

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of Innovative Schools

Consideration of the Petition for the Renewal of the Charter of Capitol
Montessori Project - Capitol Campus
March 18, 2021



I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

A. Action Proposed

either grant or deny California Montessori Project –Capitol Campus’ (CMP) petition to renew its charter.

On July 1, 2006, the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) approved the CMP's initial charter petition -The term of its current petition started on July 1, 2016, and expires on June 30, 2021.

CMP submitted a petition to renew its charter on Friday, December 4, 2020. CMP is requesting a renewal of its charter to continue to operate its independent charter school for students from kindergarten to eighth grade. The CMP academic program offers a tuition-free Montessori Education.

At the Board's meeting on January 14, 2021, as required by Education Code 47605, the district held a public hearing on CMP's petition to renew its charter.

CMP Overview

Year Established:	August 16, 2006
Location:	

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In its renewal petition from 2015, CMP projected "...a student population between 329 and 340, with a sustained enrollment at 336 over the next five years."

In five years, CMP anticipates its enrollment will be at 349, approximately 19 more students than its 2019-20 Census Day Enrollment of 330 students. As a measure of demand for its program as of August 31, 2020, the waitlist for CMP was 54 students. Of these 54 students, 30 students are in-district students.

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CMP's Five Year Enrollment Projections

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

The Charter Review Team (CRT) conducted its review of the petition in accordance with EC Sections 47605 and 47607. It states that the Legislature intends that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that the establishment of charter schools should be encouraged. The Legislature believed that the school district's governing Board should grant a charter school's operation if it is satisfied that the charter school offers a sound educational practice and its program serves the community's interests.

The Board of Education may deny a renewal petition if the charter school fails to meet the minimum standard for renewal, or if the Board of Education finds that:

1. The charter school presents an unsound educational program for students during the term of its renewal charter; or
 2. The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to implement the program outlined in the renewal petition successfully; or
 3. The renewal petition does not contain the necessary affirmations; or
 4. The renewal petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for the purpose of Chapter 10.7 of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code;
- or

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5. Where changes to the charter school's operations are proposed, the renewal petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements outlined in the Charter Schools Act.

Should the Board of Education deny the Renewal Petition, the Board must adopt written findings of facts based on any of the criteria mentioned above.

A. Academic Performance Criteria

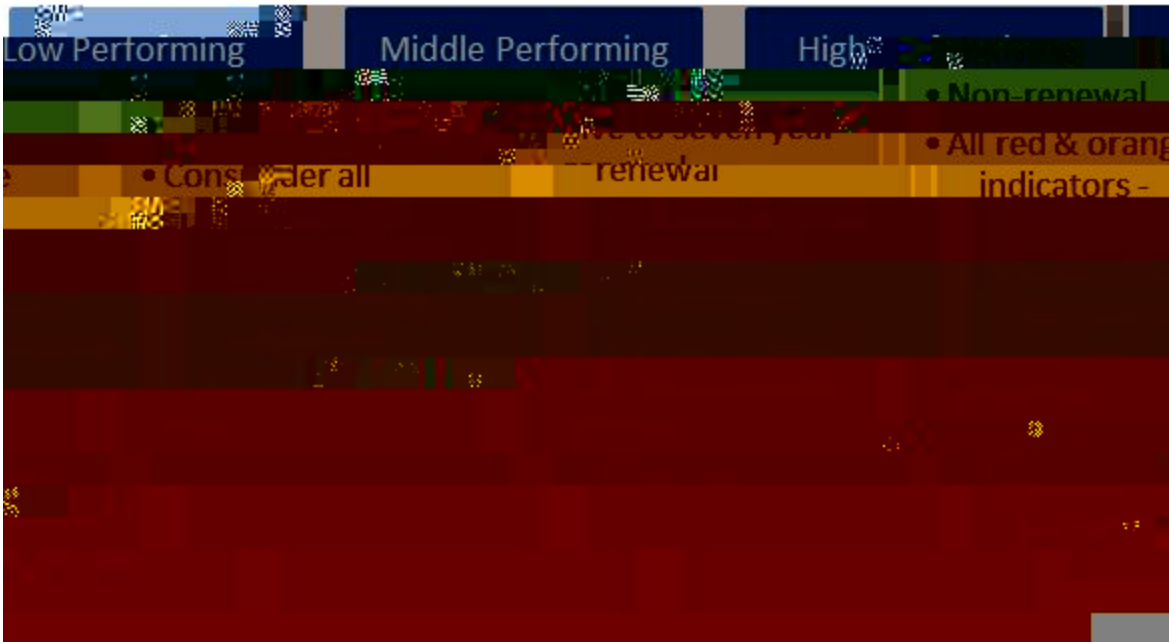
"As an additional criterion for determining whether to grant a charter renewal, the chartering authority shall consider the performance of the charter school on the state and local indicators included in the evaluation rubrics adopted pursuant to Section 52064.5." Ed. Code § 47607 (5) (c) (1). Under AB 1505, charter authorizers must consider the charter school's performance on the California School Dashboard indicators when evaluating a petition to renew a charter school. The new renewal process creates essentially three tiers of renewal.

