

**INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE
ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)**

A Charter School and Component Unit of the
District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
for the fiscal year ended JUNE 30, 2025

King & Walker, CPAs, PL

Certified Public Accountants

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INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)
A Charter School and Component Unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Independence Academy
(A Charter School under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.),
a Charter School and Component Unit of the
District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Independence Academy (“School”), a charter school under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., and a component unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the School, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present only the financial position of the School at June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, and is not intended to be a complete presentation of Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. These financial statements do not purport to and do not present fairly the financial position of Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., as of June 30, 2025, and its changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule, and Note to Required Supplementary Information, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report September 29, 2025, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "King & Walker, CPAs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 29, 2025
Tampa, Florida

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)

A Charter School and Component Unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - (Unaudited)

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section of the annual financial report of Independence Academy ("School"), a charter school under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc. provides an overview of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Because the information contained in the MD&A is intended to highlight significant transactions, events, and conditions, it should be considered in conjunction with the School's financial statements and notes to financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the School's expenses exceeded revenues as shown on the School's statement of activities by \$129,363.
- As shown on the statement of net position, the School reported an unrestricted net position balance of \$641,275.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The basic financial statements consist of three components:

- ✓ Government-wide financial statements
- ✓ Fund financial statements
- ✓ Notes to financial statements

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the School's overall financial condition in a manner similar to those of a private-sector business. The statements include a statement of net position and a statement of activities that are designed to provide consolidated financial information about the governmental activities of the School presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The statement of net position provides information about the government's financial position, its assets and liabilities, using an economic resources measurement focus. The difference between the assets and liabilities, the net position, is a measure of the financial health of the School. The statement of activities presents information about the change in the School's net position and the results of operations, during the fiscal year. An increase or decrease in net position is an indication of whether the School's financial health is improving or deteriorating. To assess the overall financial position of the School, one needs to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the School student base funding level.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - (Unaudited)

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements are one of the components of the basic financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the School's financial activities, focusing on its most significant funds rather than fund types. This is in contrast to the entity-wide perspective contained in the government-wide statements.

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, the governmental funds utilize a spendable financial resources measurement focus rather than the economic resources measurement focus found in the government-wide financial statements. The financial resources measurement focus allows the governmental fund statements to provide information on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources as well as balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view that may be used to evaluate the School's near-term financing requirements. This short-term view is useful when compared to the long-term view presented as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. To facilitate this comparison, both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation of governmental fund to governmental activities.

The governmental funds balance sheet and statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide detailed information about the School's most significant funds. The School operates the following funds: a General Fund to account for its general operations; a Debt Service Fund to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for principal and interest; a Capital Projects Fund to account for charter school capital outlay funding to be used for lease, rent or construction of school facilities; and a Special Revenue Fund to account for Federal grants and internal account activities. All funds are considered are major funds for financial reporting purposes.

The School adopts annual budgets for its governmental funds. A budgetary comparison schedule, as required, has been provided for the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund to demonstrate compliance with the budgets.

Notes to Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential for a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
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A Charter School and Component Unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida
MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - (Unaudited)

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The following is a summary of the School’s current and prior year net position:

	Net Position, End of Year		
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>6-30-24</u>	<u>6-30-25</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
ASSETS			
Current and Other Assets	\$ 2,726,678	\$2,665,398	\$ (61,280)
Capital Assets, Net	14,780,943	14,575,289	(205,654)
Total Assets	<u>17,507,621</u>	<u>17,240,687</u>	<u>(266,934)</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	590,972	710,978	120,006
Noncurrent Liabilities	16,734,889	16,477,312	(257,577)
Total Liabilities	<u>17,325,861</u>	<u>17,188,290</u>	<u>(137,571)</u>
NET POSITION			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(1,953,946)	(1,902,023)	51,923
Restricted	1,253,205	1,313,145	59,940
Unrestricted	882,501	641,275	(241,226)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 181,760</u>	<u>\$ 52,397</u>	<u>\$ (129,363)</u>

The School’s current and other assets primarily consist of cash & cash equivalents and restricted investments for the School’s bonded debt. Capital assets consist of land, buildings and fixed equipment, improvements other than buildings, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment net of accumulated depreciation. Current liabilities primarily consist of salaries and benefits payable and accounts payable to vendors. Long-Term liabilities consist of outstanding bonded debt.

