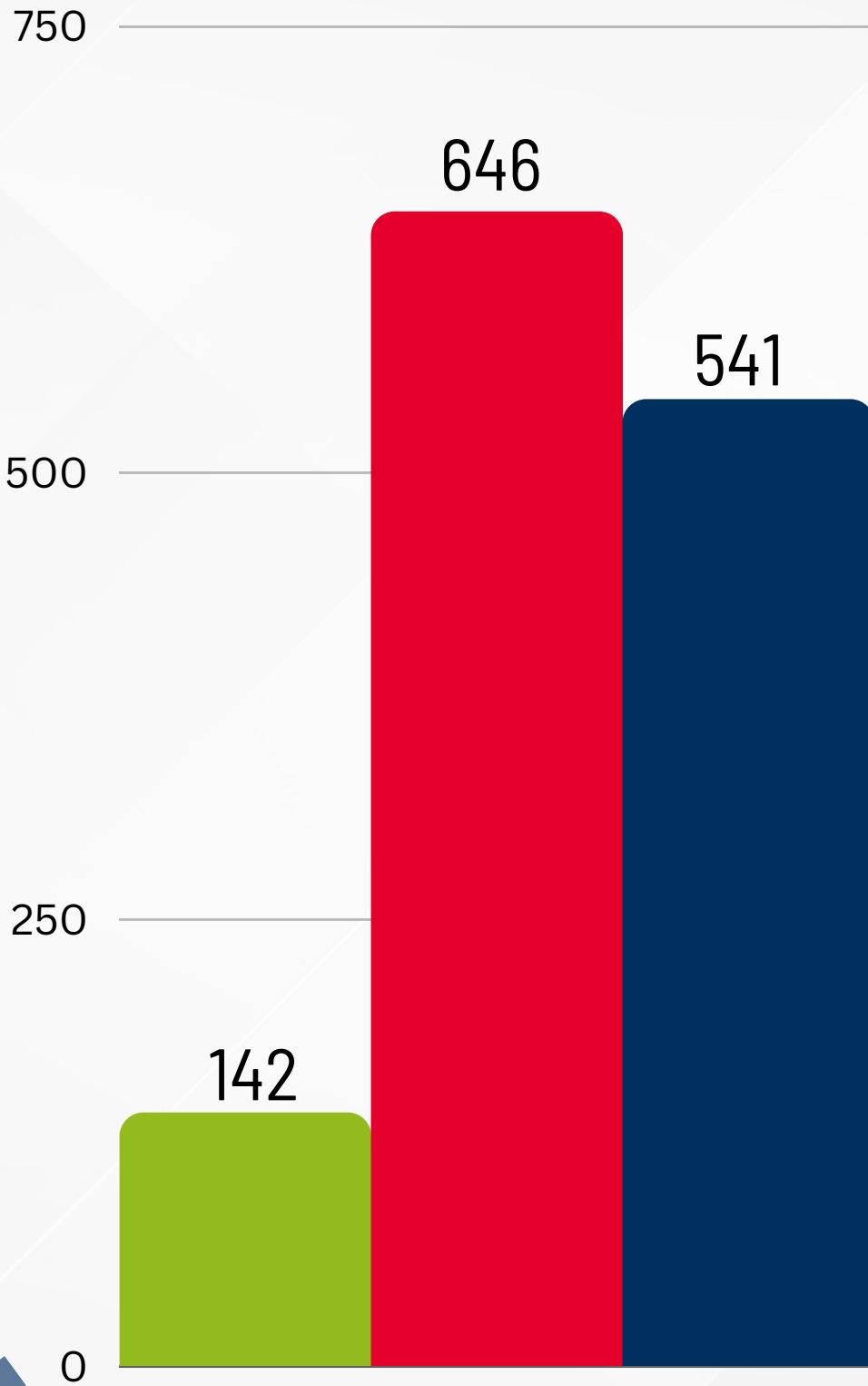
i-READY DATA

| ELA | District Average | # of CEC students at or above the district average |
|-----|------------------|--|
| K | 402.6 | 10/15 |
| 1 | 463.4 | 14/18 |
| 2 | 499.5 | 11/18 |
| 3 | 522.2 | 13/18 |
| 4 | 557.2 | 11/14 |
| 5 | 569.1 | 4/7 |
| 6 | 586.4 | 12/13 |
| 7 | 608.5 | 9/16 |
| 8 | 621.5 | 6/11 |
| | | 90/130 (69%) |

| Math | District Average | # of CEC students at or above the district average |
|------|------------------|--|
| K | 379.0 | 10/15 |
| 1 | 413.9 | 9/18 |
| 2 | 432.9 | 9/18 |
| 3 | 450.8 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 474.1 | 10/14 |
| 5 | 483.3 | 4/7 |
| 6 | 495.2 | 10/13 |
| 7 | 507.0 | 8/15 |
| 8 | 513.2 | 4/12 |
| | | 75/130 (58%) |

