

2022-2023 Sponsor Evaluation: City Garden Montessori School (CGMS)

As required by MO statutes and the contracts between SLU and our sponsored charter schools, SLU establishes for each of its sponsored schools what DESE refers to as a “Performance Contract.” The Performance Contract is an explicit statement of the specific academic, financial, and organizational performance standards SLU has established for the charter, and against which the Applicant shall be evaluated annually.

SLU’s annual evaluation of a charter school shall be based primarily – though not exclusively – on the school’s achievement of standards established in the governing Performance Contract. Failure to achieve certain Performance Contract standards may result in SLU requirements of the school including, but not limited to, the following:

- that the school submit a report to SLU addressing the sources of concerns, as well as school plans for remediation thereof;
- that the school publish any such required report (as noted above) on its website for public access;
- that the school contract for an independent external audit, by an auditor/consultant approved by SLU, of the school’s educational, financial, or organizational performance as defined by SLU;
- specific training for board members, administrators, staff, or teachers.
- changes in membership and/or officers of the board of directors.

SLU’s decision to renew a charter with a sponsored school will also be informed by the school’s record of annual achievement of standards in the governing Performance Contracts.

The standards of the Performance Contract and Sponsor Evaluation are stipulated in the following tables.



1. Academic Achievement

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.1	School-wide, the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP ELA assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS) Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 32.41% CGMS = 52.7% SLPS = 16.23% * 1.25 = 20.29%
1.2	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP ELA assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 10.14% CGMS = 24.3% SLPS = 11.33% * 1.25 = 14.16%
1.3	School-wide, the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP MATH assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 22.49% CGMS = 37.8% SLPS = 12.25% * 1.25 = 15.31%
1.4	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP MATH assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 5.59% CGMS = 14.9% SLPS = 7.45% * 1.25 = 9.31%

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.5	School-wide, the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP SCIENCE assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 30.39% CGMS = 50.1% SLPS = 15.77% * 1.25 = 19.71 %
1.6	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMCS students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP SCIENCE assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all SLPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 39.69% CGMS = 51.35% SLPS = 9.33% * 1.25 = 11.66%
1.7	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent growth score (NCE) for the MO MAP ELA assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for CGMCS.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.8	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent growth score (NCE) for the MO MAP Math assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for CGMCS.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.9	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent growth score (NCE) for the MO MAP Science		MO DESE did not calculate science growth scores for this school year.

	assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for CGMCS.		
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* The percentage difference is not a percentage point difference. For example, if SLPS' percent of proficient and advanced students is 28%, then the minimum expectation for CGMS will be 35% (28 x 1.25).

Summary Findings for Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement Rating	Exceeded
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CGMS is outperforming the district in which it is located both overall and in black student subgroup. -CGMS appears to have closed the achievement gap between black and white students in science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The achievement scores still have room for growth, especially in mathematics. -The achievement gap between black and white students continues to persist at CGMS in both English Language Arts and mathematics.

2. Curriculum & Instruction

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
2.1	Curricula are aligned with all DESE-established learning standards/outcomes.	Per SLU analysis of CGMS's Scope & Sequence Documents and Curriculum Documents	Met
2.2	The school is compliant with the State of Missouri's and U.S. Department of Education's requirements for "Highly Qualified" teachers.	Per SLU analysis of MODESE Staff Certificate Report for CGMS	Met
2.3	City Garden's teacher evaluation standards and processes are compliant with DESE regulations.	Per SLU analysis of CGMS teacher evaluation tool	Met

Summary Findings for Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
-CGMS provides Montessori specific professional development to their faculty through an in-house Montessori Institute. This level of dedication—in terms of time, money, and space—to implementing the Montessori method with fidelity is exemplary.	The alignment between DESE-established learning standards/outcomes within the Montessori model continues to be an area of growth, as the process itself is an iterative one.

3. Operations & Compliance

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
3.1	The school complies with all applicable state/federal laws, including those related to special education, title programs, homeless students, English Language Learners, etc.	Per SLU analyses of the data within the MCDS	Met
3.2	All state- and federally-required reports/data are submitted by established deadlines and in full compliance with governing regulations.	Per SLU analyses of the data within the MCDS	Met
3.3	The school participates in the statewide system of assessments.	Per SLU monitoring of CGMS exam administration schedule and results.	Met
3.4	The school makes publicly available data from DESE's annual report card.	Observed at the following link: https://www.citygardenschool.org/about	Met

Summary Findings for Operations & Compliance

Operations & Compliance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
The CGMS team submits requested data in both a timely and an accurate manner.	

4. Budget & Finance

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
4.1	All required Final Expenditure Reports and the Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR) are submitted to DESE by established deadlines.	Per DESE communications with SLU	Met
4.2	Annual independent audit is conducted and submitted to all required parties on time, with no material findings.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met
4.3	The Board approves an annual budget by June 30 of the prior fiscal year.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met
4.4	The monthly check register is reviewed and approved by the Board as required by 5 CSR 20-100.260 and Board policy.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met
4.5	The Board publicly reviews financial statements monthly against the approved budget, and makes quarterly budget amendments as required per state law.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
4.6	The school maintains a minimum 8% annual fund balance, calculated per DESE's formula.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met

Summary Findings for Budget & Finance

Budget & Finance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
CGMS continues to be an excellent steward of both taxpayer and philanthropic dollars.	

5. Governance

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
5.1	Board member training complies with all state laws.	Per SLU's analyses of onsite secured files	Met
5.2	All Board and committee meetings adhere to the provisions of the MO open meetings/Sunshine laws.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.citygardenschool.org/board	Met
5.3	All Board members have undergone criminal background and FCSR checks as required in section 160.400.14, RSMo.	Per SLU's analyses of onsite secured files	Met
5.4	All Board members submit ethics commission requirements annually as outlined in 105.483 and 105.492 RSMo.	Per SLU's analyses of onsite secured files	Met

Summary Findings for Governance

Governance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
The CGMS governing board is engaging in succession planning to solidify the organization's perpetuity.	

Summary Findings for Annual Evaluation

Annual Evaluation Rating	Met
Themes of Strength Across Multiple Standards	Themes of Growth Needs Across Multiple Standards
<p>CGMS has exemplary processes and procedures in place for operation in the five areas addressed in this evaluation. The organization consistently meets its academic outcome goals, reporting deadlines, fiduciary responsibilities, and governance expectations.</p>	<p>CGMS is aware of its challenges with math proficiency across the board. This continues to be an area of growth for the organization.</p>