Total net position amounted to \$52,397 as of June 30, 2025, representing a decrease of \$129,363 over the prior fiscal year.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - (Unaudited)

The following is a summary of the School's change in net position for the current and prior year:

	Operating Results for the Year		
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>6-30-24</u>	<u>6-30-25</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Revenues:			
Federal Through State and Local	\$ 1,037,936	\$ 41,598	\$ (996,338)
State	7,508,160	7,109,210	(398,950)
Local and Other	576,146	503,409	(72,737)
Special Item - Intercompany Transfer In		750,000	750,000
Total Revenues	<u>9,122,242</u>	<u>8,404,217</u>	<u>(718,025)</u>
Expenses:			
Instruction	4,170,923	4,016,280	(154,643)
Student Support Services	118,925	122,088	3,163
Instructional Media	-	354	354
Instruction & Curriculum Development	164,099	172,597	8,498
Instructional Staff Training	11,888	12,634	746
Instructional Related Technology	147,033	166,062	19,029
Board	53,363	52,205	(1,158)
General Administration	492,421	454,629	(37,792)
School Administration	565,047	558,136	(6,911)
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	3,500	-	(3,500)
Fiscal Services	371,779	351,579	(20,200)
Central Services	4,270	20,589	16,319
Student Transportation	14,481	76,755	62,274
Operation of Plant	667,620	821,434	153,814
Maintenance of Plant	294,508	209,547	(84,961)
Administrative Technology Services	2,003	1,305	(698)
Community Service	150,031	165,255	15,224
Debt Service - Interest & Fiscal Charges	779,642	767,100	(12,542)
Unallocated Depreciation	513,797	565,031	51,234
Special Item - Intercompany Transfer Out	1,000,000	-	(1,000,000)
Total Expenses	<u>9,525,330</u>	<u>8,533,580</u>	<u>(991,750)</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Position	<u>\$ (403,088)</u>	<u>\$ (129,363)</u>	<u>\$ 273,725</u>

The largest revenue source for the School is the State of Florida (93%). Revenues from State sources for current operations are primarily received through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding formula. The FEFP formula utilizes student enrollment data to determine the funds available for the School. The School also received funding under Federal grants. The largest concentrations of expenses were for Instruction related functions (53%), facility costs (12%), and debt service (9%), which consisted of interest and fiscal charges associated with the School's bonded debt.

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MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - (Unaudited)

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL’S FUNDS

Governmental Funds

As the School completed the year, its governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$1,954,420.

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The budgets for each fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, were developed based on the School’s anticipated revenues and expenditures, the expected student population for the school year, and Federal grant programs for the school year. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the actual expenditures were equal to the final budget. Refer to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule for additional information.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The School’s capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2025, amount to \$14,575,289 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and fixed equipment, improvements other than buildings, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Additional information regarding the School’s capital assets can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

DEBT ADMINISTRATION

At June 30, 2025, the School had \$16,477,312 outstanding as a result of previously issued debt to finance the purchase of the School’s educational facility and land. Additional information about the School’s debt is presented in the notes to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR’S BUDGET

Facts, decisions, or conditions that are expected to have a significant effect on the financial position or results of operations of the School in fiscal year 2025-26 include:

- Continued funding from FEFP.
- Expected increase in enrollment.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the School’s finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Charter School Associates, Inc., 5471 N. University Drive Coral Springs, FL 33067.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)
A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

June 30, 2025

	<u>Government Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,282,390
Investments - Restricted	1,318,911
Due From Other Agencies	12,459
Accounts Receivable	36,638
Prepaid Items & Deposits	15,000
Capital Assets:	
Land	2,037,500
Buildings & Fixed Equipment, Net	11,783,542
Improvements Other than Buildings, Net	546,808
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment, Net	207,439
Total Capital Assets	<u>14,575,289</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>17,240,687</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Salaries and Benefits Payable	427,160
Accounts Payable	278,805
Due to Other Agencies	5,013
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Bonds Payable - Due Within One Year	236,012
Bonds Payable - Due After One Year	16,241,300
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>17,188,290</u></u>
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(1,902,023)
Restricted	1,313,145
Unrestricted	641,275
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 52,397</u></u>

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
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A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

		Program Revenues			Net (Expenses)
Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Revenue and Changes Net Position	
				Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities:					
Instruction	\$ 4,016,280	\$ -	\$ 41,598	\$ -	\$ (3,974,682)
Student Support Services	122,088	-	-	-	(122,088)
Instructional Media	354	-	-	-	(354)
Instruction & Curriculum Development	172,597	-	-	-	(172,597)
Instructional Staff Training	12,634	-	-	-	(12,634)
Instructional Related Technology	166,062	-	-	-	(166,062)
Board	52,205	-	-	-	(52,205)
General Administration	454,629	-	-	-	(454,629)
School Administration	558,136	-	-	-	(558,136)
Fiscal Services	351,579	-	-	-	(351,579)
Central Services	20,589	-	-	-	(20,589)
Student Transportation	76,755	-	-	-	(76,755)
Operation of Plant	821,434	-	-	-	(821,434)
Maintenance of Plant	209,547	-	-	-	(209,547)
Administrative Technology Services	1,305	-	-	-	(1,305)
Community Service	165,255	173,410	-	-	8,155
Debt Service - Interest & Fiscal Charges	767,100	-	-	519,674	(247,426)
Unallocated Depreciation	565,031	-	-	-	(565,031)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 8,533,580</u>	<u>\$ 173,410</u>	<u>\$ 41,598</u>	<u>\$ 519,674</u>	<u>(7,798,898)</u>
General Revenue					
State Sources					6,589,536
Local and Other					329,999
Special Item - Intercompany Transfer In					750,000
Total General Revenues					<u>7,669,535</u>
Change in Net Position					(129,363)
Net Position - July 1, 2024					181,760
Net Position - June 30, 2025					<u>\$ 52,397</u>

