



2023-2024 Sponsor Evaluation: Hope Leadership Academy (HLA)

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 that follow.



1. Academic Achievement

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.1	School-wide, the percent of HLA students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the Missouri Measures of Academic Progress English Language Arts (MO MAP ELA) assessment shall be at or greater* than the average for all Kansas City Public School (KCPS) District schools with the same grade levels.	Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS) - DESE MAP Data	Not Met HLA = 7.4% KCPS = 21.3%
1.2	School-wide, the percent of HLA students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP MATH assessment shall be at or greater than the average for all KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS - DESE MAP Data	Not Met HLA = 0% KCPS = 20.1%
1.3	School-wide, the percent of HLA students who score at either the “Proficient” or “Advanced” level on the MO MAP SCIENCE assessment shall be greater than the average for all KCPS District schools with the same grade levels.	MCDS- DESE MAP Data	Not Met HLA = 8.3% KCPS = 21.2%
1.4	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 expected NCE for HLA as calculated by DESE.	MCDS- DESE MAP Data	Met
1.5	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average expected NCE for the MO MAP Math assessment is either at or above the expected NCE for HLA as calculated by DESE.	MCDS- DESE MAP Data	Not Met
1.6	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average NCE for the MO MAP Science assessment is either at or above the expected NCE for HLA as calculated by DESE.	MCDS- DESE MAP Data	Met

Summary Findings for Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement Rating	Partially Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
HLA is seeing consistent improvements in both English Language Arts and Science in terms of both proficiency and growth measures.	HLA must undertake significant and sustained efforts to improve student proficiency rates as current performance is below regional averages. Additionally, the below expected growth in math demonstrates an acute need for aggressive interventions schoolwide.

2. Curriculum & Instruction

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

Summary Findings for Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
HLA has adopted curricula that are fully aligned with state academic standards and has invested in professional development support for its educators in the STEM areas.	HLA continues to work toward implementing these curricula with fidelity to ensure consistent, high-quality instruction across classrooms.

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, 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 HLA 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.hopeleadershipacademykc.org/copy-of-administrative-team	Met

Summary Findings for Operations & Compliance

Operations & Compliance Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
The HLA team consistently submits timely and accurate data.	

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:	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 standards.	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
HLA continues to be a good 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 Missouri open meetings/Sunshine laws.	Per SLU's review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings https://www.hopeleadershipacademykc.org/copy-of-administrative-team	Met
5.3	All Board members have undergone criminal background and Family Care Safety Registry (FCSR) checks as required in section 160.400.14, RSMo.	Per SLU's analyses of onsite secured files	Partially 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 HLA governing board has created and is utilizing committees to more efficiently and thoroughly conduct the business of the school.	The HLA governing board needs to ensure all of its members complete their criminal background and Family Care Safety Registry (FCSR) checks as required in section 160.400.14, RSMo in a timely fashion.

Summary Findings for Annual Evaluation

Annual Evaluation Rating	Met
Themes of Strength Across Multiple Standards	Themes of Growth Needs Across Multiple Standards
<p>HLA has adopted standard aligned curricula and invested in professional development support for its educators. HLA is seeing consistent improvements in both English Language Arts and Science.</p>	<p>HLA must undertake significant and sustained efforts to improve student proficiency rates and growth. HLA needs to ensure its governing board members complete all background and safety checks.</p>