1. **High-Performing Charter Schools:** A chartering authority shall not deny renewal for a charter school that meets the high-performing criteria. The school can be renewed for a period of between five and seven years. A charter school meets this criteria if, in the two preceding years, it has either:
 - a. Received the two highest performance levels schoolwide on all state indicators, which is all blue or green, or
 - b. Received performance levels schoolwide and for a majority of subgroups that are the same or higher than the state average on the "academic performance indicators" — test-based indicators for English language arts (ELA) and math, the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI), and the College and Career Indicator (CCI).
2. **Low-Performing Charter Schools:** A chartering authority shall not renew a charter school that meets the low-performing criteria. A charter school meets this criteria if, in the preceding two years, it has either:

- a. Received the two lowest performance levels schoolwide on all state indicators, which is all red or orange, or
- b. Received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or lower than the

progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the school's students, that closure of the school is in the student's best interests, and that the decision provided greater weight to performance on "measurements of academic performance" — the test-based indicators in ELA and math, ELPI, and CCI.

The eligible renewal period will be for five years.



Verified Data
For schools in the lowWT

A chartering authority may deny renewal of a charter school in any of the three tiers upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program due to substantial fiscal or governance factors, or if the charter school is not serving all pupils who wish to attend. Even a high-performing charter may be denied renewal based upon such a finding. However, the chartering authority must give the school at least 35e denied renewal based up '

Schools designated as middle performing are evaluated using additional data—EC sections 47607(c)(5) and 47607.2(b).

AB 1505 requires the performance of charter schools, and their student groups, be compared with the statewide average on the four state academic indicators. The Academic Indicators are defined in AB 1505 (ECSection47607(c)(3)) as:

- English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)

- Mathematics

- College/Career Indicator (CCI)

- English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI)

The most recent state standardized testing results are from the 2018-19 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The following data tables compare the performance of CMP's students to the state. Some tables include data for all students, and others disaggregate the performances by significant student subgroups. Significant pupÚ II, F!

Bancroft Elementary's data points are for benchmarking, not determining CMP's eligibility to renew its charter.

English Language Arts - All Students

English Language Arts

Mathematics - All Students

Mathematics

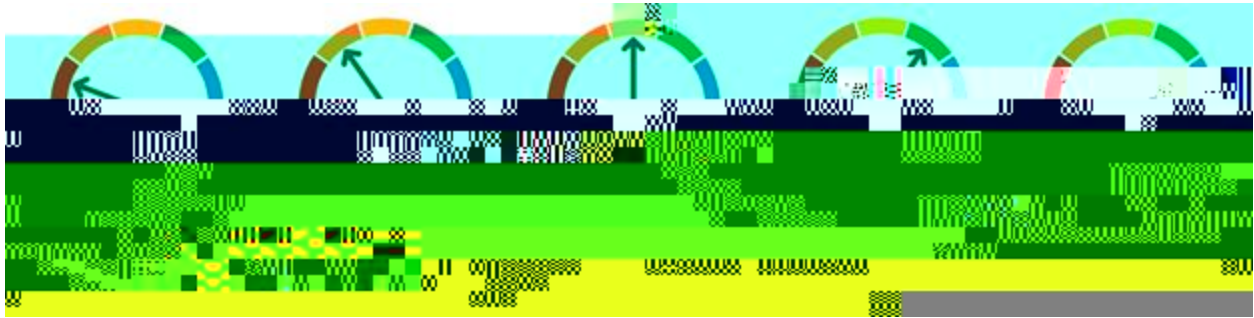
Mathematics

Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade Level Standards

Mathematics

Percentage of Students with Disabilities Meeting or Exceeding Grade Level Standards

state measure. There are five performance levels, and each is assigned a different color: Red is the lowest performance level, Orange is the second lowest, Yellow is the middle point, Green is the second highest, and Blue is the highest performance level.