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)
A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,200,967	\$ 81,423	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,282,390
Investments - Restricted	-	-	-	1,318,911	1,318,911
Due From Other Agencies	-	-	12,459	-	12,459
Accounts Receivable	36,638	-	-	-	36,638
Prepaid Items & Deposits	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Due from Other Funds	-	44	-	30,457	30,501
Total Assets	\$ 1,252,605	\$ 81,467	\$ 12,459	\$ 1,349,368	\$ 2,695,899
LIABILITIES					
Salaries and Benefits Payable	\$ 427,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 427,160
Accounts Payable	161,115	-	-	117,690	278,805
Due to Other Agencies	5,013	-	-	-	5,013
Due to Other Funds	18,042	-	12,459	-	30,501
Total Liabilities	611,330	-	12,459	117,690	741,479
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Restricted	-	81,467	-	1,231,678	1,313,145
Unassigned	626,275	-	-	-	626,275
Total Fund Balances	641,275	81,467	-	1,231,678	1,954,420
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 1,252,605	\$ 81,467	\$ 12,459	\$ 1,349,368	\$ 2,695,899

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
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A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2025

Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 1,954,420
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported as assets in governmental funds.	14,575,289
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported as liabilities in the governmental funds.	<u>(16,477,312)</u>
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 52,397</u></u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
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STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues					
Intergovernmental:					
Federal Through State and Local	\$ -	\$ 41,598	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,598
State	6,589,536	-	519,674	-	7,109,210
Local and Other	175,253	162,176	102,961	63,019	503,409
Total Revenues	<u>6,764,789</u>	<u>203,774</u>	<u>622,635</u>	<u>63,019</u>	<u>7,654,217</u>
Expenditures					
Current - Education:					
Instruction	3,968,512	47,768	-	-	4,016,280
Student Support Services	122,088	-	-	-	122,088
Instructional Media	354	-	-	-	354
Instruction & Curriculum Development	172,597	-	-	-	172,597
Instructional Staff Training	12,634	-	-	-	12,634
Instructional Related Technology	166,062	-	-	-	166,062
Board	52,205	-	-	-	52,205
General Administration	454,629	-	-	-	454,629
School Administration	558,136	-	-	-	558,136
Fiscal Services	351,579	-	-	-	351,579
Central Services	20,589	-	-	-	20,589
Student Transportation	76,755	-	-	-	76,755
Operation of Plant	821,434	-	-	-	821,434
Maintenance of Plant	209,547	-	-	-	209,547
Administrative Technology Services	1,305	-	-	-	1,305
Community Service	-	165,255	-	-	165,255
Fixed Capital Outlay:					
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	332,312	-	12,459	-	344,771
Other Capital Outlay	14,606	-	-	-	14,606
Debt Service:					
Principal	-	-	-	224,145	224,145
Interest & Fiscal Charges	-	-	603,602	196,930	800,532
Total Expenditures	<u>7,335,344</u>	<u>213,023</u>	<u>616,061</u>	<u>421,075</u>	<u>8,585,503</u>
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues					
Over Expenditures	<u>(570,555)</u>	<u>(9,249)</u>	<u>6,574</u>	<u>(358,056)</u>	<u>(931,286)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Special Item - Intercompany Transfer In	750,000				750,000
Transfers In/(Out)	(420,671)	6,170	(6,574)	421,075	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>329,329</u>	<u>6,170</u>	<u>(6,574)</u>	<u>421,075</u>	<u>750,000</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(241,226)	(3,079)	-	63,019	(181,286)
Fund Balances, July 1, 2024	882,501	84,546	-	1,168,659	2,135,706
Fund Balances, June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 641,275</u>	<u>\$ 81,467</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,231,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,954,420</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)
A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds \$ (181,286)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures.

However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.

Capital Outlays	359,377	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(565,031)</u>	(205,654)

The repayment of principal of long-term debt is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term debt in the statement of net position.

224,145

Governmental funds report the effect of bond premiums when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are amortized in the statement of activities. This amount is the bond premium in the treatment of long-term debt and related items.

