



emsa
ELGIN MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY
 A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL



FAQs

What is the Elgin Math and Science Academy (EMSA)?

EMSA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) with a local Board of Directors composed of area stakeholders including educators, business leaders, and parents of potential students. We offer an exciting and effective educational opportunity to U-46: to bring the **WOW & WONDER of Learning** to students through a math and science charter public school. We seek to open in Fall of 2018 with 200 students in grades K-3 and will grow to 450 students in grades K-8.

What is a charter school?

Charters are unique public schools allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. Because they are public schools, charters are:

- 1) **Open to all children**
- 2) **Do not charge tuition**
- 3) **Do not have special entrance requirements.**

EMSA will be open to U-46 students, including students with disabilities and English learners. **We will hold a blind, public lottery** to enroll students if the number of applications exceeds available seats.

What is EMSA's educational approach?

We are partnering with the national nonprofit EL Education (www.eleducation.org) to offer a proven curriculum in which children gain critical thinking and leadership skills as they explore problems and create real-life solutions. As a **STEAM** school, our focus on math and science will be infused with the arts. We offer a longer school day and provide Transitional Bilingual Education for English learners, as well as Special Education services for students with IEPs.

How will EMSA benefit U-46?

EMSA will expand the K-8 offerings the district and will be a pathway to high school academies such as the Bartlett Science Academy. EL Education has proven success in closing achievement gaps based on race and income. **EMSA seeks to help narrow the long-standing achievement gaps in U-46.** EMSA's campus will also be available for use as a learning lab by all U-46 students and teachers.

Where will EMSA be located?

EMSA's students will have **daily access to nature** at our proposed site which is surrounded by forest and near the Fox River in Elgin. This site has been used to educate children for almost 100 years and was updated with a new school building in 2005. Busing routes around Elgin will be offered.

Can U-46 afford another school?

Yes. EMSA will receive district funding on a per-pupil basis. In our first year, **EMSA students' share of the district's half-billion dollar budget will be less than one-half of one percent.** At capacity, EMSA's share will be less than 1% of the total U-46 budget — an amount typically considered a rounding error in a budget this large. **EMSA will also bring in almost \$1 million in federal grants and a facility that U-46 doesn't have to purchase or maintain.**

Take Action.

To open, EMSA must be approved by the U-46 Board of Education. We need your help to gain approval and provide a phenomenal EMSA education to U-46 students!

Here's what YOU can do:

- Visit EMSA at www.elginmathandscience.org or Facebook (ElginMathandScience) to learn more.
- Sign our Statement of Support / Sign up a potential student: www.tinyurl.com/supportEMSA
- Attend the public hearing on March 13 to show the U-46 Board our community wants EMSA!
- Ask your friends and family to support EMSA.

ReadUp • SignUp • ShowUp

Together we can bring the
WOW & WONDER
 of LEARNING to U-46!

