



2023-2024 Sponsor Evaluation: City Garden Montessori School

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 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 the school’s 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;
- the completion of specific training for board members, administrators, staff, or teachers as approved by SLU;
- 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 below.



1. Academic Achievement

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.1	School-wide, the percent of CGMS 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	Met Exceeded by 17.4% CGMS = 42.7% SLPS = 20.2% * 1.25 = 25.3%
1.2	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMS 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	Not Met CGMS = 14% SLPS = 12% * 1.25 = 15%
1.3	School-wide, the percent of CGMS 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	Met Exceeded by 12.3% CGMS = 34.6% SLPS = 17.8% * 1.25 = 22.3 %
1.4	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMS 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	Not Met CGMS = 7.5% SLPS = 9.5% * 1.25 = 11.9%

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.5	School-wide, the percent of CGMS 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 23.8% CGMS = 45.8% SLPS = 17.6% * 1.25 = 22%
1.6	For the DESE-defined Black subgroup , the percent of CGMS 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 0.8% CGMS = 13.4% SLPS = 10.1% * 1.25 = 12.6%
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 CGMS.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.8	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average NCE for the MO MAP Math assessment is either at or above the DESE- calculated expected NCE for CGMS.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met
1.9	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average NCE for the MO MAP Science	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met

	assessment is either at or above the DESE-calculated expected NCE for CGMS.		
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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	Partially Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
Students at CGMS continue to meet their expected growth outcomes.	While CGMS is outperforming the district in which it is located, the achievement scores still have room for growth, especially in the area of mathematics. An achievement gap between black and white students persists at CGMS.

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 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 MO DESE Staff Certificate Report for CGMS	Met
2.3	CGMS’s teacher evaluation standards and processes are compliant with DESE regulations.	Per SLU analysis of the CGMS teacher evaluation tool	Met

Summary Findings for Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
CGMS continues to demonstrate a strong institutional commitment to authentic Montessori implementation through its in-house Montessori Institute, which provides specialized, method-aligned professional development for faculty. The intentional investment of time, financial resources, and dedicated space reflects a deep commitment to fidelity in both curriculum and instructional practice.	The ongoing alignment of DESE-established learning standards and outcomes within the Montessori framework remains an important and evolving area of focus. As with any standards integration process, this work is iterative and requires continued refinement to ensure both Montessori integrity and full alignment with state expectations.

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 analyses of the data within the MCDS	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 provides the requested data promptly and accurately.	

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	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	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	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	Met
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	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	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 continues to engage in long term planning (both strategic and succession planning) to strengthen the organization and ensure 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 maintains strong, well-established systems and protocols across all five domains reviewed in this evaluation. The organization consistently complies with reporting requirements in a timely manner, upholds sound fiscal stewardship, and demonstrates effective governance practices.</p>	<p>CGMS has identified math proficiency as an ongoing area for improvement, both overall and particularly among Black students. The organization recognizes this as a priority and continues to work toward improving outcomes in this area.</p>