33,432

Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities \$ (129,363)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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A Charter School and Component Unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2025

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

➤ Reporting Entity

Independence Academy (“School”), a charter school under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., and is a component unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida. The School’s charter is held by Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, the Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation Act. The governing body of the School is the not-for-profit corporation Board of Directors, which is comprised of not less than three members.

The basic financial statements of the School present only the balances, activity and disclosures related to the School. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., as of June 30, 2025, and its changes in financial position or budgetary comparisons, where applicable, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The general operating authority of the School is contained in Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes. The School operates under a charter of the sponsoring school district, the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, (“District”). On November 16, 2021, the District renewed the charter contract through June 30, 2027. The charter is subject to annual review and may be renewed by mutual agreement between the School and the District. At the end of the term of the charter, the District may choose not to renew the charter under grounds specified in the charter. In this case, the District is required to notify the School in writing at least 90 days prior to the charter’s expiration. During the term of the charter, the District may also terminate the charter if good cause is shown. In the event of termination of the charter, the District shall assume operation of the School. The School is considered a component unit of the District; therefore, for financial reporting purposes, the School is required to follow generally accepted accounting principles applicable to state and local governmental units.

Criteria for determining if other entities are potential component units which should be reported within the School's basic financial statements are identified and described in the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, Sections 2100 and 2600. The application of these criteria provides for identification of any entities for which the School is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the School are such that exclusion would cause the School's basic financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. Based on these criteria, no component units are included within the reporting entity of the School.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2025

➤ **Basis of Presentation**

Government-wide Financial Statements - Government-wide financial statements, including the statement of net position and the statement of activities, present information about the School as a whole.

Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the School's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and are thereby clearly identifiable to a particular function.

Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the School.

Fund Financial Statements - Fund financial statements report detailed information about the School in the governmental funds. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is reported in a separate column. Because the focus of governmental fund financial statements differs from the focus of government-wide financial statements, a reconciliation is presented with each of the governmental fund financial statements.

The School's major governmental funds are as follows:

- General Fund – to account for all financial resources not required to be accounted for in another fund, and for certain revenues from the State that are legally restricted to be expended for specific current operating purposes.
- Debt Service Fund – to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for principal and interest.
- Capital Projects Fund – to account for financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays.
- Special Revenue Fund – to account for Federal grant programs and internal account activities.

➤ **Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures, or expenses, are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

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The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Revenues from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been satisfied.

Governmental fund financial statements are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, except for certain grant revenues, are recognized when they become measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The School considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 30 days of the end of the current fiscal year. When grant terms provide that the expenditure of resources is the prime factor for determining eligibility for Federal, State, and other grant resources, revenue is recognized at the time the expenditure is made. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, expenditures are generally recognized when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized when due. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation, are not recognized in governmental funds.

➤ **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as demand deposits, money market accounts, and short-term investments with original maturities of eight months or less from date of acquisition. The School considers all demand accounts and money market funds which are not subjected to withdrawal restrictions to be cash and cash equivalents.

The School's deposits are placed with banks and savings and loans qualified as public depositories under Florida law. All deposits are insured by Federal depository insurance, up to specified limits, or collateralized with securities held in Florida's multiple financial institution collateral pool as required by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.

➤ **Investments**

The School had not adopted a written investment policy. Therefore, pursuant to Florida Statutes, the School is authorized to invest in the Florida PRIME investment pool, administered by the State Board of Administration (SBA); Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency; interest-bearing time deposits and savings accounts in qualified public depositories, as defined by Section 280.02, Florida Statutes; and direct obligations of the United States Treasury.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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The School's investments are set aside to make debt service payments, maintain sinking or reserve funds, and to purchase or construct capital assets and are classified as restricted. These investments are reported as restricted in the debt service in the balance sheet – governmental funds.

➤ Capital Assets

Expenditures for capital assets acquired or constructed for general School purposes are reported in the governmental fund that financed the acquisition or construction. The capital assets so acquired are reported at cost in the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the governmental fund financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the School as those costing more than \$5,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated assets are recorded at fair value at the date of donation.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	3-5 years
Buildings & Fixed Equipment	35 years
Improvements Other Than Buildings	5-20 years

➤ Noncurrent Liabilities

Long-term obligations that will be financed by resources to be received in the future by the general fund are reported in the government-wide financial statements, not in the general fund. Capital improvement debt is reported net of unamortized premium. The School amortizes debt premiums over the life of the debt using the straight-line method. Current-year information relative to changes in long-term debt is described in subsequent notes.

➤ Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The School does not have any items that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The School does not have any items that qualify for reporting in this category.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2025

➤ **Net Position and Fund Balance Classification**

Government-wide Financial Statements

Net Position are classified and reported in three components:

- Net Investment in Capital Assets – consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings that are attributed to the acquisition or improvement of those assets.
- Restricted Net Position – consists of net position with constraints placed on their use either by external groups such as creditors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments.
- Unrestricted Net Position – all other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets.”

