



COMMUNITY
MONTESSORI

ANNUAL **REPORT 2024**

San Diego County Office of Education
Charter School Services
charterschools@sdcoe.net
www.sdcoe.net/charter



WELCOME TO OUR YEARLY **ANNUAL REPORT**

Welcome to Community Montessori, San Diego County Office of Education's county-wide benefit charter school offering public Montessori education with the use of Montessori materials, multi-age groupings, and student-led hands-on learning without the use of extrinsic rewards. With five locations, we provide small hubs of learning to families throughout the county. Our Educational Facilitators spend a great deal of their time preparing the environment to create engaging and self-assessing opportunities for learning. Parents serve as partners in the education of their child and are supported with workshops and assignments to be completed beyond the classroom. Embedded in the curriculum is the practice of caring for each other as well as the environment. Educational Facilitators take the time to know each student on a personal level so that they may guide them in self-awareness, self-reflection, and self-advocacy.

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CHARTER SCHOOL **INFORMATION**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Community Montessori (CM) is to assist the San Diego County Office of Education in preparing students to become citizens capable of discipline, synthesis, creativity, respect, empathy, and ethics for success in 21st-century society.

OUR VISION

The vision of Element Education, Inc. (EEI) is to create model programs for deep and meaningful learning and attract and develop innovative and effective educators who instill the mindset and skills for developing agency in, and ownership of, lifelong learning.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Name: | Community Montessori |
| Website: | www.cmcharter.org |
| Email: | tnovacek@myelement.org |
| Phone: | (877) 300-8299 |

SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Current Charter Term: | July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2027 |
| CDS Code: | 37103710137695 |
| California Charter Number: | 1947 |
| School Accountability Report Card: | 2022-23 SARC |

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Executive Director/CEO: | Terri Novacek |
| Administrator/CBO: | Douglas Miller |
| Administrator/COO: | Roland Yung |
| Administrator/Director: | Earl Otte |

PHYSICAL LOCATIONS

CM - Carlsbad Learning Center

6797 Embarcadero Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92011
Grade Levels Served: TK - 08
Site Principal: Greg McGrath

CM - Poway Learning Center

12370 Adobe Ridge Road
Poway, CA 92064
Grade Levels Served: TK - 06
Site Principal: Marissa Castañeda

CM - South Escondido (Mary Lane) Learning Center

3751 Mary Lane
Escondido, CA 92025
Grade Levels Served: TK - 03
Site Principal: Anne Wieme

CM - North Escondido (Oak Hill) Learning Center

1816 Oak Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92027
Grade Levels Served: TK - 08
Site Principal: Adam Nolan

CM - Santee Learning Center

9580 Carlton Hills Blvd
Santee, CA 92071
Grades Levels Served: TK - 06
Site Principal: Lilly Wageman



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Montessori continues to experience an increasing number of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). While the “follow the child” model serves as an excellent fit for most of these students, as with any model, it does not fit every child. Parents, frustrated with the post-pandemic fallout (i.e. unemployment, food insecurity, mental and physical health concerns, learning loss) are quick to believe their child needs something new without taking the time and energy to understand the philosophy and program. The staff has worked extra hours to devise and engage strategies and resources for the increasing number of students facing those challenges.

Administration, in collaboration with the organization’s compensation committee, continue to develop a multi-tiered salary schedule which puts more of the professional learning, growth, and compensation in the hands of the employee.

Implementing TK has been challenging due to space and logistics. Requiring additional training in early childhood education on top of our required training for Montessori certification has been frustrating for staff. They feel they are having to choose what has the best impact on students (Montessori training) versus what the state requires Early Childhood Education (ECE) units.

The implementation of the reading program based on the Science of Reading continues to move forward, and we are seeing positive results. We are using CORE as our assessment tool for our k-2 students. Our internal standardized assessment (I-Ready) reflects strong academic growth. Math, too, is a priority which we are just starting to witness growth.

CM continues to have a high level of family engagement, especially within our English Learner families. We host a multi-lingual event at our Mary Lane location for all families.

