

STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 142-25/26
November 17, 2025

School Name:	STEM Preparatory Elementary			BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: November 19, 2025
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 (see proposed change in "Action Proposed" below)	
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 STEM Preparatory Elementary (“Charter School”), located in Board District 1 and Region South, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 370 students in grades TK-5 in each year of the charter term. The school is requesting to decrease its current enrollment capacity from 450 students to 370 students to align with the school’s enrollment trends. Please see STEM Preparatory Elementary’s concurrent Material Revision (BR 143-25/26) requesting to add an additional site.

Additionally, please see STEM Preparatory Elementary’s concurrent material revision (BR 143-25/26) requesting to add an additional site.

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

	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	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 STEM Preparatory Elementary expires June 30, 2026.
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	Not applicable
Submission of Renewal Petition Application:	STEM Preparatory 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:	STEM Preparatory Elementary submitted a request for a material revision for its current charter on August 21, 2025, to add a site within a 3-mile radius. Please see related Board Report No. 143-25/26.
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. 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 Math and on the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI), and lower than the state in ELA. Although the charter school provided three years of verified data for All Students and for all three of its numerically significant student groups, there are noted concerns with participation rates. Further analysis in ELA demonstrated higher outcomes for the charter school when compared to Resident Schools.

Please see the attached STEM Preparatory 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.

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.

To increase student outcomes in ELA, charter school leaders report providing ongoing professional development through small group teacher workshops and weekly student sessions focused on ELA skills. Mid-year Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) testing is used for practice, confidence-building, and data-driven error analysis to guide instruction. Targeted

interventions include literacy supports for struggling readers, and the implementation of advisory blocks to provide personalized instruction.

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 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. 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).)

Charter School provided data from “MAP Growth by NWEA, Grades K-12” (NWEA) *Student Growth Summary Report* in Reading and Math. NWEA is an adopted academic progress indicator approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) to be on the verified data list. Per NWEA, this assessment only reports data disaggregated by grade levels.

Per Education Code section 47607.2 (c)(2), the State Board of Education 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. The *Student Growth Summary Report* provided by Charter School in Reading does not provide a participation rate on the report, however it does include the total number of “growth events¹” on the reports. In 2024-2025 Charter School had a norm enrollment of 301 students, and the NWEA Reading report indicates that the school had 268 growth events; and the and the NWEA Math report had 275 growth events. Thus, the 2024-2025 assessment data does not appear to include at least 95% of eligible students.

Per the California SBE’s May 2023 Agenda Item #02, publisher guidance states, “A CGI range of -0.2 to 0.2 (or greater) could be used as an approximation of one year’s growth (or more) in a subject, as the overall average growth of students would be generally consistent with the amount of growth observed by students in the same grade and subject with the same starting achievement level receiving a similar amount of instructional exposure.”

ELA Reading

Charter School provided data for 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 (Fall to Spring administration) for Grades Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grade 5, and for the following student groups²: Latino, African American, English Learner, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities.

¹ Total Number of Growth Events: The number of students with valid growth-based test events for both terms.

² Student group names that appear on the report may be different than names on the CA Dashboard (e.g., “Students with Disabilities will be labeled as “Special Education” on the NWEA report).

The 2024-2025 disaggregated data outcomes are represented in the table below showing overall Kindergarten student groups (Latino, English Learner, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 1 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 2 student groups (Latino, African American, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 3 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), and Grade 5 student group (Latino) met one year's progress.