Fund Financial Statements

GASB Codification Section 1800.142, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, defines the different types of fund balances that a governmental entity must use for financial reporting purposes. GASB requires the fund balance amounts to be reported within one of the following fund balance categories:

- Nonspendable – fund balance associated with inventories, prepaid expenses, long-term loans and notes receivable, and property held for resale (unless the proceeds are restricted, committed or assigned). All nonspendable fund balances at year end relate to assets that are in nonspendable form.
- Restricted – fund balance that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by the constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.
- Committed – fund balance that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the School’s Board of Governance.
- Assigned – fund balance that is intended to be used by the School’s management for specific purposes but does not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.
- Unassigned – fund balance that is the residual amount for the School’s general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

➤ **Order of Fund Balance Spending Policy**

The School’s policy is to apply expenditures against nonspendable fund balance, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance, and unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. First, nonspendable fund balances are determined. Then restricted fund balances for specific purposes are determined (not including nonspendable amounts). Any remaining fund balance amounts for the non-general funds are to be classified as restricted fund balance. It

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is possible for the non-general funds to be classified as restricted fund balance. It is possible for the non-general funds to have negative unassigned fund balance when nonspendable amounts plus the amount of restricted fund balances for specific purposes exceed the positive fund balance for non-general fund.

➤ Revenue Sources

Revenues for current operations are received primarily from the District pursuant to the funding provisions included in the School's charter. In accordance with the funding provisions of the charter and Section 1002.33(17), Florida Statutes, the School reports the number of full-time equivalent students and related data to the District.

Under provisions of Section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, the District reports the number of full-time equivalent students and related data to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Funding for the School is adjusted during the year to reflect the revised calculations by the FDOE under the FEFP and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students (FTE) reported by the School during designated full-time equivalent student survey periods. The Department may also adjust subsequent fiscal period allocations based upon an audit of the School's compliance in determining and reporting FTE and related data. Normally, such adjustments are treated as reductions or additions of revenue in the year when the adjustments are made.

The basic amount of funding through the FEFP under Section 1011.62 is the product of the (1) unweighted FTE, multiplied by (2) the cost factor for each program, multiplied by (3) the base student allocation established by the legislature. Additional funds for exceptional students who do not have a matrix of services are provided through the guaranteed allocation designated in Section 1011.62(1)(e)2., Florida Statutes. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the School reported 807.84 unweighted FTE and 849.2397 weighted FTE. Weighted funding represents 6.48% of total FEFP funding.

FEFP funding may also be adjusted as a result of subsequent FTE audits conducted by the Florida Auditor General pursuant to Section 1010.305, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-1.0453, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). Schools are required to maintain the following documentation for three years or until the completion of an FTE audit:

- Attendance and membership documentation (Rule 6A-1.044, FAC).
- Teacher certificates and other certification documentation (Rule 6A-1.0503, FAC).
- Documentation for instructors teaching out-of-field (Rule 6A-1.0503, FAC).
- Procedural safeguards for weighted programs (Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC).
- Evaluation and planning documents for weighted programs (Section 1010.305, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC).

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The School receives Federal or state awards for the enhancement of various educational programs. This assistance is generally received based on applications submitted to and approved by various granting agencies. For Federal or state awards in which a claim to these grant proceeds is based on incurring eligible expenditures, revenue is recognized to the extent that eligible expenditures have been incurred.

The School receives state funds through the District under charter school capital outlay funding pursuant to Section 1013.62, Florida Statutes. Funds are based upon a capital outlay plan submitted to the District and are to be used for lease, rent or construction of school facilities. The School also receives funding through donations and fundraising efforts, school lunch sales, and local property tax collections.

The School follows the policy of applying restricted resources prior to applying unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted assets are available.

➤ **Income Taxes**

The School is exempt from Federal tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been included in the accompanying financial statements. Additionally, no uncertain tax positions have been made requiring disclosure in the related notes to financial statements. The School's income tax returns for the past three years are subject to examination by tax authorities and may change upon examination.

➤ **Use of Estimates**

In preparing the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the statement of net position and affect revenues and expenditures for the period presented. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

➤ **Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated all events subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the report date, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued. Management determined there are no subsequent events which require disclosure.

2. CASH DEPOSITS

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits. In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School's deposits may not be returned to the School. The School does not have a custodial credit risk policy. All cash deposits are held in banks that qualify as public depositories under Florida law. All such deposits are insured by Federal depository insurance and/or collateralized with securities held in Florida's multiple financial institution collateral pool as required by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.

