

ATTACHMENT A
STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT
REQUEST FOR MATERIAL REVISION OF CHARTER

Board of Education Report 143-25/26
November 17, 2025

School Name:	STEM Preparatory Elementary		
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School		
Charter Operator	STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc.		
Location Code:	2451		
Type of Site(s):	Private		
Site Address(es):	1374 W. 35 th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007		
Board District(s):	1	Region(s):	South
Grade Levels Served:	TK-5	Current Enrollment:	316
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	TK-5	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	450
CONSIDERATION:	Material Revision to add an additional site		
CDE PERFORMANCE LEVEL: (PER CDE'S 2025 CLASSIFICATION)	Middle Performing		
CURRENT CHARTER TERM	2018-2026		
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Approval		

STAFF ASSESSMENT

I. ACTION PROPOSED

Staff recommends approval of the proposed material revision of the charter for STEM Preparatory Elementary ("Charter School"), a TK-5 school located in Board District 1 and Region South, to add an additional site. The proposed site is located at 1371 W. 35th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90007 in Board District 1 and Region South, within the same community.

STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc., the California nonprofit public benefit corporation that holds the charter under the ultimate direction of the board of directors, seeks the proposed additional site to provide physical education instruction, lunch, recess, and host school assemblies.

II. STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR MATERIAL REVISIONS

Material revisions are governed by the same standards and criteria that apply to new petitions (See Ed. Code, §§47605 and 47607). If the material revision contains a request to expand to one or more additional sites, or to add grade levels, staff must also determine whether the charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate. (See Ed. Code, § 47605(c)(7); Ed. Code, § 47607(a)(3) and (4)), and whether LAUSD is positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the charter school expansion. (See Ed. Code, § 47605(c)(8); Ed. Code § 47607(a)(3) and (4).) Based on a comprehensive review of the material revision application, staff has determined that the charter school has met the standards and criteria for approval [described in Education Code section 47605] or

were determined not to be a basis for denial of the material revision application. Staff analysis includes the following:

- Does the petition, as revised, 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?

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

- 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.

- Is the charter school demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate? (Ed. Code, § 47605(c)(7).)

Not applicable

- Is the school district positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school? (Ed. Code, § 47605(c)(8).)

Not applicable

III. GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

A. Charter Details

	STEM Preparatory Elementary
Initial Authorization:	On November 7, 2017, STEM Preparatory Elementary was authorized by the LAUSD Board of Education to serve 450 students in grades TK-5.
Most Recent Renewal	Not applicable
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	Not applicable
Material Revision Application:	The processing of STEM Preparatory Elementary's complete material revision application commenced on August 21, 2025. Pursuant to the <i>LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools</i> , the 120-day timeline (for presenting the material revision once processing commences) runs through December 19, 2025.

	STEM Preparatory Elementary
Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners:	STEM Preparatory Elementary implements its own Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	STEM Preparatory Elementary participates in LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Option 3.

B. Charter School Operator

STEM Preparatory Elementary is operated by STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc., a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that also operates two other LAUSD-authorized charter schools.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

STEM Preparatory Elementary has been identified by the state as a Middle performing charter school. Please see discussion of the charter school's record of academic performance below.

Please see the attached STEM Preparatory Elementary Data Set.

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.

STEM Preparatory Elementary Dashboard Indicators

School Year	ELA	Math	English Learner Progress	College/Career	Chronic Absenteeism	Graduation Rate	Suspension Rate
2021-2022	Low	Low	Low	Not Applicable	Very High	Not Applicable	Very Low
2022-2023	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Not Applicable	Yellow	Not Applicable	Blue
2023-2024	Yellow	Orange	Orange	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 and 2023 in English Language Arts (ELA), the charter school's Distance from Standard (DFS) was lower than the state for All Students, and lower than the state for three of four numerically significant student groups. In 2024, in ELA, the charter school's DFS was lower than the state for All Students, and lower than the state for all three numerically significant student groups.

STEM Preparatory Elementary - 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	Low	-43.8	Low	-12.2	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Low	-61.5	Low	-57.7	Lower
Latino	Met	Low	-39.2	Low	-38.6	Lower
English Learner	Met	Low	-54.2	Low	-61.2	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Low	-49.2	Low	-41.4	Lower

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

STEM Preparatory 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	Orange	-51.2	-7.4	Orange	-13.6	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Orange	-58.6	2.9	Orange	-59.6	Higher
Latino	Met	Orange	-48.3	-9.1	Orange	-40.2	Lower
English Learner	Met	Red	-87.0	-32.9	Orange	-67.7	Lower
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-57.7	-8.5	Orange	-42.6	Lower

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

STEM Preparatory 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	Yellow	-46.6	4.6	Orange	-13.2	Lower
Latino	Met	Yellow	-42.7	5.6	Orange	-39.3	Lower
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-68.4	18.7	Orange	-67.6	Lower
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-54.3	3.4	Orange	-40.9	Lower

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 lower than the state for All Students, but higher than the state for all numerically significant student groups.

STEM Preparatory Elementary - 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	-75.4	Low	-51.7	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Very Low	-101.2	Very Low	-106.9	Higher
Latino	Met	Low	-68.7	Low	-83.4	Higher
English Learner	Met	Low	-77.3	Low	-92.0	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Low	-80.5	Low	-84.0	Higher

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

STEM Preparatory 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	Yellow	-60.9	14.5	Orange	-49.1	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Yellow	-79.4	21.9	Red	-104.5	Higher
Latino	Met	Yellow	-56.3	12.5	Orange	-80.8	Higher
English Learner	Met	Orange	-87.0	-9.7	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-67.3	13.2	Yellow	-80.8	Higher

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

STEM Preparatory 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	-65.6	-4.7	Orange	-47.6	Lower
Latino	Met	Orange	-58.9	-2.6	Orange	-79.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-78.1	8.9	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-71.6	-4.4	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 lower than the state's rate. In 2023 and 2024 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate was higher than the state's rates.

STEM Preparatory 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	Low	44.1%	Medium	50.3%	Lower

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

STEM Preparatory 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	Blue	62.5%	18.4%	Yellow	48.7%	Higher

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

STEM Preparatory 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	Orange	53.7%	-8.8%	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, 2023, and 2024, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was higher than the state for All Students and for all five 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 five 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 VISIT 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 STEM Preparatory Elementary outcomes on its annual oversight evaluation reports for the last two years.

a. Governance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Accomplished</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>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</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 findings reported in the 2023-2024 independent audit report. See further details in the Fiscal Management and Performance section below.

VI. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

STEM Preparatory 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	\$2,161,475	\$2,876,123	\$2,891,616	\$2,941,965	\$2,975,868
Net Income/Loss	\$1,107,039	\$711,648	\$15,493	\$50,349	\$33,903
Transfers In/Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Norm Enrollment	309	337	327	323	301

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

STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc's 2023-2024 independent audit report identified audit findings related to: 1) a material weakness in internal controls related to financing transactions; and 2) a significant deficiency in the compliance of non-classroom based instruction, which pertained specifically to STEM Preparatory Elementary. STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc. has implemented corrective actions with specific steps to address these audit findings. The CSD will continue to monitor these issues through its oversight process, including a review of STEM

Preparatory Schools, Inc.’s 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.

STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc.					
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)
3	3	\$16,361,562	\$733,231	\$249,734	(\$20,052) *

*Per STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc. and its 2023-2024 annual independent audit report, the net loss reported for the charter operator’s Home Office in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 resulted primarily from non-cash depreciation expenses.