



Confluence Charter School ANNUAL REPORT Fall 2025

Submitted by and Presented by:
Dr. Isaac Pollack & Dr. Tonya Bailey



September 9, 2025

Under Leadership of:
Dr. Allison Deno – Chief of Schools



SLPS Strategic Values



Highly Effective
Educators and
Leaders



Authentic Family
and Community
Partnership



Equitable and
Multiple Sources
of Data



Joyful and
Engaged
Students



Personalized
Supports and
Innovative Pathways



College and
Career Ready
Critical Thinkers

Values Across Our Student Goals





3rd Grade Reading

—
Growth and
Proficiency



3rd Grade Math

—
Growth and
Proficiency



College and Career Readiness

—
High School Students
Prepared for
Workforce and
Post-Secondary
Employment



Culture and Climate

—
Student Wellbeing

Student Success Goals



Portrait of a Graduate



CHANGE AGENT

- All SLPS students work to make their community better by standing up for fairness, showing empathy, and making a positive impact.

COLLABORATOR

- All SLPS students work well with others, acknowledge the diverse perspectives and contributions of others, and work in service of common goals.

COLLEGE & CAREER READY

- All SLPS students possess the skills and motivation to succeed in school, work, and life after high school.

COMMUNICATOR

- All SLPS students speak and write clearly, listen carefully, and respect the ideas of others, where all feel heard and understood.

COMPETENT

- All SLPS students use content knowledge in routine and innovative ways, ask for help when needed to engage in deeper learning and synthesize what they have learned.

CRITICAL THINKER

- All SLPS students look closely at problems, break them down into parts, and skillfully analyze and assess them to come up with logical, creative solutions.

CULTURALLY AWARE

- All SLPS students value and embrace diverse cultures.



Agenda



1. Definition of a Charter School and Sponsorship
2. SLPS Sponsorship of Confluence Academies
3. Confluence Background and Enrollment
4. Sponsorship: Accountability and Feedback
5. Accountability Measures and 2023-2025 Results
6. Charter LEA Comments on 2024-2025 Performance
7. Sponsor Actions based on 2024-2025 Performance
8. Feedback Measures
9. Next Steps
10. Triennial DESE Sponsor Evaluation



Definition of a Charter School



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>



Definition of 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 in order to fulfill statutory responsibilities. – RSMo 160.400, Sub-section 11



Sponsorship of Confluence



Confluence Academies in fourth year of five-year contract term with DESE. (2022-2023 through 2026-2027)

- December 2022- Sponsorship Approved by Saint Louis Public Schools and Confluence Academies.
- July 2023- Sponsorship Agreement with SLPS/ Confluence began.



Confluence Background



CAMPUS/ NEIGHBOR - HOOD	SCHOOL	GRADES		YEAR OPENED	CAPACITY	PK-12 ENROLL- MENT (as of 10/2024)	UTILI- ZATION
Dutchtown	South City Academy ("South City")	PK - 8		2006	950	842	88.63%
Downtown West	Confluence Preparatory Academy ("CPA") *	9 - 12		2009	605	444	73.39%
Grand Center	Grand Center Arts Academy ("GCAA Middle")	6 - 8		2011	800	219	78.75%
Grand Center	Grand Center Arts Academy ("GCAA High")	9 - 12		2013		411	
Old North St. Louis	Old North Academy ("Old North")*	PK - 8		2003	750	449	59.87%
Walnut Park	Aspire Academy ("Aspire")	PK - 2		2004	840	112	13.33%
TOTAL:					3,945	2,477	62.79%



* Confluence Preparatory Academy (CPA) and Old North are designated as Comprehensive Schools.

Confluence Enrollment



October 2023 - Enrolled on Count Date (Yes)	
Confluence Preparatory Academy	438
Grand Center Arts Academy High School	396
Grand Center Arts Academy Middle School	197
Old North Academy	447
Aspire Academy	121
South City Academy	785
Total	2384

October 2024 - Enrolled on Count Date (Yes)	
Confluence Preparatory Academy	444
Grand Center Arts Academy High School	411
Grand Center Arts Academy Middle School	219
Old North Academy	449
Aspire Academy	112
South City Academy	842
Total	2477



* Aspire Academy has closed for the 2025-2026 school year.

** Confluence Preparatory Academy (CPA) and Old North are designated as Comprehensive Schools.



Sponsorship: Accountability and Feedback



Accountability Measures	Feedback Measures
Governed by the Contract and Performance Agreement.	Outlined in our Charter Sponsorship Handbook.
High-stakes: Performance determines renewal decision (SY 2026-2027).	Not high-stakes: Opportunity to provide useful feedback to charter.
Performance Agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Outcomes• Governance and Operations• Finances Contract and Assurance Checklist: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliance	13 Domains



Accountability Measures



Contract and Performance Agreement reflect Confluence's participation in DESE's Success-Ready Students Network (SRSN):

- Confluence still takes all MAP assessments.
- Confluence still receives an MSIP 6 APR result (for Federal purposes, including Comprehensive Status identification).
- Confluence should also receive an Alternate APR result, based on local assessments (NWEA).
- Alternate APR system will be collaboratively developed over the next two years with DESE and other SRSN districts, pending DESE's direction.

In the absence of APR or while participating in the SRSN, Confluence is evaluated on performance on local assessments.



