

ATTACHMENT A

STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT
RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 134-25/26
 November 17, 2025

School Name:	Ingenium Charter Middle			BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: November 18, 2025
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School			
Charter Operator	Ingenium Schools			
Location Code:	5203			
Type of Site(s):	District-Proposition 39 Co-Location			
Site Address(es):	7330 Winnetka Avenue, Winnetka, CA 91306 (Sutter Middle School)			
Board District(s):	4	Region(s):	North	
Grade Levels Served:	6-8	Current Enrollment:	195	
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	6-8	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	270	
CONSIDERATION:	Renewal			
CDE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: (PER CDE'S 2025 CLASSIFICATION)	Middle Performing			
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Denial			
PROPOSED BENCHMARKS:	None			

STAFF ASSESSMENT

I. ACTION PROPOSED

Staff recommends denial of the renewal petition for Ingenium Charter Middle (“Charter School”), located in Board District 4 and Region North, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 270 students in grades 6-8 in each year of the charter term.

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).)

For reasons more fully set forth in the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle*, these criteria have been determined 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?

For reasons more fully set forth in the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle*, these criteria have been determined 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

	Ingenium Charter Middle
Initial Authorization:	On February 12, 2013, Ingenium Charter Middle was authorized by the LAUSD Board of Education to serve 270 students in grades 6-8.
Most Recent Renewal	The charter was renewed on November 7, 2017 for a five-year term (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2023) to serve up to 270 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 Ingenium Charter Middle expires June 30, 2026.
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	On November 7, 2017, as part of the school's most recent renewal, the LAUSD Board of Education issued the following academic benchmarks to Ingenium Charter Middle: 1. The school shall submit a written status report to the Charter Schools Division annually no later than December 1 that provides evidence to demonstrate growth of at least one performance level per academic year in <i>English Language Arts</i> indicators for measuring "Academic Performance" on the California Dashboard as reported by the California Department of Education (CDE) for all numerically significant subgroups with the goal of achieving and maintaining the "Green" performance level or higher on each of these indicators. 2. The Charter School shall provide a plan to the Charter Schools Division, within 30 days, to address the school's systemic improvements for accurate and timely reporting into CALPADS. The plan shall address how this system will be accessible without interruption in the case of staff changes. The Charter School shall submit written evidence to the Charter Schools Division annually no later than June 1 of accurate and timely reporting into CALPADS. Please see the <i>Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle</i> for more details.

	Ingenium Charter Middle
Submission of Renewal Petition Application:	Ingenium Charter Middle submitted its renewal petition application on August 20, 2025. The 90-day statutory timeline for Board action on the petition runs through November 18, 2025.
Concurrent Request for Material Revision:	Not applicable
Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners:	Ingenium Charter Middle implements its own Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	Ingenium Charter Middle participates in LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Option 3.

B. Charter School Operator

Ingenium Charter Middle is operated by Ingenium Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that also operates one other LAUSD-authorized charter school.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

Ingenium Charter Middle has been identified by the state as a Middle 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 lower than the state in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and on the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI). The charter school provided three years of verified data, demonstrating a majority of grade levels and numerically significant student groups demonstrated one year's progress in 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. However, there were participation rate concerns. Further analysis in ELA, Math, and ELPI demonstrated lower outcomes for the charter school when compared to Resident Schools Median. In addition, when comparing the CAASPP Standard Exceeded or Met rates in ELA and Math, the charter school was lower than the Resident Schools Median for the three years. Furthermore, the charter school demonstrated higher Long-term English Learner percentages.

Please see the Ingenium Charter Middle 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.

Ingenium Charter Middle

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

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

c. English Language Arts Indicator

Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

d. Math Indicator

Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

e. English Learner Progress Indicator

Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

f. College/Career Indicator

Not applicable

g. Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

In 2023 and 2024, on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was higher than the state for All Students, and for the majority of numerically significant student groups, but lower in 2022. However, Charter School is demonstrating declines 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 "Not Met" in 2024.

k. Additional Information

As noted above, Ingenium Charter Middle has two (2) benchmarks, related to academics and operations in its current term. Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

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 Ingenium Charter Middle 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	None

b. Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
2024-2025	<i>Developing</i>
Concerns	The ratings of <i>Unsatisfactory</i> and <i>Developing</i> in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 were due to school performance on the California School Dashboard and the average of the indicator scores.

c. Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	None

d. Fiscal Operations

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

VI. VERIFIED DATA

Charter schools satisfying the Middle performing criteria may be renewed for a specified term. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2 (b)(7).) A chartering authority must consider, among other requirements, clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing the charter school's achieved measurable increases in

academic achievement, or strong postsecondary outcomes for the timeframe specified in law. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2(b)(3).) Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

VII. FURTHER ANALYSIS FOR MIDDLE PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Following the review of the foregoing performance data for this charter school placing a greater weight on academic performance on the California School Dashboard, and considering Charter School provided three years of verified data that had participation rate concerns, staff determined that the school's ELA, Math, and ELPI data requires further review. Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Ingenium Charter Middle* for more details.

VIII FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

Ingenium Charter Middle's fiscal condition is positive.

	2020-2021 (Audited Actuals)	2021-2022 (Audited Actuals)	2022-2023 (Audited Actuals)	2023-2024 (Audited Actuals)	2024-2025 (Unaudited Actuals)
Net Assets	\$1,117,676	\$1,303,226	\$1,997,465	\$1,267,188	\$1,600,910
Net Income/Loss	\$950,263	\$185,550	\$694,239	(\$730,277) ¹	\$333,722
Transfers In/Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Norm Enrollment ^A	229	184	147	169	180

¹ Ingenium Schools explained that the net loss reported for 2023-2024 was primarily due to the sub-agreement service costs incurred to address higher-than-expected needs in areas such as special education, substitute staffing, and transportation.

^A Ingenium Charter Middle reported 195 Norm Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Ingenium Schools stated that it plans to increase enrollment through various means, for example, increasing community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships. 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: None Reported

Deficiencies/Findings: None Reported

Lack of a Going Concern: None Reported

c. Other Significant Fiscal Information

The financial condition of the charter operator is summarized in the table below.

Ingenium 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)
4	2	\$7,957,361	(\$1,569,985) ¹	\$0	\$0

¹ The net loss reported for the charter operator, including its related parties and its charter schools, reflected the combined net losses from all four of its charter schools.