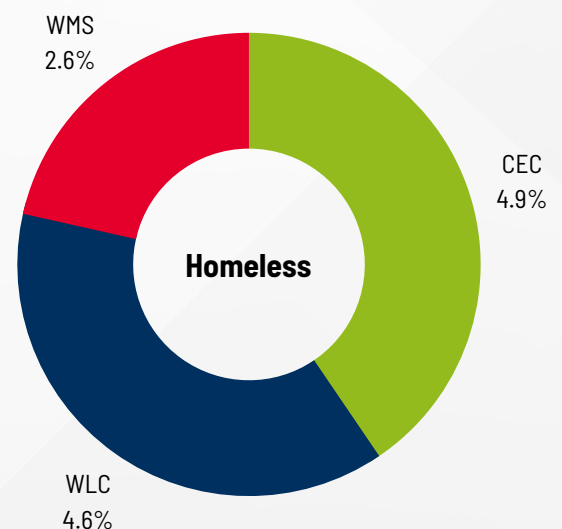
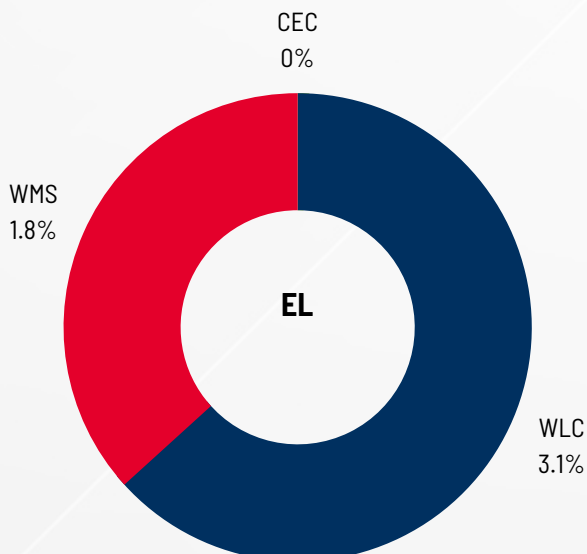
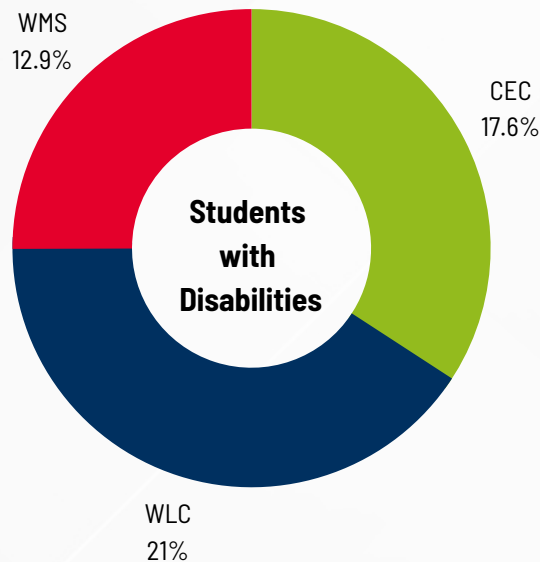
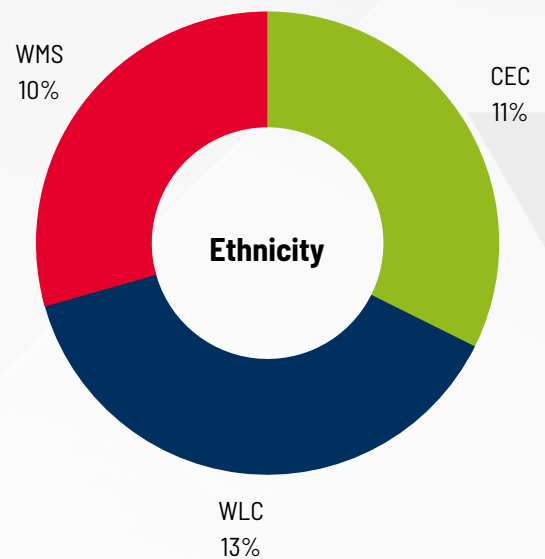
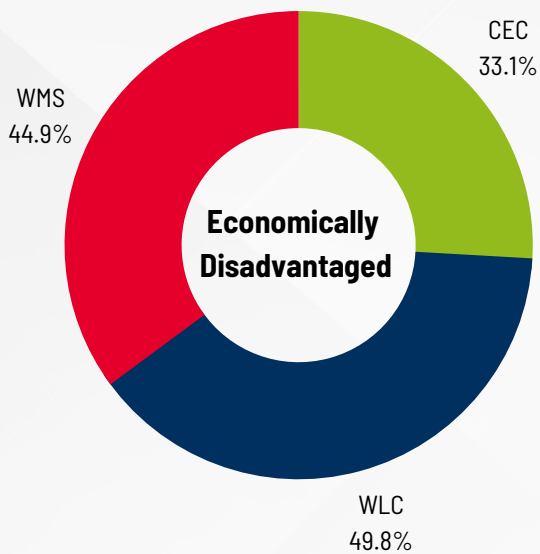
ENROLLMENT

