

ATTACHMENT A

STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 133-25/26
November 17, 2025

School Name:	ICEF Vista Middle Academy			BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: November 19, 2025
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School			
Charter Operator	Inner City Education Foundation			
Location Code:	8004			
Type of Site(s):	Private			
Site Address(es):	5456 McConnell Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066			
Board District(s):	4	Region(s):	West	
Grade Levels Served:	6-8	Current Enrollment:	192	
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	6-8	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	500 (see proposed change in "Action Proposed" below)	
CONSIDERATION:	Renewal			
CDE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: (PER CDE'S 2025 CLASSIFICATION)	High Performing			
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Approval for a five (5)-year term (2026-2031)			
PROPOSED BENCHMARKS:	None			

STAFF ASSESSMENT

I. ACTION PROPOSED

Staff recommends approval of the renewal petition for ICEF Vista Middle Academy ("Charter School"), located in Board District 4 and Region West, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 375 students in grades 6-8 in each year of the charter term. The school is requesting to reduce enrollment capacity from 500 to 375 students to align with its enrollment projections based on its enrollment trends in the current term.

Pursuant to applicable law, charter schools classified as High performing may be renewed for a term of five (5), six (6), or seven (7) years. To help determine the recommended term length in these cases, staff considers various factors related to the charter school's operations and performance during the term of the charter, as noted in the *LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools*. Specific factors related to the charter school's performance and operations during the term of the charter include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ratings on the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Report in the areas of Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs and Operations; and Fiscal Operations for the previous two years, and no significant unresolved issues, including, but not limited to, Notices to Cure;
- Additional academic considerations (i.e., numerically significant subgroup performance);
- Equity and access for families and pupils;
- School culture and climate; and
- Consideration of qualifying as High Performing under Criterion 1 or Criterion 2

II. RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon submission, District staff comprehensively reviews each renewal petition application to determine whether the school has met the requirements for renewal set forth in Education Code sections 47605, 47607, 47607.2, and 47611.5.

Criteria for Charter School Renewal and Grounds for Nonrenewal

As part of staff's holistic review of the renewal petition application, the charter school must be determined to be eligible for renewal of its charter under the specific renewal criteria outlined in the Charter Schools Act. The renewal criteria prescribed in Education Code sections 47607 and 47607.2 requires a three-pronged analysis:

- **Criterion 1:** Does the renewal petition include a sound educational program, a reasonably comprehensive description of the 15 elements required for petitions, an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code section 47605(e), and are petitioners demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition? (Ed. Code, § 47607(b).)

These criteria have been determined not to be bases for denial.

- **Criterion 2:** Is the charter school “high,” “middle,” or “low” performing? (see Ed. Code, §§ 47607(c), 47607.2(a), and 47607.2(b).) Has the charter school attained measurable increases in academic achievement schoolwide and for numerically significant student groups served by the charter school, and does the charter school have strong postsecondary outcomes, if applicable?

These criteria have been determined not to be bases for denial.

- **Criterion 3:** Is the charter school serving all pupils who wish to attend, or does the charter school have substantial fiscal or governance issues? (Ed. Code, § 47607(e).)

These criteria have been determined not to be bases for denial.

Charter Petition Requirement:

In accordance with Education Code section 47611.5, a charter school charter shall contain a declaration regarding whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees at the charter school for the purposes of Section 3540.1 of the Government Code, and that declaration shall not be materially inconsistent with the charter.

- Does the petition contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school?

This requirement has been determined not to be a basis for denial.

III. GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**A. School History**

	ICEF Vista Middle Academy
Initial Authorization:	On June 26, 2007, ICEF Vista Middle Academy (formerly named Urban Academy Charter Middle School) was authorized by the LAUSD Board of Education to serve 300 students in grades 6-8.
Most Recent Renewal	The charter was renewed on September 12, 2017, for a five-year term (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2023) to serve up to 500 students in grades 6-8. Pursuant to Education Code section 47607.4, all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, inclusive, shall have their term extended by two years, and all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027, inclusive, shall have their term extended by one additional year. Thus, by operation of law, the charter term for ICEF Vista Middle Academy expires June 30, 2026.
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	On September 12, 2017, as part of the school's most recent renewal, the LAUSD Board of Education issued the following academic benchmarks to ICEF Vista Middle Academy: 1. Demonstrate at least one performance level growth per academic year, as reported on the California School Dashboard, for "All Students" and for all numerically significant subgroups in Math as measured by CAASPP (SBAC) Assessment at a rate equal or greater than the Resident and Similar Schools, with the goal of achieving and maintaining the "Green" performance level or higher.