The Music and Spanish programs have been reinstated. Admission applications continue to exceed the number of spaces we can offer students and turnover of credentialed staff remains low. We have been able to work with Learning Assistants to support them in a credentialing program allowing us to hire within to fill spots as they come up.

We are excited for continued growth of the middle school program at the Santee location and continued development of the professional learning program.



GOVERNANCE

THE GOVERNING BOARD



Jared Sinclair

President
Term: 2021-23



Barbara Rohrer

Vice President
Term: 2022-24



Tim Tweenten

Clerk
Term: 2022-24



Rosella Childers

Member
Term: 2021-23



Aisha Williams

Member
Term: 2022-24



Cecilia Williams

Member
Term: 2021-23

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Staffing continues to be a challenge with the statewide teacher and worker shortage which has required people to go above and beyond to fill in. To add to that, we are experiencing more personal leave requests and resignations of para-professional staff than usual. As a small school with a specialized methodology, it is challenging to find substitute teachers. Our salary schedule is based on county averages, and we are finding some who reside in higher cost of living areas feel underpaid. An area of priority this year was to make staff meetings more meaningful with staff walking away with new knowledge and skills they could put into practice right away. Our most recent staff survey reflected 100% positive responses.

Strong Montessorians are serving as mentors to those still working to develop the skills. We are seeing a shift away from worksheets and more engagement with the materials and experiential learning practices.

Positive discipline continues to guide our behavior and social-emotional development practices, thus moving us toward the school-wide intended goal of mutual respect regardless of age, gender, cultural background, and religious beliefs. In addition, diversity, equity, and inclusion training is open to any staff members who requests or demonstrates need for it. A large contingent of staff members attended the SDCOE Equity Conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

P2 ADA
780.56

DASHBOARDS



LINK



REQ REU

4%

OPERATING SINCE

■ 2018



TOTAL ENROLLMENT

788

SUBGROUP INFO

- EL = **5.1%**
- Foster = **0.0%**
- Homeless = **1.0%**
- Migrant = **0.0%**
- Students with Disabilities = **15.2%**
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged = **26.6%**



FUND BALANCE

57.12%

ACTUAL UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

\$4.99 mil

Data source: The highlights page features the latest available data, including current fiscal year 2023-24 figures for enrollment, P2 ADA, and subgroups, alongside unaudited financial metrics from the 2022-23 fiscal year.

OUR STUDENTS

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

| School Year | TK-K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-21 | 127 | 109 | 102 | 98 | 98 | 96 | 63 | 41 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 776 |
| 2021-22 | 116 | 106 | 110 | 91 | 83 | 87 | 71 | 40 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 739 |
| 2022-23 | 168 | 90 | 98 | 99 | 83 | 77 | 64 | 48 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 762 |
| 2023-24 | 177 | 104 | 89 | 95 | 95 | 74 | 61 | 47 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 788 |

Data source: CDE Data Quest

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SUBGROUP INFORMATION

| School Year | African American | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian | Filipino | Hispanic or Latino | Pacific Islander | White | Two or More Races | Not Reported |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|
| 2020-21 | 0.4% | 0.0% | 5.4% | 1.7% | 23.8% | 0.0% | 54.8% | 11.7% | 2.2% |
| 2021-22 | 0.3% | 0.1% | 6.5% | 1.4% | 25.8% | 0.1% | 49.9% | 12.2% | 3.7% |
| 2022-23 | 0.4% | 0.1% | 6.2% | 1.0% | 24.0% | 0.1% | 49.3% | 12.7% | 6.0% |
| 2023-24 | 0.4% | 0.1% | 5.8% | 1.3% | 24.6% | 0.0% | 48.5% | 11.0% | 8.2% |

| School Year | English Learners | Foster Youth | Homeless Youth | Migrant Education | Students with Disabilities | Socioeconomically Disadvantaged |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2020-21 | 2.1% | 0.1% | 0.6% | 0.0% | 13.9% | 22.6% |
| 2021-22 | 4.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 15.3% | 26.3% |
| 2022-23 | 5.0% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 16.9% | 27.0% |
| 2023-24 | 5.1% | 0.0% | 1.0% | 0.0% | 15.2% | 26.6% |

Data source: CDE Data Quest

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS (CAASPP)

The **2019-20** data cells with (-) values indicate that the data is not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting summative test suspension. Executive Order N-30-20 waived the assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements for the 2019-20 school year.

