

**COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS  
REGARDING LIFELINE EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL  
CHARTER RENEWAL PETITION**

**Date Posted: February 3, 2025**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Lifeline Education Charter School (“Lifeline”) was originally authorized by the Gorman Joint Elementary School District, and was subsequently authorized by the State Board of Education. On September 27, 2016, Lifeline applied for a charter reauthorization under the Compton Unified School District (“District”), and was granted a five-year charter term, beginning July 1, 2017 and concluding June 30, 2022.

Pursuant to Education Code section 47607.4, all charter schools with terms expiring on or between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025 were automatically granted two-year extensions of their charter terms. In 2023, Education Code section 47607.4 was amended to provide an additional one-year extension to charter schools with terms then set to expire between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2027. Therefore, pursuant to these extensions, the current term of Lifeline’s charter concludes on June 30, 2025.

On October 30, 2024, Lifeline submitted its Charter Renewal Petition (“Renewal Petition”) to the District, seeking renewal for a five-year term, from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030.

In its Renewal Petition, Lifeline proposes to serve approximately 730 students at full enrollment in grades TK to 12, a decrease of 130 students from its proposed full enrollment in its September 27, 2016 application for a charter reauthorization. Lifeline states in its Charter that it currently serves students in four locations within the District. Lifeline operates on a traditional, single instructional track.

Pursuant to Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b), the governing board of a school district shall either grant or deny a charter within 90 days of receipt of a petition; however, that date may be extended by up to 30 days if both parties agree to the extension. The 90-day statutory timeline required action on the Renewal Petition by the District’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) no later than January 28, 2025. However, as permitted by Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b), the District requested, and Lifeline provided, an extension to February 28, 2025 for the Board to make a determination as to whether to grant or deny the Renewal Petition.

On December 10, 2024, the Board held a public hearing to determine the level of support for the Renewal Petition by teachers, other District employees, and parents/guardians.

Based on a comprehensive review and assessment of Lifeline’s Renewal Petition and its record of performance, District staff has determined that Lifeline has satisfied the requirements for renewal and therefore recommends renewal of the Renewal Petition.

## II. APPLICABLE LAW

Education Code section 47607, subdivision (b) provides that charter renewals “are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.” Additionally, the chartering authority is required to consider the charter school’s performance on the state and local indicators included in the California Department of Education’s (“CDE”) California School Dashboard (“Dashboard”).

CDE publishes a Charter School Performance Category Data File, which is updated annually with the release of the Dashboard. It lists all charter schools and assigns them a performance category after considering the academic performance data provided on the Dashboard. CDE designates charter schools as high, middle, or low performing, based on their performance during the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision. (Ed. Code, §§ 47607, 47607.2.) The particular categorization determines the standards for renewal and the length of the renewal term.

Education Code section 47607.2, subdivision (b)(1) provides that when a charter school does not fall within the “high performing” or “low performing” category, the chartering authority shall consider the schoolwide performance and performance of all subgroups of pupils served by the charter school on the state indicators included in the evaluation rubrics adopted pursuant to Education Code section 52064.5 and the performance of the charter school on the local indicators included in the evaluation rubrics adopted pursuant to Education Code section 52064.5. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(1).) The chartering authority shall provide greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance in determining whether to grant a charter renewal. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(2).) In addition to the state and local indicators, the chartering authority shall consider clear and convincing evidence showing either of the following: (A) The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school, or (B) Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(3).)

Education Code section 47607.2, subdivision (b)(3)(A) and (B) shall be demonstrated by verified data. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(4).) “Verified data” is data derived from nationally recognized, valid, peer-reviewed, and reliable resources that are externally produced. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (c)(1).) Verified data shall include measures of postsecondary outcomes. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (c)(1).) The State Board of Education has established criteria to define verified data and provided an approved list of valid and reliable assessments that are to be used for this purpose. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (c)(2).) No data sources other than those adopted by the State Board are to be used for this purpose. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (c)(3).)

The chartering authority may deny a charter renewal pursuant to Education Code section 47607.2, subdivision (b) only upon making written findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school, that closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils and, if applicable pursuant to Education Code section 47607.2, subdivisions (b)(2) and (b)(3), that its decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(6).) For a charter renewed pursuant to Education Code section 47607.2, subdivision (b), the chartering authority

shall grant a renewal for a period of five years. (Ed. Code, § 47607.2, subd. (b)(7).)

The governing board of the school district must publish all staff recommendations, including the recommended findings, regarding the petition at least 15 days before the meeting at which the governing board of the school district will either grant or deny the charter. (Ed. Code, § 47605, subd. (b).)

