

STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 140-25/26
November 17, 2025

School Name:	Rise Kohyang Elementary			BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: November 19, 2025
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School			
Charter Operator	Bright Star Schools			
Location Code:	5268			
Type of Site(s):	Private			
Site Address(es):	600 S. La Fayette Park Place, Los Angeles, CA 90057			
Board District(s):	2	Region(s):	East	
Grade Levels Served:	TK-5	Current Enrollment:	302	
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	TK-5	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	569	
CONSIDERATION:	Renewal			
CDE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: (PER CDE'S 2025 CLASSIFICATION)	Middle 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 Rise Kohyang Elementary (“Charter School”), located in Board District 2 and Region East, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 569 students in grades TK-5 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).)

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

	Rise Kohyang Elementary
Initial Authorization:	On December 5, 2017, Rise Kohyang Elementary was authorized by the LAUSD Board of Education to serve 569 students in grades TK-5.
Most Recent Renewal	This is the charter school's first consideration for renewal. 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 Rise Kohyang Elementary expires June 30, 2026.
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	The Board of Education approved a request for material revision on December 8, 2020, to amend Bright Star Schools governance structure and the admission requirements, preferences, and procedures for all nine Bright Star Schools.
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	Not applicable
Submission of Renewal Petition Application:	Rise Kohyang Elementary 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:	Rise Kohyang Elementary implements its own Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	Rise Kohyang Elementary participates in LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Option 3.

B. Charter School Operator

Rise Kohyang Elementary is operated by Bright Star Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that also operates eight other LAUSD-authorized charter schools.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

Rise Kohyang Elementary 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 ELA, but higher in Math and on the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI). The charter school provided three years of verified data, demonstrating one year's progress for the majority of students in ELA and Math.

Please see the Rise Kohyang Elementary data sets and Verified Data Reports.

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.

Rise Kohyang Elementary Dashboard Indicators

School Year	ELA	Math	English Learner Progress	College/Career	Chronic Absenteeism	Graduation Rate	Suspension Rate
2021-2022	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	High	Not Applicable	Very High	Not Applicable	Low
2022-2023	No Performance Color	No Performance Color	Red	Not Applicable	Red	Not Applicable	Orange
2023-2024	Orange	Orange	Green	Not Applicable	Yellow	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, there was no applicable English Language Arts (ELA) indicator for Rise Kohyang Elementary due to not being numerically significant. In 2023 in ELA, the charter school's Distance from Standard (DFS) was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for the only numerically significant student group. In 2024 in ELA, the charter school's DFS was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for two of three numerically significant student groups.

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	No Performance Color	-34.3	--	Orange	-13.6	Lower
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	No Performance Color	-28.2	--	Orange	-42.6	Higher

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

A cell with “—” means that data is not available.

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	Orange	-33.4	0.9	Orange	-13.2	Lower
Latino	Met	No Performance Color	-50.6	-11.1	Orange	-39.3	Lower
English Learner	Met	No Performance Color	-37.5	5.3	Orange	-67.6	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-35.6	-7.5	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, there was no applicable Math indicator for Rise Kohyang Elementary due to not being numerically significant. In 2023 in Math, the charter school’s DFS was higher than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for the one numerically significant student group. In 2024 in Math, the charter school’s DFS was higher than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for all three numerically significant student groups.

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	No Performance Color	-25.7	--	Orange	-49.1	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	No Performance Color	-24.2	--	Yellow	-80.8	Higher

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

A cell with “—” means that data is not available.

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	Orange	-31.1	-5.4	Orange	-47.6	Higher
Latino	Met	No Performance Color	-44.1	-1.6	Orange	-79.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	No Performance Color	-28.0	-7.3	Orange	-93.4	Higher

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-34.3	-10.1	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 on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI), the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate was higher than the state. In 2023 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner progress rate was lower than the state. In 2024 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate for English Learner student group was higher than the state's rate.