The **2020-21** data cells with (-) values indicate that the data is not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of consistency in the assessment.

The results in these key areas for each subject are reported using the following three indicators: below standard, near standard, and above standard. The sum of the achievement level percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (CAASPP)

| School Year | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | # of Students Tested | Not Met/ Nearly Met | Met/ Exceeded | # of Students Tested | Not Met/ Nearly Met | Met/ Exceeded |
| 2019-20 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2020-21 | - | - | - | 743,626 | 50.99% | 49.01% |
| 2021-22 | 394 | 53.81% | 62.85% | 2,969,670 | 52.95% | 47.06% |
| 2022-23 | 396 | 39.64% | 60.35% | 2,960,990 | 53.34% | 46.66% |

MATHEMATICS (CAASPP)

| School Year | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | # of Students Tested | Not Met/ Nearly Met | Met/ Exceeded | # of Students Tested | Not Met/ Nearly Met | Met/ Exceeded |
| 2019-20 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2020-21 | - | - | - | 749,948 | 66.24% | 33.76% |
| 2021-22 | 394 | 37.15% | 46.19% | 2,973,472 | 66.62% | 33.38% |
| 2022-23 | 397 | 55.17% | 44.84% | 2,972,294 | 65.38% | 34.62% |

Note: Although the California Ed Code allows for Independent Study students to complete CAASPP at home, Community Montessori students complete it on site with credentialed proctors.

Data source: <https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/>

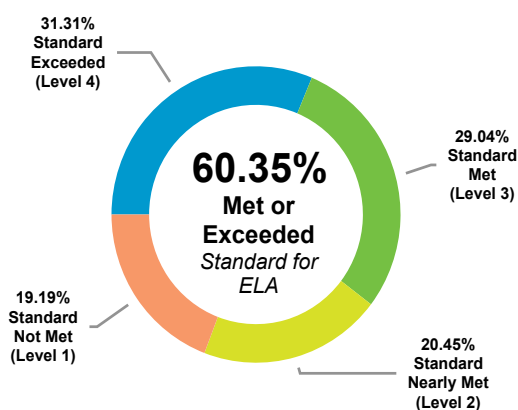
STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

CAASPP TEST RESULTS AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY MONTESSORI

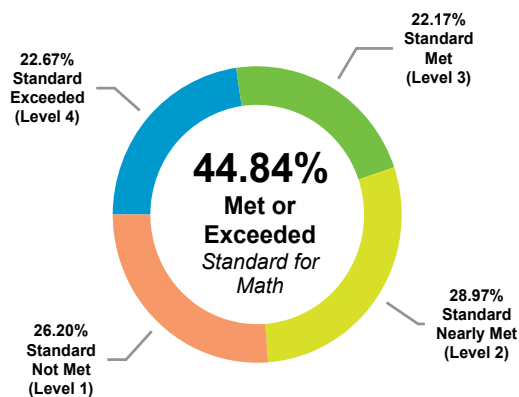
ELA

Percent of students within each achievement level



Mathematics

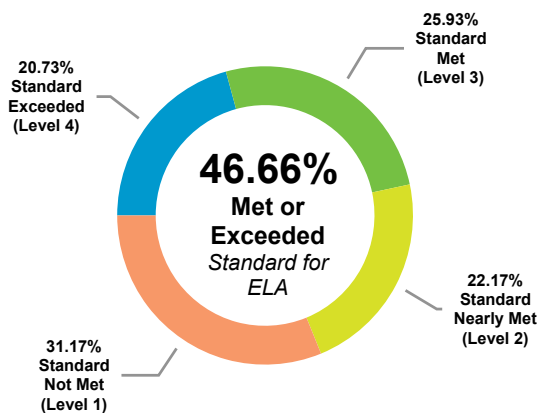
Percent of students within each achievement level