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June 30, 2025

3. INVESTMENTS - RESTRICTED

The School categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. All of the School's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2025, are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

The School's investments at June 30, 2025, are reported as follows:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bank - US Treasury Cash Reserves	\$ 1,318,911
Total	<u>\$ 1,318,911</u>

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE – RELATED PARTY

Included in the accounts receivable balance reported in the statement of net position and the balance sheet – governmental funds includes amounts due from other charter schools, operated by the same charter holder or under the same management company, for shared expenses paid on their behalf and awaiting reimbursement. These receivables are considered fully collectible and therefore, no allowance for uncollectible accounts has been established.

Amounts per School are as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Advantage Academy of Hillsborough	\$ 674
Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.	15,647
Advantage Academy of Miami, Inc.	8,378
Big Bend Academy of Math & Science	16
Bell Creek Academy	892
Channelside Academy of Math & Science	366
Waterstone Café	1,374
Doral International Academy	828
Everglades Preparatory Academy	540
Everglades Preparatory Academy High	802
Hillsborough Academy of Math & Science	494
Pinellas Academy of Math & Science	295
Palm Glades Academy	255
Palm Glades High School	302
Riverview Academy High School	302
Riverview Academy of Math & Science	1,748
Summerville Advantage Academy	557
Sunlake Academy of Math & Science	437
Valrico Lake Academy	1,767
West Broward Academy	907
Total	<u>\$ 36,581</u>

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June 30, 2025

5. DUE FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Amounts in the due from other agencies included in the accompanying statement of net position and balance sheet – governmental funds consist of an amount due from the Florida Department of Education under the Charter School Capital Outlay Program recorded in the Capital Projects Funds. These receivables are considered to be fully collectible and as such, no allowance for uncollectible accounts has been established.

6. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Changes in capital assets are presented in the table below:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Land	\$ 2,037,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,037,500
Buildings & Fixed Equipment	14,262,500	-	-	14,262,500
Improvements Other Than Buildings	425,734	344,771	-	770,505
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	832,682	14,606	-	847,288
Total Capital Assets	<u>17,558,416</u>	<u>359,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,917,793</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Buildings & Fixed Equipment	(2,071,458)	(407,500)	-	(2,478,958)
Improvements Other Than Buildings	(161,912)	(61,785)	-	(223,697)
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	(544,103)	(95,746)	-	(639,849)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,777,473)</u>	<u>(565,031)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,342,504)</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, net	<u>\$ 14,780,943</u>	<u>\$ (205,654)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 14,575,289</u>

Depreciation expense was shown as unallocated on the Statement of Activities.

7. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES, PAYABLES, AND TRANSFERS

At June 30, 2025, the Debt Service Fund was owed \$30,457 from the General Fund (\$17,998) and from the Capital Projects Fund (\$12,459) for the payment of costs of issuance awaiting reimbursement. The Special Revenue Fund owed the General Fund \$44 for expenditures awaiting disbursement. The School's Special Revenue transferred \$1,743 to the General Fund. The General Fund transferred \$421,075 to the Debt Service Fund to cover debt service payments and \$6,170 to the Special Revenue Fund to assist with internal account expenditures. The Capital Projects Fund transferred \$6,574 to the General Fund for prior year unreimbursed grant expenditures. The amounts of interfund receivables, payables, and transfers are netted together and not reported in the statement of net position or the statement of activities.

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June 30, 2025

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – RELATED PARTY

Included within the accounts payable balance reported in the accompanying statement of net position and balance sheet – governmental funds, the School reported a payable of \$11,339 as a result of shared expenditures paid by Valrico Lake Advantage Academy, a charter school under the same charter-holder. Amounts are expected to be paid within one year.

9. BONDS PAYABLE

Bonds payable at June 30, 2025, are as follows:

<u>Bond Type</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rates</u>	<u>Annual Maturity To</u>
Series 2019-A	\$ 15,491,059	4.0 - 5.0 percent	2054
Unamortized Bond Premium	986,253		
	<u>\$ 16,477,312</u>		

Revenue Bonds Series 2019A and 2019B – On June 1, 2019, Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., the School’s charter-holder, issued tax-exempt revenue bonds (Series 2019A) for \$16,565,638 and taxable revenue bonds (Series 2018B) for \$258,426 secured by a mortgage on the School’s property and buildings. The bonds were issued to finance the purchase of the School’s educational facility and land.

Series 2019A bonds are term bonds paying interest semi-annually at a rate of 4-5% with maturities starting December 15, 2019, and ending December 15, 2054. Series 2019B bonds are term bonds paying interest semi-annually at a rate of 5% with maturities starting December 15, 2019, and ending December 15, 2021.

As required by the bond resolution, the District has established a sinking fund and reserve account and has accumulated and maintained adequate resources in the sinking fund and reserve account.

