

## 2021-2022 Sponsor Evaluation: City Garden Montessori School

As required by Missouri statutes and the contracts between Saint Louis University (SLU) and our sponsored 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 and uses to annually evaluate the charter.

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

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 <b>CGMS students</b> who score at either the <b>“Proficient”</b> or <b>“Advanced”</b> level on the Missouri Measures of Academic Progress English Language Arts ( <b>MO MAP ELA</b> ) assessment shall be 25% greater* than the average for all St. Louis Public School (SLPS) District schools with the same grade levels.	Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS) Portal - DESE MAP Data	Exceeded by 30.11%  CGMS = 51.26% SLPS = 16.92% * 1.25 = 21.15%
1.2	For the DESE-defined <b>Black subgroup</b> , the percent of CGMS students who score at either the <b>“Proficient”</b> or <b>“Advanced”</b> level on the <b>MO MAP ELA</b> 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 16.54%  CGMS = 29.69% SLPS = 10.52% * 1.25 = 13.15%
1.3	School-wide, the percent of <b>CGMS students</b> who score at either the <b>“Proficient”</b> or <b>“Advanced”</b> level on the <b>MO MAP MATH</b> 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 23.30%  CGMS = 37.39% SLPS = 11.27% * 1.25 = 14.09%

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.4	For the DESE-defined <b>Black subgroup</b> , the percent of CGMS students who score at either the <b>“Proficient” or “Advanced” level</b> on the <b>MO MAP MATH</b> 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 5.89%  CGMS = 12.70% SLPS = 5.45% * 1.25 = 6.81%
1.5	School-wide, the percent of <b>CGMS students</b> who score at either the <b>“Proficient” or “Advanced” level</b> on the <b>MO MAP SCIENCE</b> 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 27.48%  CGMS = 46.67% SLPS = 15.35% * 1.25 = 19.19%
1.6	For the DESE-defined <b>Black subgroup</b> , the percent of CGMS students who score at either the <b>“Proficient” or “Advanced” level</b> on the <b>MO MAP SCIENCE</b> 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 13.50%  CGMS = 25.00% SLPS = 9.20% * 1.25 = 11.50%
1.7	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average normal curve equivalent <b>growth score</b> (NCE) for the <b>MO MAP ELA</b> assessment is either at or above the expected NCE for CGMS as calculated by DESE.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met

#	Standard	Measurement/Documentation	Status/ Comments
1.8	School-wide, the annual DESE-reported average NCE for the <b>MO MAP Math</b> assessment is either at or above the expected NCE for CGMS as calculated by DESE.	MCDS Portal - DESE MAP Data	Met

\* 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 City Garden will be 35% (28 x 1.25).

**Summary Findings for Academic Achievement**

Academic Achievement Rating	Met
Areas of Strength	Areas of Growth
The data provided here were gleaned from the MAP summative assessments administered during the Spring of 2021, which is the first full testing administration following the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. CGMS seems to be on a trajectory to perform at pre-pandemic levels in the short term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>-The achievement gap between black and white students continues to persist at CGMS and is larger in the area of mathematics.</li> </ul>

**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. This laser focus on intentionality in curriculum and instruction is demonstrated most strongly through the allocation of resources to employ two Instructional Coordinators and a Director of Curriculum and Instruction.	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, 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 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: <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/about">https://www.citygardenschool.org/about</a>	Met

#### Summary Findings for Operations & Compliance

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

#### 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 <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>	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 <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>	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 <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>	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 <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>	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  <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>  <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/2021-2022-financials">https://www.citygardenschool.org/2021-2022-financials</a>	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 Missouri open meetings/Sunshine laws.	Per SLU’s review of Board meeting minutes as well as observation of monthly Board meetings <a href="https://www.citygardenschool.org/board">https://www.citygardenschool.org/board</a>	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	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
<p>The CGMS governing board is following its own continuous improvement model by working hard to streamline internal standards and procedures to ensure its perpetuity.</p>		<p>The CGMS governing board has discussed engaging in succession planning, which is a needed area of growth to solidify the board’s perpetuity as the composition of the board naturally changes overtime.</p>

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 and specifically with black students. This continues to be an area of growth for the organization.</p>