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

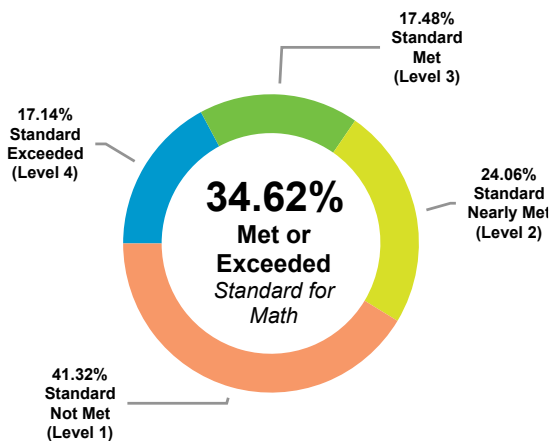
ELA

Percent of students within each achievement level



Mathematics

Percent of students within each achievement level



Data source: <https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/>

■ STANDARD NOT MET: LEVEL 1
 ■ STANDARD NEARLY MET: LEVEL 2
 ■ STANDARD MET: LEVEL 3
 ■ STANDARD EXCEEDED: LEVEL 4

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state law has suspended the reporting of state and local indicators on the 2020 and 2021 California School Dashboard. However, available data that would have been included in the Dashboard are reported on the Department of Education (CDE)'s website if they were determined to be valid and reliable. Information regarding the reporting status of data is available at CDE's [COVID-19 and Data Reporting](#) and [COVID-19 Accountability FAQs](#) webpages.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

| School Year | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Color | Distance from Standard | Distance Change | Color | Distance from Standard | Distance Change |
| 2019-20 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2020-21 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2021-22 | High | + 20.5 | - | Low | - 12.2 | - |
| 2022-23 | | + 21.4 | 0.9 | | - 13.6 | - 1.4 |

MATHEMATICS

| School Year | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Color | Distance from Standard | Distance Change | Color | Distance from Standard | Distance Change |
| 2019-20 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2020-21 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2021-22 | Medium | - 17.1 | - | Low | - 51.7 | - |
| 2022-23 | | - 12.8 | + 4.3 | | - 49.1 | 2.6 |

Data source: CA Dashboard

PERFORMANCE
LEVELS:



BLUE
(HIGHEST)



GREEN



YELLOW



ORANGE



RED
(LOWEST)

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

Note:

The state of California did not report data for the 2020 & 2021 school year.

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS

| | CHARTER SCHOOL | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | |
|-------------|------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| School Year | # of EL Students | % Making Progress Towards English Language Proficiency | # of EL Students | % Making Progress Towards English Language Proficiency |
| 2019-20 | - | - | - | - |
| 2020-21 | - | - | - | - |
| 2021-22 | 20 | 55.0% | 785,734 | 50.3% |
| 2022-23 | 19 | 52.6% | 829,209 | 48.7% |

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

| | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| School Year | Dashboard Color | % Chronically Absent | Change from Prior Year | Dashboard Color | % Chronically Absent | Change from Prior Year |
| 2019-20 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2020-21 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2021-22 | Very Low | 0.1% | - | Very High | 30.0% | - |
| 2022-23 | | 0.0% | - 0.1% | | 24.3% | - 5.7% |

SUSPENSION RATE

| | CHARTER SCHOOL | | | STATE OF CALIFORNIA | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| School Year | Dashboard Color | % Suspended | Change from Prior Year | Dashboard Color | % Suspended | Change from Prior Year |
| 2019-20 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2020-21 | | - | - | | - | - |
| 2021-22 | Very Low | 0.5% | - | Medium | 3.1% | - |
| 2022-23 | | 0.6% | 0.1% | | 3.5% | + 0.4% |

Data source: CA Dashboard

PERFORMANCE
LEVELS:



BLUE
(HIGHEST)



GREEN



YELLOW



ORANGE



RED
(LOWEST)

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

LOCAL ASSESSMENTS - READING (WINTER)

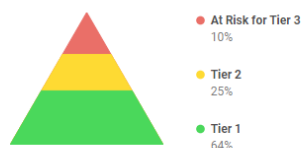
Community Montessori uses i-Ready as our interim assessment to monitor academic growth and areas of need. The assessment data was submitted in bar graph format and shows a comparison of the results from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 by grade level.

