

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form 990

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2023

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning JUL 1, 2023 and ending JUN 30, 2024

B Check if applicable: C Name of organization Merit Academy D Employer identification number 85-2365942
E Telephone number 719-686-2274
G Gross receipts \$ 5,385,309.
H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527
J Website: www.merit.academy
K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other L Year of formation: 2021 M State of legal domicile: CO

Part I Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: See Schedule O; 2 Check this box if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets; 3-7a Activities & Governance; 8-12 Revenue; 13-19 Expenses; 20-22 Net Assets or Fund Balances.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer Gwynne Dawdy Pekron, Headmaster Date
Paid: Print/Type preparer's name Thomas G. Sistare Preparer's signature Thomas G. Sistare Date 04/28/25 Check if self-employed PTIN P00356968
Preparer Use Only: Firm's name Hoelting & Company, Inc. Firm's EIN 30-0514455
Firm's address 31 East Platte Avenue, Suite 300 Colorado Springs, CO 80903 Phone no. (719) 630-1091

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III [ ]

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission: Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue, employing honored foundations of classical education and Core Knowledge.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [ ] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? [ ] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 6,092,780. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 4,843,386. ) Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue, employing honored foundations of classical education and Core Knowledge.

4b (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4c (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4d Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4e Total program service expenses 6,092,780.

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	X	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? See instructions	X	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4 <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		X
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Rev. Proc. 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		X
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		X
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		X
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X, as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>		X
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		X
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>		X
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	X	
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	X	
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		X
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	X	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	X	
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	X	
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		X
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		X
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		X
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I.</i> See instructions		X
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	X	
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		X
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>		X

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i> .....		X
<b>23</b> Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i> .....		X
<b>24a</b> Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? .....		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? .....		
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22, for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i> .....		X
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i> .....		X
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (See the Schedule L, Part IV, instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, or substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> A family member of any individual described in line 28a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of one or more individuals and/or organizations described in line 28a or 28b? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in noncash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> .....		X
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> .....		X
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i> .....		X
<b>33</b> Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i> .....		X
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? .....		X
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> .....		
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> .....		X
<b>37</b> Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i> .....		X
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations on Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? .....	X	

**Note:** All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O

**Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b> Enter the number reported in box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable .....		
<b>b</b> Enter the number of Forms W-2G included on line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners? .....		

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

Table with columns for question number, question text, and Yes/No response columns. Includes questions 2a through 17 regarding employee counts, tax returns, business income, foreign accounts, prohibited transactions, and charitable contributions.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure. For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes on Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year; 1b Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent; 2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?; 3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?; 4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?; 5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?; 6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?; 7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?; 7b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?; 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following: a The governing body? b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?; 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O.

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?; 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?; 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?; 11b Describe on Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.; 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13; 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?; 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe on Schedule O how this was done; 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?; 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?; 15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?; 15a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official; 15b Other officers or key employees of the organization; 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?; 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed None
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A, if applicable), 990, and 990-T (section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. [X] Own website [ ] Another's website [ ] Upon request [ ] Other (explain on Schedule O)
19 Describe on Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records
The Organization - 719-686-2274
500 East Kelley's Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's current officers, directors, trustees... List all of the organization's current key employees... List the organization's five current highest compensated employees... List all of the organization's former officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees... List all of the organization's former directors or trustees...

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

Table with 6 main columns: (A) Name and title, (B) Average hours per week, (C) Position (Individual trustee or director, Institutional trustee, Officer, Key employee, Highest compensated employee, Former), (D) Reportable compensation from the organization, (E) Reportable compensation from related organizations, (F) Estimated amount of other compensation. Includes entries for Gwynne Pekron, Leanna Tally, Nicole Waggoner, Jason Ledlie, Mary Sekowski, John Dill, and Katie Illingworth.

**Part VII** Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
<b>1b Subtotal</b> .....							126,280.	0.	49,604.	
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b> .....							0.	0.	0.	
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b> .....							126,280.	0.	49,604.	