	ICEF Vista Middle Academy
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term (cont.):	2. Increase the percentage of English Learners demonstrating English Language Proficiency as measured by reclassification rates at a rate equal or higher than the District Average 3. Demonstrate at least one performance level growth per academic year, as reported on the California School Dashboard with the goal to achieve and maintain the “Green” performance level or higher on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) as applicable. If any of these benchmarks are unmet by the timelines indicated, the District will review the charter school’s responses, and follow up accordingly, including possible revocation during its charter term or recommendation of non-renewal for the end of the term of its charter. Please see the “Additional Information” section below.
Submission of Renewal Petition Application:	ICEF Vista Middle Academy submitted its renewal petition application on August 21, 2025. The 90-day statutory timeline for Board action on the petition runs through November 19, 2025.
Concurrent Request for Material Revision:	Not applicable
Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners:	ICEF Vista Middle Academy implements its own Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	ICEF Vista Middle Academy participates in LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Option 3.

B. Charter School Operator

ICEF Vista Middle Academy is operated by Inner City Education Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that also operates five other LAUSD-authorized charter schools.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

ICEF Vista Middle Academy has been identified by the state as a High performing charter school. The recommendation for renewal has considered the schoolwide performance and performance of numerically significant student groups and the state and local indicators reported on the California School Dashboard, and whether there was clear and convincing verified data evidence showing the school demonstrated measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year’s progress in each year in school, and/or strong postsecondary outcomes, as applicable.

Overall, Charter School's Dashboard performance was higher than the state in ELA, Math, and on the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI).

Please see the ICEF Vista Middle Academy data sets.

b. Measurements of Academic Performance on the California School Dashboard

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Dashboard only displayed one year of data (also known as Status). Status Levels are reported based on the 2021-2022 school year data using one of five Status Levels (ranging from Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Very Low) for state measures. Please note that the Status Levels associated with the Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension Rate Indicators are reversed (ranging from Very Low, Low, Medium, High, and Very High). Below, the 2023 and 2024 Dashboard Performance Levels (colors) based on two years' data are provided.

ICEF Vista Middle Academy Dashboard Indicators

School Year	ELA	Math	English Learner Progress	College/Career	Chronic Absenteeism	Graduation Rate	Suspension Rate
2021-2022	Medium	Low	Medium	Not Applicable	High	Not Applicable	Very Low
2022-2023	Yellow	Green	Blue	Not Applicable	Green	Not Applicable	Green
2023-2024	Green	Green	Green	Not Applicable	Red	Not Applicable	Blue

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

c. English Language Arts Indicator

In 2022, 2023, and 2024 in English Language Arts (ELA), the charter school's Distance from Standard (DFS) was higher than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for all numerically significant student groups.

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Language Arts Indicator - 2021-2022

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Level	Charter ELA (DFS)	State Level	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Medium	6.0	Low	-12.2	Higher
Latino	Met	Medium	9.2	Low	-38.6	Higher
English Learner	Met	Low	-30.0	Low	-61.2	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Medium	8.3	Low	-41.4	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Language Arts Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter ELA (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	8.6	2.6	Orange	-13.6	Higher
Latino	Met	Green	10.4	1.2	Orange	-40.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-23.9	6.1	Orange	-67.7	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Green	10.1	1.8	Orange	-42.6	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Language Arts Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter ELA (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Green	17.9	9.3	Orange	-13.2	Higher
Latino	Met	Green	20.0	9.5	Orange	-39.3	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-6.3	17.6	Orange	-67.6	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Green	18.6	8.5	Orange	-40.9	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

d. Math Indicator

In 2022, 2023, and 2024 in Math, the charter school's DFS was higher than the state for All Students, and for all numerically significant student groups.