2019 California Dashboard Results - English Language Arts

English Language Arts - All Students

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English Language Arts - Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students

California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus	State of California	Sacramento City Unified	Hubert H. Bancroft Elementary
<p>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Yellow</p> <p>30.1 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 4.4 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 10</p>	<p>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Yellow</p> <p>30.1 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 4.4 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 10</p>	<p>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Yellow</p> <p>43.9 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 5.7 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 10</p>	<p>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Willow</p> <p>113.8 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 15.1 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 55</p>

English Language Arts - Students with Disabilities

California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus	State of California	Sacramento City Unified	Hubert H. Bancroft Elementary
<p>Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Orange</p> <p>11.1 points below standard</p> <p>Declined 11.1 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 43</p>	<p>Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Orange</p> <p>7.8 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 7.8 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 420,092</p>	<p>Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Red</p> <p>2.6 points below standard</p> <p>Maintained 2.6 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 3,441</p>	<p>Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Student Group State</p> <p>Blue</p> <p>113.8 points below standard</p> <p>Increased 15.1 Points</p> <p>Number of Students: 55</p>

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2019 California Dashboard Results - Mathematics

Mathematics - All Students

California Montessori			

Mathematics - Hispanic Students

Mathematics - White Students

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Mathematics - Students with Disabilities

California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus	State of California	Sacramento City UnifiedCento City	

AB 1505 requires a charter school's schoolwide and significant student groups' performance, be compared with the statewide average on the state academic indicators. A comparison of CMP's performance on the color received for the state indicators in the Dashboard Schoolwide as well as its significant subgroups with the state's performance show that CMP's students performed below the state in the following areas:

California Dashboard Performance Level - English Language Arts

California Dashboard Performance Level - Mathematics

CMP's Proposed Actions for Improvement

To address the deficits in its students' performance, CMP mentions in its petition that it will continue or implement the following actions:

- Classroom Instructional Rounds

- Diagnostic and Interim Assessments - "Prior to school year 2019-20 CMP did not have a K-8 ELA and Math diagnostic and interim assessment system. Starting in the fall of 2019, CMP students took three i-Ready assessments over the school year."

- Hiring a Math Specialist

- Implementation of Math Intervention Program

- Expansion of ReadTa Mervention Program

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6. Health and Safety Procedures
7. Means to Achieve a Racial and Ethnic Balance
8. Admissions Requirements
9. Financial and Programmatic Audit
10. Student Discipline, Pupil Suspension, and Expulsion Procedures
11. Retirement System
12. Attendance Alternatives
13. Description of Employee Rights
14. Dispute Resolution Process, Oversight, Reporting, and Renewal
15. Labor Relations
16. School Closure Procedures

District Staff also reviewed the impact on the District as described in the original Renewal Petition.

The Petitioner responded to requests for additional information or clarifications. Specifically, District Staff noted deficiencies or incomplete information regarding the following:

Element 1, Educational Program

Unable to find the history of the number and percentage of students served disaggregated by significant subgroups and grade levels.

Element 9, Financial

The multi-year projections submitted with the charter petition does not separate unrestricted and restricted. Taken as a whole, the Charter projected ending fund balance of 19% in FY21 and growing to 36% in its 5th year. However, this is contingent upon forgiveness of the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) in FY21.

CMP is in the process of applying for loan forgiveness. If the loan is not forgiven, then the fund balance, as a whole, is 6% and growing to 19% in year 5. California Montessori Project's (CMP) required reserve is 4%.

CMP's enrollment has been averaging 331 students from 2018-19 to 2020-21, based on the LCFF calculator and 1st Principal Apportionment. They have remained steady at 96% ADA. CPM is projecting to increase their enrollment by approximately 22 students by 2022-23.

Based on CMP's ADA%, projected enrollment growth, and the LCFF Calculator from the Governor's proposed budget, the projected LCFF revenue is about \$3M, \$3.13M, \$3.24M, and \$3.20M for FY22, FY23, FY24, FY25, respectively. CMP projected their LCFF revenue at \$2.9M for those years.

If California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus is able to grow its enrollment by 22 students, then they will meet their 4% required reserves. This increase of students has a potential impact of approximately \$200,000 to SCUSD LCFF revenues.

Based on the results of the District Staff's review of the Renewal Petition, District Staff has concluded that all of the required elements are reasonably comprehensive collectively.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES

Not applicable

VI. RESULTS

District staff requests that the Board conference and take action to approve or deny the petition to renew California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus. Staff recommends that the Board take due consideration to the content of this Executive Summary.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS

If the Board approves the petition to renew the charter, SCUSD, as the charter authorizer, will provide continued oversight by conducting annual visits and programmatic audits to review the charter school's academic achievement, as well as records of past performance and plans regarding academics, finances, and operations. Additionally, the District and CMP will collaborate on the timely submission of a signed Operational Memorandum of Understanding. The Renewal Petition and supplemental information will be posted online at:

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Conversely, if the Board denies the petition to renew the charter, CMP may elect to submit the petition to the county board of education for consideration.