MAP Growth Reading 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Total Number of Growth Events	Map Growth CGI Range	Reading: Conditional Growth Index (CGI)	One Year's Progress
Kindergarten	48	-0.2 to 0.2	0.78	Met
Latino	38	-0.2 to 0.2	0.96	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	17	-0.2 to 0.2	0.81	Met
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	46	-0.2 to 0.2	0.82	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 1	33	-0.2 to 0.2	1.80	Met
Latino	25	-0.2 to 0.2	1.46	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	28	-0.2 to 0.2	1.89	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 2	48	-0.2 to 0.2	0.65	Met
Latino	35	-0.2 to 0.2	0.95	Met
African American	12	-0.2 to 0.2	0.14	Met
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	40	-0.2 to 0.2	0.76	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 3	45	-0.2 to 0.2	1.11	Met
Latino	34	-0.2 to 0.2	1.37	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	39	-0.2 to 0.2	1.23	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*

MAP Growth Reading 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Total Number of Growth Events	Map Growth CGI Range	Reading: Conditional Growth Index (CGI)	One Year's Progress
Grade 4	49	-0.2 to 0.2	-0.65	Not Met
Latino	44	-0.2 to 0.2	-0.55	Not Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	44	-0.2 to 0.2	-0.68	Not Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 5	45	-0.2 to 0.2	-0.23	Not Met
Latino	36	-0.2 to 0.2	0.02	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	43	-0.2 to 0.2	-0.30	Not Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that the student group consists of less than 11 students, the minimum size for reporting.

Charter School also submitted verified data using NWEA for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Based on NWEA's CGI range of -0.2 to 0.2, in 2023-2024, Charter School met the one year's progress for the majority of the grade levels and the majority of the school's student groups. In 2022-2023, Charter School did not meet the one-year progress for the majority of grade levels and for the majority of student groups.

MATH

Charter School provided data for Math from "MAP Growth by NWEA, Grades K-12" (NWEA) *Student Growth Summary Report* for 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 (Fall to Spring administration) for Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grade 5, and for the following student groups³: Latino, African American, English Learner, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities.

The 2024-2025 disaggregated data outcomes are represented in the table below, showing overall, Kindergarten student groups (Latino, English Learner, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 1 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 2 student groups (Latino, African American, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 3 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), Grade 4 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged), and Grade 5 student groups (Latino and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged) Met one year's progress.

³ Student group names that appear on the report may be different than names on the CA Dashboard (e.g., "Students with Disabilities" will be labeled as "Special Education" on the NWEA report).

MAP Growth Math 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Total Number of Growth Events	Map Growth CGI Range	Math: Conditional Growth Index (CGI)	One Year's Progress
Kindergarten	49	-0.2 to 0.2	1.80	Met
Latino	39	-0.2 to 0.2	1.82	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	18	-0.2 to 0.2	1.52	Met
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	47	-0.2 to 0.2	1.92	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 1	35	-0.2 to 0.2	2.18	Met
Latino	26	-0.2 to 0.2	2.61	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	30	-0.2 to 0.2	1.95	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2		*
Grade 2	48	-0.2 to 0.2	1.22	Met
Latino	35	-0.2 to 0.2	1.00	Met
African American	12	-0.2 to 0.2	1.70	Met
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	40	-0.2 to 0.2	1.41	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 3	49	-0.2 to 0.2	0.27	Met
Latino	38	-0.2 to 0.2	0.35	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	42	-0.2 to 0.2	0.24	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*

MAP Growth Math 2024-2025				
Student Groups	Total Number of Growth Events	Map Growth CGI Range	Math: Conditional Growth Index (CGI)	One Year's Progress
Grade 4	50	-0.2 to 0.2	0.32	Met
Latino	45	-0.2 to 0.2	0.41	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	45	-0.2 to 0.2	0.25	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Grade 5	44	-0.2 to 0.2	0.44	Met
Latino	35	-0.2 to 0.2	0.46	Met
African American	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
English Learner	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	42	-0.2 to 0.2	0.46	Met
Students with Disabilities	*	-0.2 to 0.2	*	*

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that the student group consists of less than 11 students, the minimum size for reporting.

Charter School also submitted verified data using NWEA for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. Based on NWEA's CGI range of -0.2 to 0.2, in 2023-2024, Charter School did not meet the one year's progress for the majority of grade levels and for the majority of student groups. In 2022-2023, Charter School did not meet the one-year progress for all grade levels and for the majority of student groups.