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June 30, 2025

Annual requirements to amortize all bonded debt at of June 30, 2025, is as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Total	Principal	Interest
2026	\$ 1,007,511	\$ 236,012	\$ 771,499
2027	1,007,577	247,878	759,699
2028	1,007,051	259,745	747,306
2029	1,007,248	272,930	734,318
2030	1,008,102	287,433	720,669
2031-35	5,051,619	1,679,769	3,371,850
2036-40	5,062,530	2,155,748	2,906,782
2041-45	5,073,375	2,763,577	2,309,798
2046-50	5,092,435	3,548,084	1,544,351
2051-55	4,603,039	4,039,883	563,156
<i>add: Unamortized Bond Premium</i>	986,253	986,253	
Total	\$ 30,906,740	\$ 16,477,312	\$ 14,429,428

10. CHANGES IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Due in One Year
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:					
Bonds Payable	\$ 15,715,204	\$ -	\$ (224,145)	\$ 15,491,059	\$ 236,012
Unamortized Bond Premium	1,019,685		(33,432)	986,253	-
Total Bonds Payable	16,734,889	-	(257,577)	16,477,312	236,012
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 16,734,889	\$ -	\$ (257,577)	\$ 16,477,312	\$ 236,012

11. SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE AGREEMENT

In July 2017, the School entered into an agreement with Advantage Academy of Miami, Inc., an organization operated by the School's management company, to operate the School's food service operations. The School incurs no cost and no revenue is received for food service operations.

12. SPECIAL ITEM – INTERCOMPANY TRANSFER - RELATED PARTY

The School reported an intercompany transfer in of \$750,000 to Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., the School's charter-holder. Policies have been designed to ensure the prudent management of School funds, the availability of operating and capital funds as

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June 30, 2025

needed, and creating a fiscal benefit for the Governing board to further its mission and the mission of its Schools. These transactions are shown as Special Item – Intercompany Transfer In on the statement of activities and the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds.

13. SCHEDULE OF STATE REVENUE SOURCES

The following is a schedule of the School’s State revenue:

Source	Amount
Florida Education Finance Program	\$ 5,669,231
Categorical Programs:	
Class Size Reduction	796,146
School Recognition	124,159
Charter School Capital Outlay	519,674
Total State Revenue	<u>\$ 7,109,210</u>

As provided in the charter school contract, the District has charged the School an administrative fee totaling \$94,670.

14. OPERATING AGREEMENT

The School entered into a contract with Charter School Associates (CSA). The contract calls for CSA to provide the School with marketing, curriculum design and implementation; student and staff recruiting; principal selection; and general management of the School’s operations. An annual fee is to be 10% of the School’s gross operating revenue less the School’s administrative fee, to be paid in monthly installments. Fees under this agreement incurred to CSA during the fiscal year amounted to \$709,297.

15. RETIREMENT PLAN

The School participates in a defined contribution tax sheltered annuity 401(k) plan for its full-time employees. Contributions made by the School totaled \$16,581 for the year ended June 30, 2025, which was computed at 1.5% of employee’s deferral of wages for each participating employee. Contributions are directed to individual employee’s accounts, and the individual employees allocate contributions and account balances among various available investment choices, therefore, the School has no liability for the administration or payments of benefits of the plan, and accordingly, the present value of the related benefits is not reflected in these financial statements. The rate of contribution is set annually by the School’s Board of Directors.

16. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the School carries commercial insurance. There have been no significant reductions in insurance

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June 30, 2025

coverage and settlement amounts have not exceeded insurance coverage for the current year or the three prior years.

17. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The School participates in state grant programs, which are governed by various rules and regulations of the grantor agencies. Costs charged to the respective grant programs are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor agencies, therefore, to the extent that the School has not complied with the rules and regulations governing the grants, refunds of any money received may be required and the collectability of any related receivables at June 30, 2025, may be impaired.

In the opinion of the School, there are no significant liabilities relating to compliance with the rules and regulations governing the respective grants; therefore, no provision has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements for such contingencies.

18. FUNDING AND CREDIT RISK CONCENTRATIONS

The School receives substantially all of its support and revenue from Federal, state and local funding sources, passed through the District, in the form of performance and budget-based contracts. Continuing operation of the School is greatly dependent upon the continued support of these governmental agencies.