We have been able to assess a much higher proportion of our student body. The percentage of students at risk has decreased and we are excited to see that many of these students have moved into Tier 2. For reading, the schoolwide results by trimester comparison are shown overall and by domain. Each grade level shows overall results and growth, as well as the following domains: phonological awareness, phonics, high frequency words, vocabulary, comprehension of literature, and comprehension of informational text. For math, the schoolwide results by trimester comparison are shown overall and by domain. Each grade level shows overall results and growth as well the following domains: numbers & operations, algebra & algebraic thinking, measurement & data, and geometry.

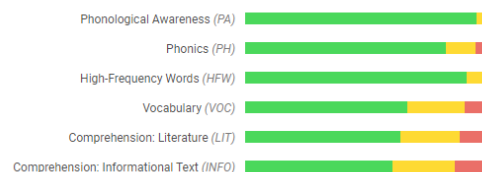
CM I-Ready Reading Results Winter 2024

Students Assessed/Total: 623/780

Overall Placement



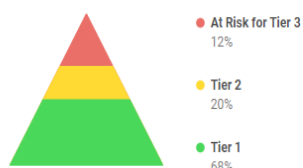
Placement By Domain



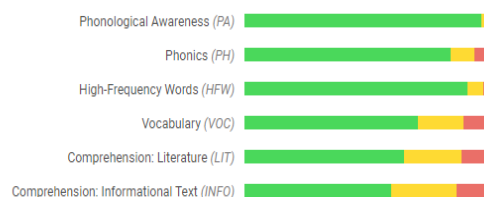
CM I-Ready Reading Results Winter 2023

Students Assessed/Total: 544/758

Overall Placement



Placement By Domain



[The Mapping Between 5-Level and 3-Level Placements](#)

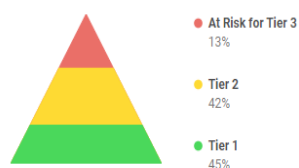
STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

LOCAL ASSESSMENTS - MATH (WINTER)

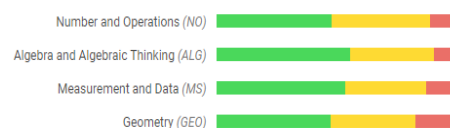
CM – I-Ready Math Results Winter 2024

Students Assessed/Total: 627/780

Overall Placement



Placement By Domain

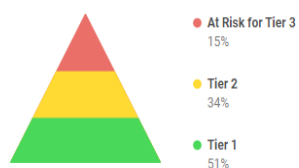


[i The Mapping Between 5-Level and 3-Level Placements](#)

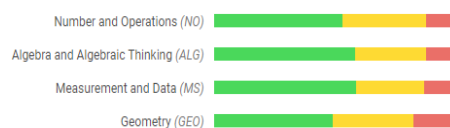
CM I-Ready Reading Math Results Winter 2023