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	High	62.5%	Medium	50.3%	Higher

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

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	Red	19.2%	-43.3%	Yellow	48.7%	Lower

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

Rise Kohyang Elementary - 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	47.6%	28.4%	Orange	45.7%	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 on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was lower than the state for All Students and for all three numerically significant student groups. In 2023 on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was higher than the state for All Students, and for three of four numerically significant student groups. In 2024 on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was higher than the state for All Students, and for three of five numerically significant student groups, however, Charter School demonstrated overall declines.

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

Not applicable

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 Rise Kohyang Elementary 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>Accomplished</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

b. Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Developing</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	The rating of <i>Developing</i> in 2023-2024 was due to an average of applicable indicators being lower than the state.

c. Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Developing</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	The rating of <i>Developing</i> in 2023-2024 was a result of the charter school's failure to ensure that all teachers of the instructional program were appropriately credentialed and assigned per legal requirements and the school's operative charter at any time during the academic year.

d. Fiscal Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Developing</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	The rating of <i>Developing</i> in 2023-2024 was primarily due to the various significant fiscal management-related issues, including non-adherence to the Bright Star Schools governing board-approved fiscal policies and procedures. Bright Star Schools provided responses and took actions to address these issues. The CSD will continue to monitor these matters through the oversight process.

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).)

ELA

Charter School provided data for Reading from “i-Ready K-8 by Curriculum Associates” (i-Ready) *Diagnostic Growth* report for 2022-2023 (“Final Diagnostic”) for All Students and for the following student groups: Latino, English Learner, and Students with Disabilities and for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 (“Final Diagnostic”) for All Students and for the following student groups: Latino, English Learner, Students with Disabilities and, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged. i-Ready is an adopted academic progress indicator approved by the SBE to be on the verified data list.

Per Education Code section 47607.2 (c)(2), the SBE established criteria to define verified data. To be eligible for inclusion as verified data, a data source (e.g., assessment or postsecondary outcome) must include the results of at least 95 percent of eligible students. Although the i-Ready *Diagnostic Growth* report shows the number of students assessed and the number of students currently enrolled, i-Ready’s publisher (Curriculum Associates) has shared that these numbers do not constitute an official participation rate that would reflect which students *should* have been tested, thereby an official participation rate is not provided. The *Diagnostic Growth* report provided by Charter School reported 261 students were assessed in Reading and 262 students were enrolled in i-Ready. Thus, based on the information provided by Charter School, the 2024-2025 assessment data appears to include at least 95% of eligible students.

For Reading, the i-Ready *Diagnostic Growth* report indicated that the Median Progress to Annual Typical Growth is 122%. Per the California SBE May 2023 Agenda Item #02, publisher guidance states, “Typical Growth marks the annual growth of an average student at a given placement. It provides a comparative or normative view of growth, answering how students are growing relative to comparable peers.” Therefore, based on i-Ready’s Median Progress to Typical Growth targets¹ to identify schools as having met California Charter School growth expectations, and Curriculum Associates recommendation “that schools that achieve a year’s worth of growth, adjusted for error, have exhibited sufficient growth,” Charter School met for All Students in Reading in 2024-2025.

As seen in the table below, Charter School provided the most recent data for four student groups and all four student groups demonstrated one year’s progress based on i-Ready’s Median Progress to Typical Growth Targets in 2024-2025.

¹ In 2023, Curriculum Associates revised typical growth targets in Reading to be 75% in Grades K-5 and 45% in Grades 6-8.

i-Ready Diagnostic Growth Reading 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Number of Students Tested	i-Ready Growth Target	Reading: Progress to Annual Typical Growth (Median)	One Year's Progress
All Students Grade K-5	261	Grades K-5: 75%	122%	Met
Latino	200	Grades K-5: 75%	120%	Met
English Learner	110	Grades K-5: 75%	119%	Met
Students with Disabilities	46	Grades K-5: 75%	111%	Met
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	225	Grades K-5: 75%	121%	Met

Charter School also submitted verified data using i-Ready for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. Based on i-Ready's Median Progress to Typical Growth targets, Charter School met one year's progress for All Students and met one year's progress for all four of the school's student groups in Reading in 2023-2024. Based on i-Ready's prior Typical Growth target of 50% of the students making 100% Typical Growth, Charter School met one year's progress for All Students and for all of the school's student groups in Reading in 2022-2023.