19. LEGAL MATTERS

In the normal course of conducting its operations, the School occasionally becomes party to various legal actions and proceedings. In the opinion of management, the ultimate resolution of such legal matters will not have a significant adverse effect on the accompanying financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY
(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)
A CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND AND MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (UNAUDITED)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund				Special Revenue Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
Revenues:								
Intergovernmental:								
Federal Through State and Local State	\$ 7,598,178	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,606	\$ 41,598	\$ 41,598	\$ -
Local and Other	777,000	175,253	175,253	-	150,000	162,176	162,176	-
Total Revenues	<u>8,375,178</u>	<u>6,764,789</u>	<u>6,764,789</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>173,606</u>	<u>203,774</u>	<u>203,774</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenditures:								
Current - Education:								
Instruction	4,591,446	3,968,512	3,968,512	-	23,606	47,768	47,768	-
Student Support Services	143,683	122,088	122,088	-	-	-	-	-
Instructional Media	-	354	354	-	-	-	-	-
Instruction & Curriculum Development	165,089	172,597	172,597	-	-	-	-	-
Instructional Staff Training	23,956	12,634	12,634	-	-	-	-	-
Instructional Related Technology	569,074	166,062	166,062	-	-	-	-	-
Board	56,505	52,205	52,205	-	-	-	-	-
General Administration	475,008	454,629	454,629	-	-	-	-	-
School Administration	586,322	558,136	558,136	-	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Services	377,704	351,579	351,579	-	-	-	-	-
Central Services	8,000	20,589	20,589	-	-	-	-	-
Student Transportation	18,000	76,755	76,755	-	-	-	-	-
Operation of Plant	739,243	821,434	821,434	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance of Plant	296,000	209,547	209,547	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Technology Services	2,500	1,305	1,305	-	-	-	-	-
Community Service	-	-	-	-	159,000	165,255	165,255	-
Fixed Capital Outlay:								
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	50,000	332,312	332,312	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital Outlay	15,000	14,606	14,606	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>8,117,530</u>	<u>7,335,344</u>	<u>7,335,344</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>182,606</u>	<u>213,023</u>	<u>213,023</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	257,648	(570,555)	(570,555)	-	(9,000)	(9,249)	(9,249)	-
Other Financing Sources (Uses):								
Special Item - Intercompany Transfer In	-	750,000	750,000	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers In/(Out)	(427,163)	(420,671)	(420,671)	-	-	6,170	6,170	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(427,163)</u>	<u>329,329</u>	<u>329,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,170</u>	<u>6,170</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(169,515)	(241,226)	(241,226)	-	(9,000)	(3,079)	(3,079)	-
Fund Balances, July 1, 2024	882,501	882,501	882,501	-	84,546	84,546	84,546	-
Fund Balances, June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 712,986</u>	<u>\$ 641,275</u>	<u>\$ 641,275</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 75,546</u>	<u>\$ 81,467</u>	<u>\$ 81,467</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

(A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER ADVANTAGE ACADEMY OF HILLSBOROUGH, INC.)

A Charter School and Component Unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

NOTE TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

June 30, 2025

1. BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Budgets are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. During the fiscal year, expenditures were controlled at the object level (e.g., salaries and benefits, purchased services, materials and supplies and capital outlay) within each activity (e.g., instruction, pupil personnel services and school administration). Budgets may be amended by resolution at any Board meeting prior to the date for the annual report.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other
Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with
*Government Auditing Standards***

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Independence Academy
(A Charter School under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.),
a Charter School and Component Unit of the
District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Independence Academy ("School"), a charter school under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc., and a component unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 29, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

King & Walker, CPAs

September 29, 2025
Tampa, Florida

**Management Letter as Required by Rules of the Florida Auditor General,
Chapter 10.850, Florida Statutes, *Charter School Audits***

To the Board of Directors of Independence Academy
(A Charter School under Advantage Academy of Hillsborough, Inc.),
a Charter School and Component Unit of the
District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Independence Academy (“School”), a charter school and component unit of the District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated September 29, 2025.

Auditor’s Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and Chapter 10.850, Rules of the Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. Disclosures in those reports and schedule, which are dated September 29, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.854(1)(e)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no prior audit findings or recommendations.

Official Title

Section 10.854(1)(e)5., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title of the entity and the school code assigned by the Florida Department of Education be disclosed in this management letter. The official title and the school code assigned by the Florida Department of Education of the entity are Independence Academy, 296637.

Financial Condition and Management

Sections 10.854(1)(e)2. and 10.855(11), Rules of the Auditor General, require us to apply appropriate procedures and communicate whether or not the School has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and to identify the specific condition(s) met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the School did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to Sections 10.854(1)(e)6.a. and 10.855(12), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the School. It is management's responsibility to monitor the School's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and review of financial information provided by same.

Section 10.854(1)(e)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Transparency

Sections 10.854(1)(e)7. and 10.855(13), Rules of the Auditor General, require us to apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether the School maintains on its Web site the information specified in Section 1002.33(9)(p), Florida Statutes. In connection with our audit, we determined that the School maintained on its Web site the information specified in Section 1002.33(9)(p), Florida Statutes.

Additional Matters

Section 10.854(1)(e)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we address noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of Directors, applicable management, and District School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "King & Walker, CPAs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 29, 2025
Tampa, Florida