**2** Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization 0

	Yes	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i> .....		X
<b>4</b> For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i> .....		X
<b>5</b> Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i> .....		X

**Section B. Independent Contractors**

**1** Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
NONE		

**2** Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization 0



**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

				(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
				Total revenue	Related or exempt function revenue	Unrelated business revenue	Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	<b>1 a</b> Federated campaigns	<b>1a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Membership dues	<b>1b</b>						
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events	<b>1c</b>	33,611.					
	<b>d</b> Related organizations	<b>1d</b>						
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions)	<b>1e</b>	372,419.					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	<b>1f</b>	131,723.					
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	<b>1g</b>	\$					
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f			537,753.				
Program Service Revenue	<b>2 a</b> <u>Per Pupil Revenue</u>	<b>Business Code</b>	611110	4,095,799.	4,095,799.			
	<b>b</b> <u>City Sales Tax</u>		611110	487,452.	487,452.			
	<b>c</b> <u>Mill Levy Override</u>		611110	241,515.	241,515.			
	<b>d</b> <u>Charges for Services</u>		611110	14,831.	14,831.			
	<b>e</b>							
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue							
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f			4,839,597.				
Other Revenue	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)			60.			60.	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds							
	<b>5</b> Royalties							
	<b>6 a</b> Gross rents	<b>6a</b>	(i) Real					
			(ii) Personal					
	<b>b</b> Less: rental expenses	<b>6b</b>						
	<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)	<b>6c</b>						
	<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss)							
	<b>7 a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	<b>7a</b>	(i) Securities	835.				
			(ii) Other					
	<b>b</b> Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	<b>7b</b>	0.					
<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)	<b>7c</b>	835.						
<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss)			835.	835.				
<b>8 a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 33,611. of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	<b>8a</b>		4,110.					
		<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses	<b>8b</b>	8,718.				
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events			-4,608.		-4,608.	
<b>9 a</b> Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	<b>9a</b>							
		<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses	<b>9b</b>					
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
<b>10 a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	<b>10a</b>							
		<b>b</b> Less: cost of goods sold	<b>10b</b>					
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue	<b>11 a</b> <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>	<b>Business Code</b>	611110	2,954.	2,954.			
	<b>b</b>							
	<b>c</b>							
	<b>d</b> All other revenue							
	<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d			2,954.				
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See instructions			5,376,591.	4,843,386.	0.	-4,548.		

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 ...				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22 .....				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 .....				
4 Benefits paid to or for members .....				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees .....	211,787.	180,019.	31,768.	
6 Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) .....				
7 Other salaries and wages .....	2,904,024.	2,613,622.	290,402.	
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions) .....	2,257,824.	2,024,368.	233,456.	
9 Other employee benefits .....	320,159.	287,055.	33,104.	
10 Payroll taxes .....	61,554.	55,189.	6,365.	
11 Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a Management .....				
b Legal .....	855.		855.	
c Accounting .....	8,700.		8,700.	
d Lobbying .....				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees .....				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)				
12 Advertising and promotion .....	6,141.	5,220.	921.	
13 Office expenses .....				
14 Information technology .....				
15 Royalties .....				
16 Occupancy .....	15,869.	13,489.	2,380.	
17 Travel .....	10,413.	8,851.	1,562.	
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials ...				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings .....				
20 Interest .....	31,020.	26,367.	4,653.	
21 Payments to affiliates .....				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....				
23 Insurance .....	35,464.	30,144.	5,320.	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a <b>Purchased Services</b>	374,291.	318,148.	56,143.	
b <b>Instructional Supplies</b>	232,573.	232,573.		
c <b>Tuition</b>	170,600.	145,010.	25,590.	
d <b>General Supplies</b>	95,082.	80,820.	14,262.	
e All other expenses	84,594.	71,905.	12,689.	
<b>25 Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	<b>6,820,950.</b>	<b>6,092,780.</b>	<b>728,170.</b>	<b>0.</b>
26 <b>Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash - non-interest-bearing .....	516,059.	<b>1</b>	681,294.
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments .....		<b>2</b>	
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net .....	313,979.	<b>3</b>	200,616.
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net .....	457.	<b>4</b>	33,221.
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons .....		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) .....		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net .....		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use .....		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges .....	19,080.	<b>9</b>	2,251.
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D .....	<b>10a</b>		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation .....	<b>10b</b>	<b>10c</b>	
	<b>11</b> Investments - publicly traded securities .....		<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b> Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets .....		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 .....	3,476,888.	<b>15</b>	4,101,809.
<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33) .....	4,326,463.	<b>16</b>	5,019,191.	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....	432,799.	<b>17</b>	643,406.
	<b>18</b> Grants payable .....		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue .....		<b>19</b>	21,645.
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities .....		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D .....		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons .....		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties .....		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties .....	519,263.	<b>24</b>	167,454.
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D .....	4,625,653.	<b>25</b>	6,882,297.
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 .....	5,577,715.	<b>26</b>	7,714,802.
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Net assets without donor restrictions .....	-1,361,252.	<b>27</b>	-2,847,611.
	<b>28</b> Net assets with donor restrictions .....	110,000.	<b>28</b>	152,000.
	<b>Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 29 through 33.</b>			
	<b>29</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds .....		<b>29</b>	
	<b>30</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund .....		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds .....		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Total net assets or fund balances .....	-1,251,252.	<b>32</b>	-2,695,611.
<b>33</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances .....	4,326,463.	<b>33</b>	5,019,191.	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	5,376,591.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	6,820,950.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-1,444,359.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	-1,251,252.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	10	-2,695,611.

