

2023-2024 Sponsor Evaluation: Académie Lafayette (AL)

As required by Missouri (MO) statutes and the contracts between Saint Louis University (SLU) and our sponsored public charter schools, SLU establishes for each of its sponsored schools what the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (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 sponsored charter 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 requesting requirements of the school including, but not limited to, the following:

- the submission of a report to SLU addressing the sources of concerns, as well as school plans for remediation thereof;
- the publication of any such required report (as noted above) on its website for public access;
- the completion of an independent external audit, by an auditor/consultant approved by SLU, of the school’s academic, 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 tables that follow.



1. Academic Achievement

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.1	School-wide, the percent of AL 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 KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS) Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 32.3% AL = 64.1% KCPS = 25.4% * 1.25 = 31.8%
1.2	For the DESE-defined super subgroup, the percent of AL 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 KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 16.9% AL = 42.3% KCPS = 20.3% * 1.25 = 25.4%
1.3	School-wide, the percent of AL 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 KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 35.1% AL = 61.9% KCPS = 21.4% * 1.25 = 26.8%
1.4	For the DESE-defined super subgroup, the percent of AL 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 KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 15.4% AL = 36.3 % KCPS = 16.7% * 1.25 = 20.9%
1.5	School-wide, the percent of AL 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 KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 37.8% AL = 65.1% KCPS = 21.8% * 1.25 = 27.3%
1.6	For the DESE-defined super subgroup, the percent of AL students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP SCIENCE assessment	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded goal by 16.8% AL = 36.7%

	shall be 25% greater* than the average for all KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.		KCPS = 15.9% * 1.25 = 19.9%
1.7	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent <u>growth score</u> (NCE) for the MO MAP English Language Arts assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for AL.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.8	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent <u>growth score</u> (NCE) for the MO MAP Math assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for AL.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.9	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent <u>growth score</u> (NCE) for the MO MAP Science assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for AL.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met

* The percentage difference is not a percentage point difference. For example, if KCPS' percent of proficient and advanced students is 28%, then the minimum expectation for Académie Lafayette will be 35% (28 x 1.25). Scores are from the 2022-2023 assessment.

Summary Findings for Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
-AL is an academic leader in the state that continues to improve student outcomes from year to year.	-While AL is outperforming the state average and district in which it is located, the achievement scores still have room for growth. -The achievement gap between the student subgroup and all students categories persists.

2. Curriculum & Instruction

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
2.1	Curricula are aligned with all DESE-established learning standards/outcomes.	Per SLU analysis of AL's scope and sequence 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 AL	Met
2.3	Académie Lafayette's teacher evaluation standards and processes are compliant with DESE regulations.	Per SLU analysis of AL teacher evaluation tool	Met

Summary Findings for Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction Rating		Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth	
<p>-AL does an exemplary job in supporting faculty teaching and learning through ongoing professional development. This work is maximized by partnering with professional organizations, like Teach for America.</p> <p>-As evidenced by their scope and sequence documents and common assessment, it is apparent that the AL curriculum planning and alignment processes are robust.</p>	<p>AL faculty have begun to utilize continuous improvement cycles driven by data gleaned from common formative assessments more effectively. By continuing to ensure this work is done with fidelity, AL increases the likelihood of improved student achievement scores.</p>	

3. Operations & Compliance

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
3.1	The school complies with all applicable state/federal laws, including, but not limited to, those related to special education, title programs, homeless students, and English Language Learners.	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 AL 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://academielafayette.org/families/required-notifications/	Met

Summary Findings for Operations & Compliance

Operations & Compliance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
The AL 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 Audit: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14CO3-GtlbNQ81XwX0xCcFTKseO3LViNQ	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 Board Minutes: https://academielafayette.org/aladvantage/board-of-directors/	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 Board Minutes: https://academielafayette.org/aladvantage/board-of-directors/	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 Board Minutes: https://academielafayette.org/aladvantage/board-of-directors/	Met
4.6	The school maintains a minimum 8% annual fund balance, calculated per DESE standards.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings Audit: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14CO3-GtlbNQ81XwX0xCcFTKseO3LViNQ	Met

Summary Findings for Budget & Finance

Budget & Finance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
AL 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://academielafayette.org/aladvantage/board-of-directors/	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 AL governing board has established timelines for consistent, proactive reviews of governance policies.	

Summary Findings for Annual Evaluation

Annual Evaluation Rating	Met
Themes of Strength Across Multiple Standards	Themes of Growth Needs Across Multiple Standards
<p>AL 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>AL is aware of its challenges with producing comparable proficiency rates amongst students identified in the subgroup category and those who are not. This continues to be an area of growth for the organization.</p>