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - Math Indicator - 2021-2022

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Level	Charter Math (DFS)	State Level	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Low	-34.4	Low	-51.7	Higher
Latino	Met	Low	-34.1	Low	-83.4	Higher
English Learner	Met	Low	-67.0	Low	-92.0	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Low	-33.3	Low	-84.0	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - Math Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Green	-23.5	10.9	Orange	-49.1	Higher
Latino	Met	Green	-22.8	11.3	Orange	-80.8	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-58.7	8.3	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Green	-24.1	9.2	Yellow	-80.8	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - Math Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Green	-6.7	16.9	Orange	-47.6	Higher
Latino	Met	Green	-3.7	19.1	Orange	-79.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-33.4	25.3	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Green	-5.9	18.2	Orange	-78.2	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

e. English Learner Progress Indicator

In 2022, 2023, and 2024, on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI), the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate was higher than the state. In 2024 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate for the English Learner and Long-term English Learner students groups were higher than the state's rates.

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2021-2022

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Level	Charter EL Progress Rate	State Level	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Met	Medium	54.5%	Medium	50.3%	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter EL Progress Rate	Charter Change	State Color	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Met	Blue	87.5%	33.0%	Yellow	48.7%	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

ICEF Vista Middle Academy - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter EL Progress Rate	Charter Change	State Color	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Met	Green	80.0%	-7.5%	Orange	45.7%	Higher
Long-term English Learner	Met	No Performance Color	69.6%	-20.9%	Orange	45.8%	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

f. College/Career Indicator

Not applicable

g. Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

In 2022, 2023, and 2024 on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was lower than the state for All Students and for all numerically significant student groups.

h. Graduation Indicator [HS only]

Not applicable

i. Suspension Rate Indicator

In 2022, 2023, and 2024, the charter school's percentage of students suspended at least once was lower than the state for All Students, and for all numerically significant student groups.

j. Dashboard Local Indicators

Staff also considered the Local Indicators (e.g., Basic: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities; Implementation of Academic Standards; Parent and Family Engagement; Local Climate Survey; Access to a Broad Course of Study) which have all been reported as "Met" in 2023 and 2024.

k. Additional Information

As noted above, ICEF Vista Middle Academy has three (3) benchmarks related to academics in its current term. The following summarizes the outcomes of each benchmark for each of the seven years (2018-2025) of the current charter term.

Note: Annual benchmark status updates are based on prior year(s) performance outcomes. For example, benchmarks that require performance level growth (as reported for the years in the tables below) are based on available data from the preceding two school years (e.g., 2019-2020 benchmark status is based on 2018 CA Dashboard data and the 2019 CA Dashboard data). As

CA Dashboard data is unavailable for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years due to statewide assessment disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, “No Update” is indicated for applicable benchmarks for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 in the tables below.

Benchmark 1: *ICEF Vista Middle Academy - Demonstrate at least one performance level growth per academic year, as reported on the California School Dashboard, for “All Students” and for all numerically significant subgroups in Math as measured by CAASPP (SBAC) Assessment at a rate equal or greater than the Resident and Similar Schools, with the goal of achieving and maintaining the “Green” performance level or higher.*

Benchmark 1: Math, All Students and Numerically Significant Student Groups						
2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Met	Not Met	No Update	No Update	Met	Met	Not Met

Benchmark 1 was met in 2018-2019, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. In 2019-2020 and 2024-2025, All Students and all numerically significant student groups did not demonstrate one performance level growth in Math. There was no update for two years (2020-2021 and 2021-2022), due to lack of available data.

Benchmark 2: *ICEF Vista Middle Academy Increase the percentage of English Learners demonstrating English Language Proficiency as measured by reclassification rates at a rate equal or higher than the District Average.*

Benchmark 2: English Learners Reclassification						
2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	No Update	No Update	No Update

Benchmark 2 was met in two years (2020-2021, and 2021-2022), not met in two years (2018-2019 and 2019-2020), and had no update for three years (2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025) given official reclassification rates were not available.

Benchmark 3: *ICEF Vista Middle Academy will demonstrate at least one performance level growth per academic year, as reported on the California School Dashboard at a rate equal or greater than the Resident and Similar Schools, with the goal to achieve and maintain the “Green” performance level or higher on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) as applicable.*

Benchmark 3: English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI)						
2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
No Update	Met	No Update	No Update	Met	Met	Met

Benchmark 3 was met in four years. There was no update in three years due to lack of available data.

V. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE-BASED OVERSIGHT RESULTS

In accordance with Education Code section 47604.32, the District's Charter Schools Division (CSD) conducts at least one school site visit each year where the CSD evaluates charter school performance in the following four categories: Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations; and Fiscal Operations. Charter schools are rated in each category based on information and evidence gathered at the time of the annual performance-based oversight visit following a four-point rubric: (4) *Accomplished*, (3) *Proficient*, (2) *Developing*, and (1) *Unsatisfactory*. Please see below for ICEF Vista Middle Academy outcomes on its annual oversight evaluation reports for the last two years.

a. Governance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

b. Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

c. Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Accomplished</i>
2024-2025	<i>Accomplished</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

d. Fiscal Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Developing</i>
Concerns	The rating of <i>Developing</i> in 2024-2025 was primarily due to the audit finding disclosed in ICEF Public Schools' 2023-2024 Independent Audit Report, identified as a material weakness related to internal controls over financial reporting. See further details in the Fiscal Management and Performance section below.

VI. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

ICEF Vista Middle Academy's fiscal condition is positive and has been upward trending since the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

	2020-2021 (Audited Actuals)	2021-2022 (Audited Actuals)	2022-2023 (Audited Actuals)	2023-2024 (Audited Actuals)	2024-2025 (Unaudited Actuals)
Net Assets	\$2,402,397	\$3,072,431	\$3,258,661	\$3,676,769	\$3,857,600
Net Income/Loss	\$545,592	\$670,034	\$186,230	\$418,108	\$180,831
Transfers In/Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Norm Enrollment ^A	216	204	212	206	193

^AICEF Vista Middle Academy reported 192 Norm Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. ICEF Vista Middle Academy proposes to decrease its enrollment capacity to 375 for its renewal charter term. See Section **I. ACTION PROPOSED** above. The CSD will continue to monitor Charter School's student enrollment and financial condition as part of its oversight process.

- b. 2023-2024 Independent Audit Report
Audit Opinion: Unmodified/Unqualified
Material Weaknesses: Yes. See the description below.
Deficiencies/Findings: Yes. See the description below.
Lack of a Going Concern: None Reported

ICEF Public Schools' independent audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, identified a material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting, specifically relating to the closing process. Additionally, the audit disclosed one state compliance-related audit finding without questioned costs, which was identified as a significant deficiency in the After/Before School Education and Safety (ASES) Program for ICEF Vista Elementary Academy only (not applicable to ICEF Vista Middle Academy). The charter operator has initiated corrective actions with specific steps to address the audit findings above. The CSD will continue to monitor these issues through its oversight process, including a review of ICEF Public Schools' 2024-2025 independent audit report to evaluate the implementation of corrective actions.

- c. Other Significant Fiscal Information
The financial condition of the charter operator is summarized in the table below.

Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools					
Source: Independent Audit Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2024					
# of Charter Schools		<u>Including</u> related parties and charter schools		<u>Excluding</u> related parties and charter schools	
Operated	Authorized by LAUSD	Net Assets	Net Income / (Loss)	Net Assets	Net Income / (Loss)
7 ¹	6 ¹	\$29,589,325	\$2,739,375	\$412,152	(\$137,555) ²

¹ Aside from ICEF Vista Middle Academy, ICEF Public Schools operates five (5) other LAUSD-authorized schools: ICEF Innovation Los Angeles Charter, ICEF View Park Preparatory Elementary, ICEF View Park Preparatory High, ICEF View Park Preparatory Middle, and ICEF Vista Elementary Academy. ICEF Public Schools operates one additional Southern California school: ICEF Inglewood Elementary Charter Academy (authorized by Inglewood Unified School District).

² As documented in ICEF charter schools' Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Reports, respectively, the ICEF Home Office's reported net losses in prior years were primarily due to the delayed expense allocations between the Home Office and its charter schools. ICEF Public Schools informed the CSD that it has since implemented new systems to ensure expenses are properly allocated before payments are made. Despite the net loss, the ICEF Home Office maintained a positive net ending fund balance of \$412,152 as of June 30, 2024. The CSD was further informed that, as a general practice, ICEF aims to operate the Home Office at a breakeven level in order to maximize funds available for supporting school programs.