



Charter Sponsorship Update

Confluence Academies, Inc.

Dr. Isaac Pollack
June 13, 2023



AGENDA



- ❑ Charter School Sponsorship Definitions
- ❑ Confluence Sponsorship Application and Decision Timeline
- ❑ Charter Sponsorship Procedures

CHARTER DEFINITION



A charter school is a free, independent public school that operates outside of a school district. Charter schools are granted greater flexibility in return for greater accountability. Missouri charter schools are governed by independent boards and are non-profit organizations.

*<https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/charter-schools>

CHARTER SPONSORSHIP



There are three kinds of sponsors in Missouri: school boards of accredited districts, qualifying universities and the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. Each sponsor sets their own policies and procedures for sponsorship. Sponsored charter schools must be approved by the Missouri State Board of Education and must meet all applicable state statutes and Department of Elementary and Secondary Regulations.

A charter sponsor receives 1.5% of the state and local funding allocated to a charter school (up to \$181,470.59) in order to fulfill statutory responsibilities. – RSMo 160.400, Sub-section 11



SPONSOR PROTECTIONS

A sponsor of a charter school, its agents and employees are not liable for any acts or omissions of a charter school that it sponsors...– RSMo 160.400, Sub-section 9

If a sponsor notifies a charter school of closure under subsection 8 of section 160.405, the department of elementary and secondary education shall exercise its financial withholding authority under subsection 12 of section 160.415 to assure all obligations of the charter school shall be met. The state, charter sponsor, or resident district shall not be liable for any outstanding liability or obligations of the charter school. – RSMo 160.400, Sub-section 18

Current Charter Sponsorship



Saint Louis	Kansas City
<p>Missouri Charter Public School Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlas Public Schools • Gateway Science Academy • Kairos Academies • St. Louis Voices Academy of Media Arts • The Leadership School 	<p>Missouri Charter Public School Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academy for Integrated Arts • Brookside Charter School • Citizens of the World • DeLaSalle Charter School • Ewing Marion Kauffman School • Genesis School Inc. • Guadalupe Centers School • Hogan Preparatory Academy • Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy • Kansas City International Academy • KIPP Endeavor • Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy • Momentum Academy • Scuola Vita Nuova • University Academy
<p>Saint Louis University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Garden Montessori 	
<p>Southeast Missouri State University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift for Life Academy 	
<p>Saint Louis Public Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confluence Academies 	
<p>University of Missouri -St. Louis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biome • Lafayette Preparatory Academy • North Side Community School • Premier Charter School • The Soulard School • St. Louis Language Immersion Charter 	
<p>Washington University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls • KIPP St. Louis 	<p>University of Missouri - Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontier Schools
	<p>Saint Louis University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academie Lafayette • Hope Leadership Academy
	<p>Kansas City Public Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen Village School • Crossroads Charter Schools • Gordon Parks Elementary



Confluence: Locations

MAP	CAMPUS/ NEIGHBOR- HOOD	SCHOOL	GRADES	YEAR OPENED	CAP-ACITY	2021-22 PK-12 ENROLL- MENT	UTILI- ZATION
A	Dutchtown	South City Academy ("South City")	PK - 8	2006	950	785	83.20%
B	Downtown West	Confluence Preparatory Academy ("CPA")	9 - 12	2009	605	405	67.78%
C	Grand Center	Grand Center Arts Academy ("GCAA Middle")	6 - 8	2011	800	223	78.10%
C	Grand Center	Grand Center Arts Academy ("GCAA High")	9 - 12	2013		403	
D	Old North St. Louis	Old North Academy ("Old North")	PK - 8	2003	750	541	72.00%
E	Walnut Park	Aspire Academy ("Aspire")	PK - 2	2004	840	102	12.28%
	TOTAL:				3,945	2,459	62.27%



Proposal Evaluation: Confluence

PART 1:

1. Detailed Proposal (***Submitted Nov 18, 2022***)
2. Review and Request for Additional Documentation
3. Data Review (***November 21-30, 2022***)
4. Interview(s)- Clarifying Information (***December 5, 2022***)
5. Recommendation to Advance or Not Advance to Part 2

PART 2:

6. Capacity Interviews- Board (***December 6, 2022***)
7. Alignment and Enrollment Analyses
8. Final Recommendation for Approval (***December 7, 2022***)
9. Superintendent Approval
10. Board Approval (***December 13, 2022***)
11. DESE Submission and Approval



Confluence: Final Recommendation

SPONSORSHIP OF CONFLUENCE ACADEMIES

Final Recommendation: **ADVANCE WITH RESERVATIONS**

Expectations met in Categories 1, 5, and 6.

Expectations not fully met in Category 2 (attendance rate did not meet target post-pandemic). Continued monitoring and action is required.

Expectations not fully met in Category 3 (graduation rate did not meet target at one of the two schools). Disparate outcomes across the schools must be studied and addressed when sponsorship is approved.

Expectations not fully met in Category 4 (debt exposure present). An aggressive debt repayment plan that is not dependent on enrollment growth must be established and executed when sponsorship is approved.



SLPS Sponsorship

Every three years, each charter sponsor must go through a re-evaluation process.

Timeline:

1. Updated Handbook and Sample Charter Contract Submitted to DESE ***(Submitted Jan 31, 2023)***
2. Additional Requested Documentation Submitted to DESE ***(Submitted March 10, 2023)***
3. Received DESE Approval to resume Sponsorship Duties
4. Submitted Letters from Confluence, Mizzou, and SLPS approving sponsorship transfer, effective June 30, 2023 ***(Submitted March 24, 2023)***
5. Completing charter contract negotiations with Confluence ***(Pending- to be completed and signed no later than June 30, 2023)***



SLPS Sponsorship (cont.)

Sponsorship responsibilities will include:

- Timeline of data submissions from Confluence.
- Board Meetings (monthly)
- School Visits (monthly)
- Status updates to Confluence Board (bi-annually)
- Overall evaluation update (annually)
- Status updates to DESE (monthly- hold-over from last sponsorship for Confluence)

Potential partnership opportunities:

- Offerings of Professional Development
- Shared back-office services (ex. transportation)



Questions?