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

- 1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990:  Cash  Accrual  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.
- 2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? .....  
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? .....  
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? .....  
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain on Schedule O.
- 3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F? .....
- b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits .....

	Yes	No
1		
2a		X
2b	X	
2c	X	
3a		X
3b		

**SCHEDULE A**  
**(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Public Charity Status and Public Support**

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.  
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2023**

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization <b>Merit Academy</b>	Employer identification number <b>85-2365942</b>
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**Part I Reason for Public Charity Status.** (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1  A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2  A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990).)
- 3  A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4  A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5  An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6  A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7  An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8  A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9  An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10  An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions, subject to certain exceptions; and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 11  An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 12  An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box on lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
  - a  **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
  - b  **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
  - c  **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
  - d  **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
  - e  Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
  - f Enter the number of supported organizations .....
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
<b>Total</b>						

**Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .....						
<b>2</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf .....						
<b>3</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge .....						
<b>4 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 3 .....						
<b>5</b> The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f) .....						
<b>6 Public support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4.						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
<b>7</b> Amounts from line 4 .....						
<b>8</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources .....						
<b>9</b> Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on .....						
<b>10</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) .....						
<b>11 Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10						
<b>12</b> Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) .....					12	
<b>13 First 5 years.</b> If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and <b>stop here</b> .....						<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>14</b> Public support percentage for 2023 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f)) .....	14	%
<b>15</b> Public support percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 .....	15	%
<b>16a 33 1/3% support test - 2023.</b> If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b 33 1/3% support test - 2022.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2023.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2022.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>18 Private foundation.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions .....		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)**

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .....						
<b>2</b> Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513 .....						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf .....						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge ...						
<b>6 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 5 .....						
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
<b>b</b> Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b .....						
<b>8 Public support.</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6 .....						
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources ...						
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975 .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b .....						
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on .....						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) .....						
<b>13 Total support.</b> (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

**14 First 5 years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2023 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>15</b>	%
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part III, line 15 .....	<b>16</b>	%

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for <b>2023</b> (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>17</b>	%
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from <b>2022</b> Schedule A, Part III, line 17 .....	<b>18</b>	%

**19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2023.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

**b 33 1/3% support tests - 2022.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

**20 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

**Part IV Supporting Organizations**

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

**Section A. All Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
<b>2</b> Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
<b>3a</b> Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
<b>c</b> Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
<b>4a</b> Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes," and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
<b>c</b> Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
<b>5a</b> Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
<b>b Type I or Type II only.</b> Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
<b>c Substitutions only.</b> Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
<b>6</b> Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>7</b> Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
<b>8</b> Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
<b>9a</b> Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>c</b> Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>10a</b> Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer line 10b below.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		



**Part IV Supporting Organizations** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>11</b> Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
<b>a</b> A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described on lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
<b>b</b> A family member of a person described on line 11a above?		
<b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of a person described on line 11a or 11b above? <i>If "Yes" to line 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>		

**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Did the governing body, members of the governing body, officers acting in their official capacity, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees at all times during the tax year? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove officers, directors, or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.</i>		
<b>2</b> Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.</i>		

**Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).</i>		

**Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
<b>2</b> Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? <i>If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>		
<b>3</b> By reason of the relationship described on line 2, above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>		

**Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations**

<b>1</b> Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).		
<b>a</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.		
<b>b</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.		
<b>c</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a governmental entity (see instructions).		
<b>2</b> Activities Test. Answer lines 2a and 2b below.		
<b>a</b> Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? <i>If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the activities described on line 2a, above, constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.</i>		
<b>3</b> Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer lines 3a and 3b below.		
<b>a</b> Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? <i>If "Yes" or "No" provide details in Part VI.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.</i>		

**Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations**

- 1  Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 ( *explain in Part VI*). **See instructions.**  
All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3.	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	<b>Adjusted Net Income</b> (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	<b>Total</b> (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	<b>Discount</b> claimed for blockage or other factors ( <i>explain in detail in Part VI</i> ):		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by 0.035.	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	<b>Minimum Asset Amount</b> (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount			Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, column A)	1	
2	Enter 0.85 of line 1.	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	<b>Distributable Amount.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	6	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

**Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations** (continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - provide details in Part VI)	5
6	Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions.	6
7	<b>Total annual distributions.</b> Add lines 1 through 6.	7
8	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions.	8
9	Distributable amount for 2023 from Section C, line 6	9
10	Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount	10

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2023	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2023
1	Distributable amount for 2023 from Section C, line 6		
2	Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2023 (reasonable cause required - explain in Part VI). See instructions.		
3	Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2023		
a	From 2018		
b	From 2019		
c	From 2020		
d	From 2021		
e	From 2022		
f	<b>Total</b> of lines 3a through 3e		
g	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
h	Applied to 2023 distributable amount		
i	Carryover from 2018 not applied (see instructions)		
j	Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.		
4	Distributions for 2023 from Section D, line 7: \$		
a	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
b	Applied to 2023 distributable amount		
c	Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.		
5	Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2023, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
6	Remaining underdistributions for 2023. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
7	<b>Excess distributions carryover to 2024.</b> Add lines 3j and 4c.		
8	Breakdown of line 7:		
a	Excess from 2019		
b	Excess from 2020		
c	Excess from 2021		
d	Excess from 2022		
e	Excess from 2023		

**Part VI**

**Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

Horizontal lines for supplemental information.

**Schedule B**  
**(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Schedule of Contributors**

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.  
Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2023**

Name of the organization

**Merit Academy**

Employer identification number

**85-2365942**

Organization type (check one):

**Filers of:**

**Section:**

Form 990 or 990-EZ

501(c)( 3 ) (enter number) organization

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

527 political organization

Form 990-PF

501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

**Note:** Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

**General Rule**

For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

**Special Rules**

For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of **(1)** \$5,000; or **(2)** 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h; or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), II, and III.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Caution:** An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.

Schedule B (Form 990) (2023)

Name of organization <b>Merit Academy</b>	Employer identification number <b>85-2365942</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 75,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 9,950.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
4	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,517.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization  <b>Merit Academy</b>	Employer identification number  <b>85-2365942</b>
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**Part II Noncash Property** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____
	_____	\$ _____	_____

Name of organization  <b>Merit Academy</b>	Employer identification number  <b>85-2365942</b>
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**Part III** Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of **\$1,000 or less** for the year. (Enter this info. once.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
<b>Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4</b>		<b>Relationship of transferor to transferee</b>	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
<b>Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4</b>		<b>Relationship of transferor to transferee</b>	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
<b>Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4</b>		<b>Relationship of transferor to transferee</b>	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
<b>Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4</b>		<b>Relationship of transferor to transferee</b>	



SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization Merit Academy Employer identification number 85-2365942

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 3 columns: Question, (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include total number at end of year, aggregate value of contributions, grants, and end of year, and two yes/no questions about donor property and grant fund usage.

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

Table with 3 columns: Question, (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include purpose of easements, total number and acreage, number of easements on historic structures, and monitoring expenses.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

Table with 3 columns: Question, (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include questions about reporting art and historical treasures and amounts for revenue and assets.