data obtained from WISEdash 07.06.2023



STUDENT GROUPS

data obtained from WISEdash 07.06.2023



FINANCIALS

| District Fund 10 Budget vs. Actual | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Object | Item | Budget | Actual | |
| 310 | Personal Services | \$82,200.00 | \$86,289.38 | |
| 341 | Transportation | \$3,000.00 | \$4,948.03 | |
| 342 | Advisor Travel | \$0.00 | \$172.50 | |
| 400 | General Supplies | \$19,912.00 | \$12,137.01 | |
| 940 | Dues and Fees | \$0.00 | \$3,036.50 | |
| | Total | \$105,112.00 | \$106,583.42 | -\$1,471.42 |

DID YOU KNOW?

In July 2022, Governance Council President Megan Sanders presented the work our team has done to strengthen themselves as a Governance Council to a peer review team at the WRCCS conference. The team awarded CEC's Governance Council a micro-credential for School Governance. A micro-credential is a mini-certification demonstrating competence, experience, leadership, and growth around specific WRCCS School Competencies.

While the micro-credential process is lengthy, we found the time to evaluate and reflect upon the work we have done and the work we hope to continue to do was extremely valuable. As we continue to grow and learn, we hope to secure additional micro-credentials in Academic Model, Charter School Operations, Financial Health, Community Engagement, and School Culture.

Chain Exploration Center has received WRCCS Micro-credentials in:



Awarded 2022

The charter school maintains a diverse and independent governance board that has updated policies, clear operations and routine procedures that ensure successful school governance.

DID YOU KNOW?

All 4K-8th grade students have an online portfolio which showcases project work, academic achievement, and personal aspirations, thoughts, and reflections.

What have I accomplished?

First Grade



Project Cycle 1: Me on the Map.

I learned there are 7 continents and 4 oceans. A compass rose is found on a map to tell us North, South, West, and East. I like drawing maps. I liked bringing in my trucks to create a construction site map.



Project Cycle 2: Communicating with Light and Sound

I learned that sound travels in waves. I liked using the flashlights on stage to communicate with the audience.

6TH GRADE

In my academics, I have been okay but I have sorta been falling behind I caught back up and now I am going to finish this year strong.

| | | | |
|---------|--|-----|-----|
| L.6.2.a | Determine and verify the meaning of unknown or multiple-meaning words or phrases with context clues or a dictionary. | 2 - | 3 - |
|---------|--|-----|-----|

| | | | |
|---------|--|-------|-----|
| L.6.2.b | Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases using word parts (Greek and Latin affixes). | 2.5 - | 2 - |
| L.6.5 | Demonstrate and explain appropriate grammar and usage (i.e.: objective, subjective, possessive, and intensive pronouns) when writing or speaking (L.6.5) | N/A - | 2 - |
| L.6.6.a | Demonstrate contextually appropriate use of standardized English capitalization when writing. | N/A - | 3 - |
| L.6.6.b | Demonstrate contextually appropriate use of standardized English punctuation when writing (i.e. commas, dashes, and parentheses). | N/A - | 2 - |
| L.6.6.c | Demonstrate contextually appropriate use of standardized English spelling when writing. | N/A - | 2 - |

CELEBRATIONS



The Chain Exploration Center Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of a student's sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability/handicap.