Students Assessed/Total: 564/758

Overall Placement



Placement By Domain

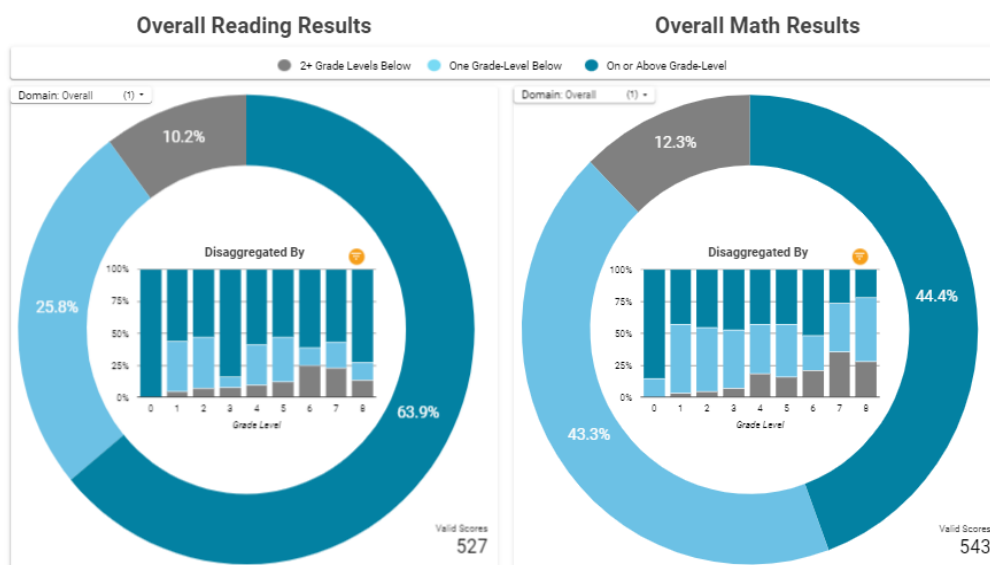


[i The Mapping Between 5-Level and 3-Level Placements](#)

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

LOCAL ASSESSMENTS - READING AND MATH (FALL/WINTER)

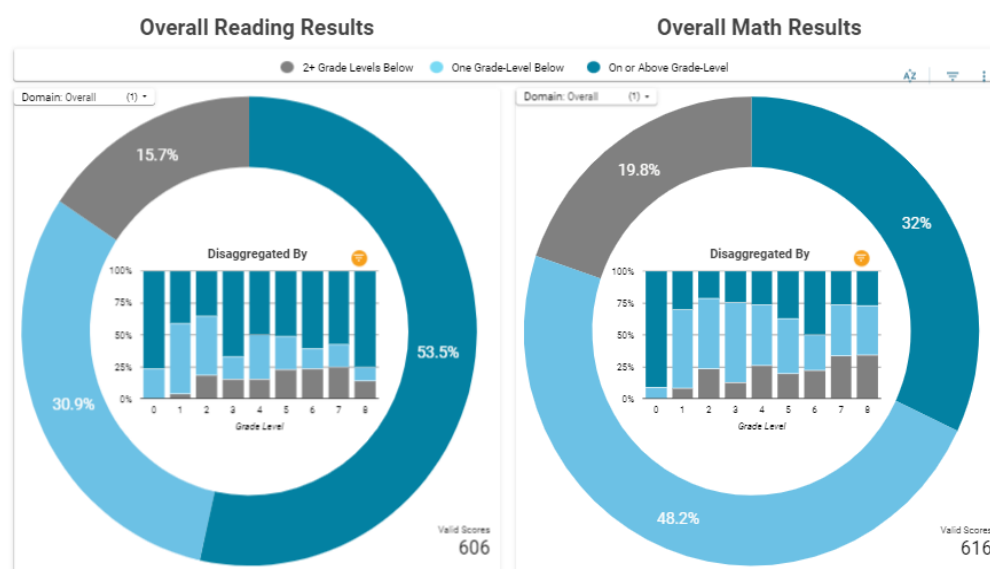
Community Montessori Interim Assessment- Winter 2024



*The percentage of students at or above grade level in reading increased 10.4% from Fall to Winter.

* The percentage of students at or above grade level in math increased 12.4% from Fall to Winter.