Based on the review and consideration of three years of verified data, which includes grade levels Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grade 5, and student group reports (Latino, African American, English Learner, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities) in Reading and Math, STEM Preparatory Elementary does not appear to have met the 95 percent participation rate based on norm enrollment compared to growth events.

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 the participation rate issues noted above for Charter School's submitted verified data, staff determined that the school's performance in ELA requires further review.

Based on the charter school's performance on California School Dashboard in ELA and the submitted verified data by the charter school, Staff conducted a further analysis of ELA in comparison to the Resident Schools Median (RSM).⁴ As indicated in the tables below, when comparing the school to the

⁴ Per LAUSD Policy, a Resident Schools Median analysis is conducted for charter schools classified as Middle Performing, when determining whether closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils, among other factors.

RSM, STEM Preparatory Elementary’s data indicates that its student performance on the California School Dashboard in 2022 and 2023 was higher than the RSM for All Students and for all numerically significant student groups in ELA. In 2024, its student performance was higher than the RSM for All Students and for the majority of numerically significant student groups in ELA.

Resident Schools Analysis

Academic Performance Medians- English Language Arts

STEM Preparatory Elementary 2021-2022 English Language Arts (Grades 3-8 and Grade 11) Academic Indicator Medians - CA School Dashboard Indicator							
Student Group	Number of Students with Scores	Charter Status Level	Charter (DFS)	Resident Schools Number of Students with Scores	Resident Schools Median Status Level	Resident Schools Median (DFS)	Charter to Resident Schools Median Comparison (DFS)
All Students	156	Low	-43.8	2,573	Very Low	-70.1	Higher
Black or African American	32	Low	-61.5	343	Very Low	-92.8	Higher
Latino	124	Low	-39.2	2,127	Low	-61.3	Higher
English Learner	52	Low	-54.2	1,000	Very Low	-82.5	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	139	Low	-49.2	2,464	Low	-69.7	Higher

Data Sources: California School 2022 Dashboard Research data files. 2024-2025 Resident Schools used for comparison.

STEM Preparatory Elementary 2022-2023 English Language Arts (Grades 3-8 and Grade 11) Academic Indicator Medians - CA School Dashboard Indicator							
Student Group	Number of Students with Scores	Charter Color	Charter (DFS)	Resident Schools Number of Students with Scores	Resident Schools Median Color	Resident Schools Median (DFS)	Charter to Resident Schools Median Comparison (DFS)
All Students	158	Orange	-51.2	2,567	Orange	-62.2	Higher
Black or African American	34	Orange	-58.6	300	Orange	-85.3	Higher
Latino	115	Orange	-48.3	2,130	Orange	-53.0	Higher
English Learner	42	Red	-87.0	977	Orange	-87.6	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	148	Orange	-57.7	2,195	Orange	-62.2	Higher

Data Sources: California School 2023 Dashboard Research data files. 2024-2025 Resident Schools used for comparison.

STEM Preparatory Elementary 2023-2024 English Language Arts (Grades 3-8 and Grade 11) Academic Indicator Medians - CA School Dashboard Indicator

Student Group	Number of Students with Scores	Charter Color	Charter (DFS)	Resident Schools Number of Students with Scores	Resident Schools Median Color	Resident Schools Median (DFS)	Charter to Resident Schools Median Comparison (DFS)
All Students	152	Yellow	-46.6	2,426	Yellow	-50.4	Higher
Latino	124	Yellow	-42.7	2,017	Yellow	-48.0	Higher
English Learner	46	Yellow	-68.4	1,010	Orange	-70.3	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	141	Yellow	-54.3	2,162	Orange	-52.9	Lower

Data Sources: California School 2024 Dashboard Research data files. 2024-2025 Resident Schools used for comparison.

VIII. 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 ^A	309	337	327	323	301

^A STEM Preparatory Elementary reported 316 Norm Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. STEM Preparatory Elementary proposes to decrease its enrollment capacity to 370 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

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.