MATH

Charter School provided data for Math from an "i-Ready K-8 by Curriculum Associates" (i-Ready) *Diagnostic Growth* report for 2022-2023 ("Final Diagnostic") for All Students and for the following student groups: Latino, English Learner, and Students with Disabilities and for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 ("Final Diagnostic") for All Students and for the following student groups: Latino, English Learner, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities. i-Ready is an adopted academic progress indicator approved by the California SBE to be on the verified data list.

Per Education Code section 47607.2 (c)(2), the SBE established criteria to define verified data. To be eligible for inclusion as verified data, a data source (e.g., assessment or postsecondary outcome) must include the results of at least 95 percent of eligible students. Although the i-Ready *Diagnostic Growth* report shows the number of students assessed and the number of students currently enrolled, i-Ready's publisher (Curriculum Associates) has shared that these numbers do not constitute an official participation rate that would reflect which students *should* have been tested, thereby an official participation rate is not provided. The *Diagnostic Growth* report provided by Charter School reported 261 students were assessed in Math and 262 students were enrolled in i-Ready. Thus, based on the information provided by Charter School, the 2024-2025 assessment data appears to include at least 95% of eligible students.

For Math, the i-Ready *Diagnostic Growth* report indicated that the Median Progress to Annual Typical Growth is 118%. Based on i-Ready's Median Progress to Typical Growth targets² to identify schools as having met California Charter School growth expectations, and Curriculum Associates recommendation "that schools that achieve a year's worth of growth, adjusted for error, have exhibited sufficient growth," Charter School met for All Students in Math in 2024-2025.

As seen in the table below, Charter School provided the most recent data for four student groups and all four student groups demonstrated one year's progress based on i-Ready's Median Progress to Typical Growth Targets in 2024-2025.

² i-Ready Median Progress to Typical Growth targets in Math are 80% in Grades K-5 and 60% in Grades 6-8.

i-Ready Diagnostic Growth Math 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Number of Students Tested	i-Ready Growth Target	Math: Progress to Annual Typical Growth (Median)	One Year's Progress
All Students Grade K-5	261	Grades K-5: 80%	118%	Met
Latino	200	Grades K-5: 80%	129%	Met
English Learner	110	Grades K-5: 80%	125%	Met
Students with Disabilities	46	Grades K-5: 80%	93%	Met
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	225	Grades K-5: 80%	130%	Met

Charter School also submitted verified data using i-Ready for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. Based on i-Ready's Median Progress to Typical Growth targets, Charter School met the one year's progress for All Students and met the one year's progress for all of the school's student groups in Math in 2023-2024. Based on i-Ready's prior Typical Growth target of 50% of the students making 100% Typical Growth, Charter School met the one year's progress for All Students and for all four of the school's student groups in Math in 2022-2023.

Based on the review and consideration of verified data, Rise Kohyang Elementary included three years of data, including schoolwide and student group reports (Latino, English Learner, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities) for both ELA and Math. In 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, Rise Kohyang Elementary appears to have met 95 percent participation rate for schoolwide and all numerically significant student groups.

VII. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

Rise Kohyang Elementary'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	\$135,844	\$981,158	\$1,094,408	\$1,154,296	\$1,191,031
Net Income/Loss	\$66,805	\$845,314	\$113,250	\$59,888	\$36,735
Transfers In/Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Norm Enrollment ^A	74	106	179	248	285

^A Rise Kohyang Elementary reported 302 Norm Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Charter School stated that it plans to increase enrollment through various means, for example, by increasing community engagement, and enhanced marketing and outreach through social media campaigns.

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: 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.

Bright Star Schools (BSS)					
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)
9	9	\$71,806,876	\$1,550,391	\$7,650,362	(\$828,809) ¹

¹According to BSS, the organization did not charge certain BSS charter schools the full management fees in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 due to various school-specific challenges, such as enrollment shortfalls, unexpected facility repairs, higher-than-anticipated Special Education service needs, and other one-time operational expenses. BSS stated that it absorbed a portion of these costs, which resulted in a net loss for the year.