Accountability Measures (cont.)

Measure 1) 95% of tested† students in specified grades/courses* will demonstrate growth on NWEA Reading and Math Assessments.

Measure 2) 50% of tested† students in specified grades/courses* will meet or exceed Annual Projected Growth Goals.

†Tested students include all students who take both the Fall and Spring NWEA administration at any Confluence Academy school.

*Students in specified grades/courses include students enrolled in grades 3-8, Algebra I, or English II.



Accountability Measures: 2023-2025 Results



	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Measure 1: 95% of Students Show Growth	Not Applicable (Under Previous Sponsor)	Math: 83% (NOT MET) Reading: 68% (NOT MET)	Math: 74% (NOT MET) Reading: 68% (NOT MET)	PENDING	RENEW AL DECISI ON
Measure 2: 50% of students meet Growth Goals	Not Applicable (Under Previous Sponsor)	Math: 51% (MET) Reading: 51% (MET)	Math: 48% (NOT MET) Reading: 52% (MET)	PENDING	RENEWAL DECISION

Charter LEA Comments on 2024-2025 Performance



Measure 1: 95% of Students Show Growth

Math: 74% (Not Met) • Reading: 68% (Not Met)

Confluence provided the following:

1. Confluence believes "the percentages above serve as a benchmark for our use of NWEA, and reflect a more accurate expectation for students."
2. Confluence has "asked NWEA to do an analysis of national data regarding this question and what the national percentages are for comparative purposes."



Charter LEA Comments on 2024-2025 Performance (cont.)



Measure 2: 50% of Students Meet Growth Goals

Math: 48% (Not Met) • Reading: 52% (Met)

Confluence provided the following (continued):

1. Confluence reported some students "did not receive eligible accommodation(s) or support for MAP testing (i.e. translation services, separate setting, etc.)."
2. Confluence reported some students "either had a rapid guess rate 30% or higher, or they took fewer than 20 minutes to complete the assessment. Both of these are deemed by NWEA to invalidate the results of the assessment."
3. Removing these students, Confluence meets both growth goals.
4. Confluence commits to "reviewing our procedures and expectations to ensure improved testing environments for the 2025-26 school year in both reading and math."



Sponsor Actions based on 2024-2025 Performance



SLPS Charter Sponsorship Manual (p. 21-22) defines actions to be taken in the case of failure to meet one or more required academic performance standards:

LEVEL 1: Collaboratively develop a "remedial plan."

LEVEL 2: Probation (for up to 24 months) School Improvement Plan (with defined outcomes, benchmarks, responsible personnel, and required monthly updates to SLPS)

LEVEL 3: Revocation of Charter



Sponsor Response to 2024-2025 Performance (cont.)



Confluence has failed to meet contract expectations in Academic Performance:

2023-2024: Two out of four academic measures were "Met"

2024-2025: One out of four academic measures were "Met"

Therefore, Confluence has been moved to *LEVEL 1: Collaboratively develop a "remedial plan."*

The "remedial plan" will address areas for improvement identified by Confluence and SLPS, and will include selected measures from the Annual Sponsorship Report that partially met or did not meet expectations.

Failure by Confluence to resolve problems identified in the "remedial plan" could lead to *LEVEL 2: Probation and School Improvement Plan.*



Feedback Measures

2024-2025 Performance



Thirteen Domains, measured throughout the year through observations, interviews, and document reviews.

Category		Met	Partially Met	Not Met	Category		Met	Partially Met	Not Met
2. Data Collection, Analysis, and Maintenance	MET	4	4	0	8. Facilities	MET	33	9	0
3. Curriculum	MET	5	13	3	9. Personnel and Payroll	MET	3	0	0
4. Plans for Student Success	MET	25	0	0	10. Required Training and Drills	MET	20	1	1
5. Board Governance	MET	21	1	1	11. Student Enrollment and Records	MET	18	2	0
6. Board Policy	MET	12	0	0	12. Special Education	MET	50	0	1
7. Financial Operations	MET	26	0	2	13. Positive Human Relations	MET	2	4	1

Next Steps



Implementation of "remedial plan":

- Monitor accommodations and completion times for Fall NWEA assessment.
- Assess growth in identified measures through classroom observations and teacher interviews (Q1).
- Determine if Confluence exits the "remedial plan" or moves to Level 2.

Continue Sponsorship Responsibilities:

- Quarter 2, Quarter 3, and Quarter 4 Site visits
- Document Submissions
- DESE Assurance Checklist
- 2025-2026 Annual Sponsorship Report



Triennial DESE Sponsor Evaluation



Every three years, DESE evaluates each sponsor according to their Sponsor Evaluation Framework.



Action	Timeline
DESE sends a document request list	July 18, 2025
Sponsor submits requested documents and completed certifications to DESE	August 15, 2025
Initial meeting – DESE staff and sponsor (Teams) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional documentation request• Request for clarification	August 25-29, 2025
Sponsor will submit additional documentation/clarification to DESE	September 8 - 12, 2025
DESE meets with the sponsor to discuss preliminary ratings	October 13 - 17, 2025
Remediation period: The sponsor submits any documentation to support a change in preliminary rating(s) to DESE	November 3 - 7, 2025
Final sponsor evaluation presented to the State Board of Education	December 9, 2025 (anticipated)

Questions?



SLPS.org
22