This staff report sets forth District staff’s recommendations, including recommended findings, and will be published on February 3, 2025, 15 days prior to the District’s February 18, 2025 Board meeting.

### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

In considering a charter renewal petition for a middle performing charter school, the District must both determine whether the charter school meets the applicable eligibility requirements using the new accountability criteria set forth in Education Code section 47607.2, subdivision (b) and evaluate whether the renewal petition meets the standards and criteria set forth in Education Code section 47605.

#### **A. Lifeline’s Eligibility for Renewal Under New Accountability Criteria and Corresponding Findings of Fact**

CDE has designated Lifeline a “middle performing” charter school. This designation can be found by clicking on the link to “Performance Category Data Files” on CDE’s website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/performcategorydf.asp> and searching for Lifeline.

Placement in the middle performing tier requires the District to evaluate Lifeline’s performance on the state and local indicators on the Dashboard, both on a schoolwide basis and for all student subgroups served by the charter school. The District must afford greater weight to Lifeline’s performance on measurements of academic performance.

The District must also determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence, as demonstrated by verified data, to show that Lifeline has either achieved measurable increases in student academic achievement, defined by at least on year’s progress for each year in school, or showing strong post-secondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.

If Lifeline satisfies these criteria, the Board must renew Lifeline’s charter for a term of five years.

The Board may only deny renewal if it makes specific written findings that Lifeline failed to make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the school’s students; closure of the school is in the best interest of its students; and the decision provided greater weight to performance on measures of academic performance.

## Findings of Fact

**Finding No. One: Lifeline’s performance on state and local indicators on the Dashboard demonstrates that it is generally showing improvements on a schoolwide basis and among subgroups.**

The District has evaluated Lifeline’s performance on a schoolwide basis and among the subgroups served by the charter school as identified on the Dashboard, giving greater weight to the charter school’s performance on measurements of academic performance. District staff has determined that Lifeline meets the minimum requirements to qualify for renewal as a middle performing charter school.

On the most recent 2024 Dashboard, data shows that Lifeline received the following performance levels on a schoolwide basis:

- English Language Arts (“ELA”): **Blue**
  - Lifeline is 12.5 points above standard, with an increase of 27.6 points
  - State is 13.2 below standard
  - District is 19.5 points below standard, with an increase of 6.6 points
- Mathematics (“Math”): **Yellow**
  - Lifeline is 29.5 points below standard, representing an increase of 24 points
  - State is 47.6 points below standard
  - District is 46.9% below standard, representing an increase of 9.6 points
- English Learner Progress: **Green**
  - Lifeline shows 51.3% making progress towards English proficiency, representing an increase of 11.4%
  - State shows 45.7% making progress, representing a decline of 3%
  - District shows 47.3% making progress, representing “maintenance” (-0.3%)
- College/Career: **Yellow**
  - Lifeline shows that 33.3% are prepared, representing an increase of 27.5%
  - State shows 45.3% are prepared
  - District shows 49.5% are prepared, representing an increase of 6.4%
- Chronic Absenteeism: **Red**
  - Lifeline shows a 20.7% chronic absenteeism rate, representing an increase of 6.1%
  - State shows a rate of 18.5%, representing a decline of 5.7%
  - District shows a 15.2% rate, representing a decline of 8.4%
- Graduation Rate: **Orange**
  - Lifeline has an 86.3% graduation rate, representing a decline of 8%
  - State has an 86.7% graduation rate, representing “maintenance” (0.3% increase)
  - District has a 92.9% graduation rate, representing an increase of 3.9%

In its Renewal Petition, Lifeline provided the following tables reflecting student ELA and Math performance on the Dashboard as compared with the District’s performance every year over its current charter term:

<b>ALL STUDENTS ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE Distance From Standard</b>	<b>DISTRICT AVG. Distance From Standard</b>	<b>MARGIN</b>
<b>2018 – ELA</b>	<b>-26.5</b>	<b>-42.6</b>	<b>+16.1</b>
<b>2019 – ELA</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-31.6</b>	<b>+26.3</b>
<b>2022 – ELA</b>	<b>-25.0</b>	<b>-34.1</b>	<b>+9.1</b>
<b>2023 - ELA</b>	<b>-15.1</b>	<b>-26.0</b>	<b>+10.9</b>

<b>ALL STUDENTS MATH</b>	<b>LIFELINE Distance From Standard</b>	<b>DISTRICT AVG. Distance From Standard</b>	<b>MARGIN</b>
<b>2018 – Math</b>	<b>-61.6</b>	<b>-72.4</b>	<b>+10.8</b>
<b>2019 – Math</b>	<b>-40.1</b>	<b>-56.9</b>	<b>+16.8</b>
<b>2022 - Math</b>	<b>-82.0</b>	<b>-71.5</b>	<b>-10.5</b>
<b>2023 - Math</b>	<b>-53.5</b>	<b>-56.5</b>	<b>+3.0</b>