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets** (continued)

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that make significant use of its collection items (check all that apply).
- a  Public exhibition
  - b  Scholarly research
  - c  Preservation for future generations
  - d  Loan or exchange program
  - e  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?  Yes  No

**Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian, or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- |                                 | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| c Beginning balance             | 1c     |
| d Additions during the year     | 1d     |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e     |
| f Ending balance                | 1f     |
- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

**Part V Endowment Funds** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment \_\_\_\_\_%
  - b Permanent endowment \_\_\_\_\_%
  - c Term endowment \_\_\_\_\_%
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.
- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- |  | Yes    | No |
|--|--------|----|
| (i) Unrelated organizations?   | 3a(i)  |    |
| (ii) Related organizations?  | 3a(ii) |    |
| b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b     |    |
- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				

**Total.** Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 10c, column (B)) 0.

**Part VII Investments - Other Securities**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives .....		
(2) Closely held equity interests .....		
(3) Other .....		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
<b>Total.</b> (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 12, col. (B))		

**Part VIII Investments - Program Related.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
<b>Total.</b> (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 13, col. (B))		

**Part IX Other Assets**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>4,101,809.</b>
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 15, col. (B))	<b>4,101,809.</b>

**Part X Other Liabilities**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2) <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>50,095.</b>
(3) <b>Net OPEB Liability</b>	<b>161,080.</b>
(4) <b>Net Pension Liabilities</b>	<b>6,671,122.</b>
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 25, col. (B))	<b>6,882,297.</b>

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FASB ASC 740. Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ...

**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		<b>1</b>	5,381,199.
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>2d</b>	4,608.	
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b>		<b>2e</b>	4,608.
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	5,376,591.
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b>		<b>4c</b>	0.
<b>5</b>	Total revenue. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		<b>5</b>	5,376,591.

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		<b>1</b>	6,825,558.
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Other losses	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>2d</b>	4,608.	
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b>		<b>2e</b>	4,608.
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	6,820,950.
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b>		<b>4c</b>	0.
<b>5</b>	Total expenses. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		<b>5</b>	6,820,950.

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Part XI, Line 2d - Other Adjustments:

Fundraising Event Expense 4,608.

Part XII, Line 2d - Other Adjustments:

Fundraising Event Expense 4,608.

**SCHEDULE E  
(Form 990)**

**Schools**

OMB No. 1545-0047

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 13, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 48.

**2023**

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

Name of the organization

**Merit Academy**

Employer identification number

**85-2365942**

**Part I**

	YES	NO
1 Does the organization have a racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students by statement in its charter, bylaws, other governing instrument, or in a resolution of its governing body? .....	<b>X</b>	
2 Does the organization include a statement of its racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students in all its brochures, catalogues, and other written communications with the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?	<b>X</b>	
3 Has the organization publicized its racially nondiscriminatory policy on its primary publicly accessible Internet homepage at all times during its tax year in a manner reasonably expected to be noticed by visitors to the homepage, or through newspaper or broadcast media during the period of solicitation for students, or during the registration period if it has no solicitation program, in a way that makes the policy known to all parts of the general community it serves? If "Yes," please describe. If "No," please explain. If you need more space, use Part II .....	<b>X</b>	
<u>The nondiscriminatory policy is publicized in marketing communications and on the school's website to make it known to all parts of the general community it serves.</u>		
4 Does the organization maintain the following?		
a Records indicating the racial composition of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff? .....	<b>X</b>	
b Records documenting that scholarships and other financial assistance are awarded on a racially nondiscriminatory basis? ..	<b>X</b>	
c Copies of all catalogues, brochures, announcements, and other written communications to the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships? .....	<b>X</b>	
d Copies of all material used by the organization or on its behalf to solicit contributions? .....	<b>X</b>	
If you answered "No" to any of the above, please explain. If you need more space, use Part II.		
5 Does the organization discriminate by race in any way with respect to:		
a Students' rights or privileges? .....		<b>X</b>
b Admissions policies? .....		<b>X</b>
c Employment of faculty or administrative staff? .....		<b>X</b>
d Scholarships or other financial assistance? .....		<b>X</b>
e Educational policies? .....		<b>X</b>
f Use of facilities? .....		<b>X</b>
g Athletic programs? .....		<b>X</b>
h Other extracurricular activities? .....		<b>X</b>
If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please explain. If you need more space, use Part II.		
6a Does the organization receive any financial aid or assistance from a governmental agency? .....	<b>X</b>	
b Has the organization's right to such aid ever been revoked or suspended? .....		<b>X</b>
If you answered "Yes" on either line 6a or line 6b, explain on Part II.		
7 Does the organization certify that it has complied with the applicable requirements of sections 4.01 through 4.05 of Rev. Proc. 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, as modified by Rev. Proc. 2019-22, 2019-22 I.R.B. 1260, covering racial nondiscrimination? If "No," explain on Part II .....	<b>X</b>	

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule E (Form 990) 2023

**Part II** **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part I, lines 3, 4d, 5h, 6b, and 7, as applicable. Also provide any other additional information. See instructions.