Fall 2023 Results for Reference



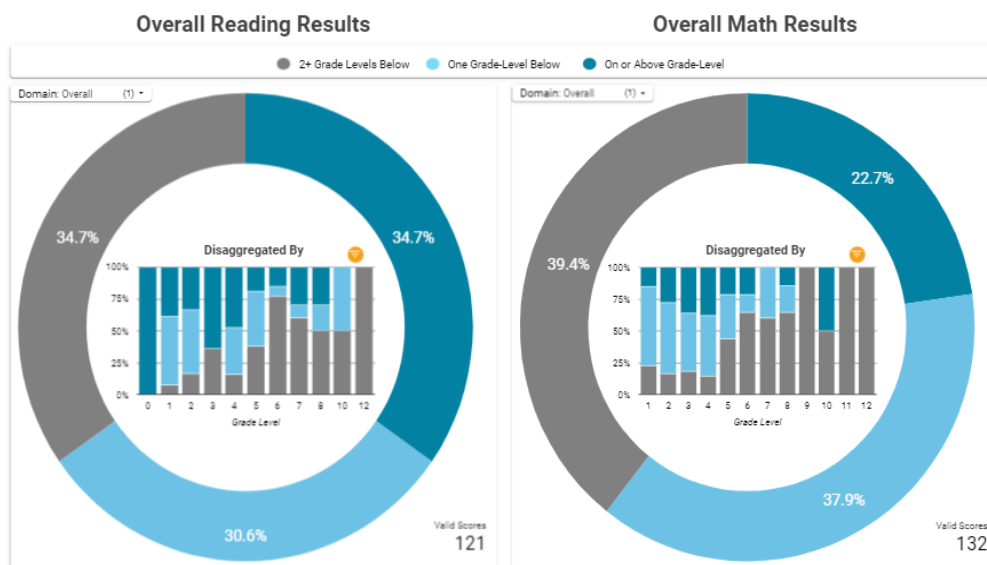
Data source: School Resource

STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

LOCAL ASSESSMENTS - ALL LEARNING CENTERS

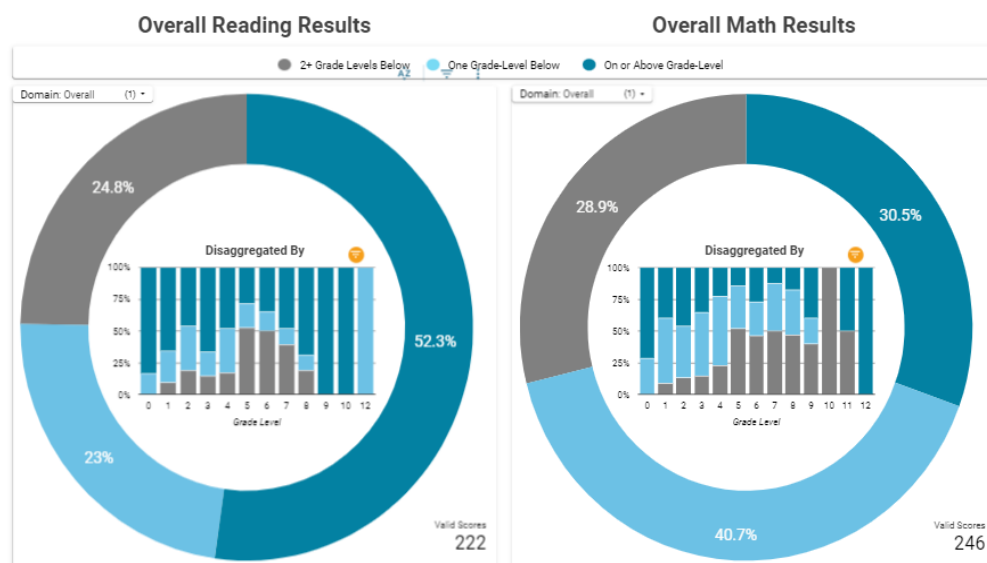
Students with Disabilities- Winter 2024

(All Learning Centers)



Socio Economically Disadvantaged Students- Winter 2024

(All Learning Centers)



FINANCE **2023-2024**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Community Montessori ended the 2021-22 fiscal year with a surplus of \$646,584 and an ending fund balance of \$3.26 million, representing a reserve for economic uncertainties (REU) percentage of 40.48%. This percentage surpasses the 4% REU required by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE).