Lifeline also provided the following tables regarding its students’ performance on the CAASPP in both ELA and Math over the term of the current charter, reflecting its performance as compared with immediately adjacent school districts:

<b>School District 2023</b>	<b>% Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards ELA</b>
Long Beach Unified	48.15%
<b>Lifeline</b>	<b>42.13%</b>
Los Angeles Unified	41.17%
Compton Unified	40.57%
Paramount Unified	39.19%
Lynwood Unified	30.57%

<b>School District 2023</b>	<b>% Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards Math</b>
Long Beach Unified	34.46%
<b>Lifeline</b>	<b>32.43%</b>
Compton Unified	31.74%
Los Angeles Unified	30.50%
Paramount Unified	21.58%
Lynwood Unified	17.94%

Lifeline provided the following tables reflecting performance by numerically significant student subgroups in comparison with District averages on the Dashboard in both ELA and Math over the current charter term:

<b>2018 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>DISTRICT AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-50.0</b>	<b>-58.0</b>	<b>+8.0</b>
Hispanic	<b>-25.2</b>	<b>-38.1</b>	<b>+12.9</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-27.9</b>	<b>-42.9</b>	<b>+15.0</b>
African American	<b>-40.1</b>	<b>-65.0</b>	<b>+24.9</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-89.1</b>	<b>-118.8</b>	<b>+29.7</b>

<b>2018 – Math</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>DISTRICT AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-78.2</b>	<b>-78.9</b>	<b>+0.7</b>
Hispanic	<b>-59.1</b>	<b>-67.2</b>	<b>+8.1</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-61.1</b>	<b>-72.7</b>	<b>+11.6</b>
African American	<b>-86.3</b>	<b>-99.6</b>	<b>+13.3</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-139.0</b>	<b>-146.7</b>	<b>+7.7</b>

<b>2019 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>DISTRICT AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-25.1</b>	<b>-48.2</b>	<b>+23.1</b>
Hispanic	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-27.5</b>	<b>+22.2</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-29.5</b>	<b>+23.8</b>
African American	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-51.7</b>	<b>+45.8</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-58.6</b>	<b>-99.8</b>	<b>+41.2</b>

<b>2019 – MATH</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>DISTRICT AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-48.6</b>	<b>-63.7</b>	<b>+15.1</b>
Hispanic	<b>-37.7</b>	<b>-51.6</b>	<b>+13.9</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-40.0</b>	<b>-55.4</b>	<b>+15.4</b>
African American	<b>-53.7</b>	<b>-84.3</b>	<b>+30.6</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-85.4</b>	<b>123.4</b>	<b>+38.0</b>

<b>2022 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>DISTRICT AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-54.4</b>	<b>-61.6</b>	<b>+7.2</b>
Hispanic	<b>-23.8</b>	<b>-29.4</b>	<b>+5.6</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-24.7</b>	<b>-33.8</b>	<b>+9.1</b>
African American	<b>-33.5</b>	<b>-61.3</b>	<b>+27.8</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-105.9</b>	<b>-107.6</b>	<b>+1.7</b>

2022 – Math	LIFELINE	DISTRICT AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-109.0	-87.6	-21.4
Hispanic	-81.7	-66.6	-15.1
Socio/Disadv	-81.8	-71.4	-10.4
African American	-86.5	-101.2	+14.7
Students w/ Disab.	-124.0	-140.0	+16.0

2023 – ELA	LIFELINE	DISTRICT AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-58.1	-60.2	+2.1
Hispanic	-17.4	-22.4	+5.0
Socio/Disadv	-16.2	-27.8	+11.6
African American	-36.0	-47.6	+11.6
Students w/ Disab.	-92.0	-105.8	+13.8

2023 – MATH	LIFELINE	DISTRICT AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-91.7	-80.5	-11.2
Hispanic	-56.8	-52.4	-4.4
Socio/Disadv	-55.7	-58.0	+2.3
African American	-67.7	-82.3	+14.6
Students w/ Disab.	-114.2	-129.2	+15.0

Lifeline also provided the following tables reflecting performance by numerically significant student subgroups in comparison with State averages on the Dashboard in both ELA and Math over the current charter term:

2018 – ELA	LIFELINE	STATE AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-50	-47.1	-2.9
Hispanic	-25.2	-31.3	+6.1
Socio/Disadv	-27.9	-34.7	+6.8
African American	-40.1	-51.8	+11.7
Students w/ Disab.	-89.1	-95.5	+6.4

2018 – MATH	LIFELINE	STATE AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-78.2	-69.9	-8.3
Hispanic	-59.1	-65.8	+6.7
Socio/Disadv	-61.1	-67.4	+6.3
African American	-86.3	-91.5	+5.2
Students w/ Disab.	-139.0	-125.3	-13.7

<b>2019 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>STATE AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-25.1</b>	<b>-45.1</b>	<b>+20.0</b>
Hispanic	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-26.6</b>	<b>+21.3</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-30.1</b>	<b>+24.4</b>
African American	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-47.6</b>	<b>+41.7</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-58.6</b>	<b>-88.1</b>	<b>+29.5</b>

<b>2019 – MATH</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>STATE AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-48.6</b>	<b>-68.6</b>	<b>+20.0</b>
Hispanic	<b>-37.7</b>	<b>-62.2</b>	<b>+24.5</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-40.0</b>	<b>-63.7</b>	<b>+23.7</b>
African American	<b>-53.7</b>	<b>-87.9</b>	<b>+34.2</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-85.4</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>+34.0</b>

<b>2022 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>STATE AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-54.4</b>	<b>-61.2</b>	<b>+6.8</b>
Hispanic	<b>-23.8</b>	<b>-38.6</b>	<b>+14.8</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-24.7</b>	<b>-41.4</b>	<b>+16.7</b>
African American	<b>-33.5</b>	<b>-57.7</b>	<b>+24.2</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-105.9</b>	<b>-97.3</b>	<b>-8.6</b>

<b>2022 – Math</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>STATE AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-109.0</b>	<b>-92.0</b>	<b>-17.0</b>
Hispanic	<b>-81.7</b>	<b>-83.4</b>	<b>+1.7</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-81.8</b>	<b>-84.0</b>	<b>+2.2</b>
African American	<b>-86.5</b>	<b>-106.9</b>	<b>+20.4</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-124.0</b>	<b>-130.8</b>	<b>+6.8</b>

<b>2023 – ELA</b>	<b>LIFELINE</b> Distance From Standard	<b>STATE AVG.</b> Distance From Standard	<b>MARGIN</b>
English Learners	<b>-58.1</b>	<b>-67.7</b>	<b>+9.6</b>
Hispanic	<b>-17.4</b>	<b>-40.2</b>	<b>+22.8</b>
Socio/Disadv	<b>-16.2</b>	<b>-42.6</b>	<b>+26.4</b>
African American	<b>-36.0</b>	<b>-59.6</b>	<b>+23.6</b>
Students w/ Disab.	<b>-92.0</b>	<b>-96.3</b>	<b>+4.3</b>



2023 – Math	LIFELINE	STATE AVG.	MARGIN
	Distance From Standard	Distance From Standard	
English Learners	-91.7	-93.4	+1.7
Hispanic	-56.8	-80.8	+24.0
Socio/Disadv	-55.7	-80.8	+25.1
African American	-67.7	-104.5	+36.8
Students w/ Disab.	-114.2	-127.3	+13.1

**Finding No. 2: There is clear and convincing evidence, as demonstrated by verified data, which shows that Lifeline has achieved some measurable increases in student achievement as defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school.**

District staff has determined that Lifeline has achieved measurable increases in academic achievement based on the verified data submitted in Exhibit “C” to its Renewal Petition.

Lifeline provided 2024 SBAC results for itself, the District, the county, and the State. The SBAC data for Lifeline shows growth, taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lifeline also provided data from NWEA, showing progress of various student groups in ELA and Math.

**B. Lifeline’s Eligibility for Renewal Under Education Code Section 47605 and Corresponding Findings of Fact**

Education Code section 47607, subdivision (b) provides that charter renewals “are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.”

Education Code section 47605, subdivision (c) provides that the governing board of a school district shall not deny a charter petition unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings:

1. The charter school presents an unsound educational program for pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition does not contain the number of signatures required by Education Code section 47605, subdivision (a). [Not applicable to a charter renewal petition.]
4. The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (e).

5. The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 15 elements set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (c)(5)(A)-(O).
6. The petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the charter school for purposes of Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code (the Educational Employment Relations Act).
7. The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the charter school is proposing to locate. [Not applicable to a charter renewal petition.]
8. The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. [Not applicable to a charter renewal petition.]

### **Findings of Fact**

The District conducted a comprehensive review of Lifeline’s Renewal Petition. Overall, as detailed below, the Renewal Petition included reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required legal elements.