**Line 6 - Explanation of Government Financial Aid:**

Per pupil funding and federal grant funding is received through the Colorado Department of Education.

**SCHEDULE G (Form 990)**

**Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities**

OMB No. 1545-0047

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17, 18, or 19, or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

**2023**

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Open to Public Inspection

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

**Merit Academy**

Employer identification number

**85-2365942**

**Part I Fundraising Activities.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17. Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this part.

**1** Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.

- a**  Mail solicitations
- b**  Internet and email solicitations
- c**  Phone solicitations
- d**  In-person solicitations
- e**  Solicitation of non-government grants
- f**  Solicitation of government grants
- g**  Special fundraising events

**2 a** Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual (including officers, directors, trustees, or key employees listed in Form 990, Part VII) or entity in connection with professional fundraising services?  **Yes**  **No**

**b** If "Yes," list the 10 highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization.

(i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser)	(ii) Activity	(iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?		(iv) Gross receipts from activity	(v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col. (i)	(vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization
		Yes	No			
<b>Total</b> .....						

**3** List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit contributions or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing.

**Part II Fundraising Events.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 of fundraising event contributions and gross income on Form 990-EZ, lines 1 and 6b. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events (add col. (a) through col. (c))
		Fund Run (event type)	Gala (event type)	None (total number)	
Revenue	1	Gross receipts	17,126.	20,595.	37,721.
	2	Less: Contributions	17,126.	16,485.	33,611.
	3	Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)		4,110.	4,110.
Direct Expenses	4	Cash prizes			
	5	Noncash prizes	864.		864.
	6	Rent/facility costs		1,566.	1,566.
	7	Food and beverages		4,238.	4,238.
	8	Entertainment	350.	500.	850.
	9	Other direct expenses		1,200.	1,200.
	10	Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d)			
11	Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d)				-4,608.

**Part III Gaming.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (add col. (a) through col. (c))
		1	Gross revenue		
Direct Expenses	2	Cash prizes			
	3	Noncash prizes			
	4	Rent/facility costs			
	5	Other direct expenses			
	6	Volunteer labor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No
7	Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d)				
8	Net gaming income summary. Subtract line 7 from line 1, column (d)				

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization conducts gaming activities: \_\_\_\_\_

a Is the organization licensed to conduct gaming activities in each of these states?  Yes  No

b If "No," explain: \_\_\_\_\_

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended, or terminated during the tax year?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," explain: \_\_\_\_\_



- 11 Does the organization conduct gaming activities with nonmembers?  Yes  No
- 12 Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust, or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming?  Yes  No
- 13 Indicate the percentage of gaming activity conducted in:
 

a The organization's facility	<b>13a</b>	%
b An outside facility	<b>13b</b>	%
- 14 Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- 15a Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party \$ \_\_\_\_\_

c If "Yes," enter name and address of the third party:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

16 Gaming manager information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gaming manager compensation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description of services provided \_\_\_\_\_

Director/officer       Employee       Independent contractor

17 Mandatory distributions:

a Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license?  Yes  No

b Enter the amount of distributions required under state law to be distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part I, line 2b, columns (iii) and (v); and Part III, lines 9, 9b, 10b, 15b, 15c, 16, and 17b, as applicable. Also provide any additional information. See instructions.

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**SCHEDULE O  
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.  
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.  
Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2023**

Open to Public  
Inspection

Name of the organization

Merit Academy

Employer identification number

85-2365942

Form 990, Part I, Line 1, Description of Organization Mission:

Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue, employing honored foundations of classical education and Core Knowledge.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 11b:

Copies of the Form 990 are provided to a representative of the board for approval before filing.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 12c:

The Organization conducts periodic reviews of any compensation or agreements and whether any relationships with taxable organizations conform with the corporation's policies and are properly recorded.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 15a:

The executive director's performance and compensation is reviewed annually by the board.

Form 990, Part VI, Section C, Line 19:

Documents are made available upon request.

Part XII, Line 2c

The audit committee is responsible for the selection of the independent auditor.