The financial audit report for 2021-22 was completed by Silva & Silva Certified Public Accountants and contained no findings. The report included an adjustment of \$58,733 for an increase in fixed assets that has been reflected in the 2022-23 beginning balance.

A review of the charter school's 2022-23 first interim report was analyzed in the context of the 2022-23 State Budget Act. Based on that report, it was assessed that the charter school will meet all its financial obligations for the current year and two subsequent years.

Enrollment in the current year is 767 students, an increase of 3.8% from the 2021-22 enrollment of 739 students. The budget for 2022-23 and two subsequent years has been adjusted to reflect the change in enrollment and proportionate Average Daily Attendance (ADA) rates. The projected 2022-23 ending fund balance is \$4.76 million, which represents a reserve percentage of 53.66%. A surplus of \$1.44 million is projected for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The charter school currently has long-term debt that consists of loans through Wells Fargo Bank, \$1.175 million and \$1.150 million, for the purchase of the Poway and Oak Hill properties. Each loan has a 30-year term, with maturity in December 2029 and September 2033, respectively.

The 2022-23 cash flow analysis projects a positive cash balance in all months. The charter school industry recommends that charter schools maintain a cash balance between 30- and 60-days cash on hand. Community Montessori projects a range of 54 to 133 days cash on hand.

FUND BALANCE AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES

| | 2019-20 Audited | 2020-21 Audited | 2021-22 Audited | 2022-23 Audited |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Actual Unrestricted Fund Balance | \$1.67 million | \$2.61 million | \$3.26 million | \$4.99 million |
| Fund Balance as % of Total Expenditures | 23.52% | 36.12% | 40.48% | 57.12% |
| Required Reserve for Economic Uncertainties | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% |

FINANCE **2023-2024**

CURRENT BUDGET

| | 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals | 2023-24 Second Interim |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Enrollment | 762 | 786 |
| Average Daily Attendance | 757.43 | 779.48 |
| REVENUE | | |
| LCFF | \$8,005,513.00 | \$9,000,437.00 |
| Federal | \$290,625.00 | \$171,311.00 |
| State | \$1,522,517.00 | \$1,132,226.00 |
| Local | \$596,705.00 | \$89,825.00 |
| Total REVENUE | \$10,415,360.00 | \$10,393,799.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Certificated Salaries | \$2,960,017.00 | \$3,244,333.00 |
| Classified Salaries | \$1,673,079.00 | \$2,109,877.00 |
| Employee Benefits | \$1,213,739.00 | \$1,404,388.00 |
| Materials and Supplies | \$337,565.00 | \$412,000.00 |
| Services and Operations | \$2,391,238.00 | \$2,189,079.00 |
| Capital Outlay | \$165,279.00 | \$365,000.00 |
| Total EXPENDITURES | \$8,740,917.00 | \$9,724,677.00 |
| OTHER OUTGO | | |
| Indirect Costs | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Contributions | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total OTHER OUTGO | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | \$1,674,442.00 | \$669,122.00 |
| FUND BALANCE | | |
| Beginning Fund Balance | \$3,259,301.00 | \$4,992,476.00 |
| Ending Fund Balance | \$4,992,476.00 | \$6,081,399.00 |
| Reserve for Economic Uncertainties | 57.12% | 62.54% |

SCHOOL AUTHORIZER

Under the direction of the San Diego County superintendent of schools, the San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) Charter School Services department, as a function of the Business Services division, coordinates programmatic, operational, and fiscal oversight for the 11 charter schools approved by the San Diego County Board of Education.

The SDCOE portfolio of authorized charter schools is held accountable to all applicable laws, regulations, policies, agreements, and each school's approved charter petition. The San Diego County Board of

Education utilizes data and community feedback to inform decisions about charter school authorization, renewals, material revisions, sharing of promising practices, and if necessary, remediation.

SDCOE's Charter School Services department also provides general information, technical assistance, and professional development to the 129 charter schools and the additional 22 district authorizers operating throughout San Diego County. We proudly serve as a resource for charter schools, districts, and state and local agencies, as well as all San Diego County families and their communities.