#### **Finding No. 3: The Renewal Petition presents a sound educational program for the students enrolled in the charter school.**

Lifeline’s Renewal Petition demonstrates that its program is consistent with sound educational practice. The Renewal Petition explains that the school’s mission is to provide quality education and individual student success planning by helping students master a variety of critical skills in College and Career Preparation, Life Skills, and Community Engagement. It further states that Lifeline’s focus is to provide students with an alternative to the traditional public school environment and that the school’s goal is to provide a caring “family” approach where each individual student receives the support necessary to reach their full potential. The Renewal Petition states that the school’s staff, teachers, and administrators provide students with a safe, academic environment where each child is encouraged and supported to achieve at their highest potential, and that they are held accountable for the success and wellbeing of all students. Teachers meet students “where they are” by providing them with an individualized educational plan.

The Renewal Petition provides a comprehensive description of its curriculum and how it will meet the needs of all students. The Renewal Petition and attached Local Control and Accountability Plan address the eight state priorities, baseline and target data for each priority, and provide detailed descriptions of the actions that Lifeline will implement to accomplish the identified goals. The Renewal Petition also includes a plan for professional development.

Lifeline now offers eight honors or Advanced Placement courses and an advanced math track for middle school. The school has also partnered with organizations to provide students with opportunities such as robotics and coding. Lifeline has also developed concurrent enrollment courses to enable middle and high school students to participate at local community colleges.

In Spring 2023, Lifeline received a six-year WASC accreditation, which rated the school as “highly effective” in the areas of student engagement and relevant learning experiences that support high achievement for all students, “highly effective” in equity and access to the curriculum that supports high achievement for all students, and “highly effective” in a majority of all other categories related to student learning.

**Finding No. 4: The petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the Renewal Petition.**

To support a finding that charter petitioners are “demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program,” the District would need to determine that Lifeline has a past history of involvement in charter schools or other education agencies that the District regards as unsuccessful (e.g., the petitioners have been associated with a charter school of which the charter has been revoked); the petitioners are unfamiliar with the content of the petition or the requirements of law that would apply to the proposed charter school; the petitioners have presented an unrealistic financial and operational plan for the proposed charter school; and/or the petitioners personally lack the necessary background in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and finance and business management. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11967.5.1, subd. (c).)

Lifeline has been successfully operating as a charter school authorized by the District since 2017. District staff has determined that the financial and operational plans are realistic, and that the petitioners have the necessary background to operate the school. Overall, Lifeline’s educational program, finances, and operations demonstrate that it is likely to continue to be successful.

**Finding No. 5: The Renewal Petition contains an affirmation of each of the required conditions.**

The Renewal Petition includes the required affirmations and assurances.

**Finding No. 6: The Renewal Petition includes a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school.**

The Renewal Petition declares that Lifeline “shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of Lifeline Education Charter School for purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act.”

**Finding No. 7: The Renewal Petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements set forth in Education Code section 47605.**

Based on District staff’s analysis, the Renewal Petition generally provides reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements set forth in Education Code section 47605 to support renewal. However, staff identified issues with two elements, as detailed below. These issues can be addressed in a memorandum of understanding between the parties if the Renewal Petition is approved by the District’s Board.

## Educational Program

Education Code section 47605, subdivision (c)(5)(A)(iii) requires a charter school, if it will serve high school students, to provide the manner in which the charter school will inform parents about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements. The Renewal Petition does not provide this information.

## Governance Structure

Appendix “L” to the Renewal Petition indicates that it includes Lifeline’s Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Conflict of Interest Code. While Lifeline provided its Fourth Amended Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Code, the Articles of Incorporation were not included with the Renewal Petition.

### **Finding of Fact No. 8: The Renewal Petition satisfies other key elements relating to Lifeline’s operation.**

Overall, the Renewal Petition adequately addresses the operational and other potential effects of Lifeline (budget and financial reporting, administrative services, and potential civil liability effects), including the acknowledgement that the District shall not be responsible for the debts and obligations of Lifeline, or for claims arising out of the performance of acts, errors, or omissions by Lifeline, if the District meets its oversight obligations.

Regarding facilities for the school, Lifeline does identify the facilities in which it claims to operate and provides detail regarding those facilities. Lifeline states in its Renewal Petition that it operates at the following four locations: Lower Elementary School Campus located at 157 Myrrh Street in Compton, California 90220 (grades TK-3); Upper Elementary School Campus at 357 East Palmer Street in Compton, California 90221 (grades 4-6); Middle School Campus at 440 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California 90221 (grades 7-8); and High School Campus at 225 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California 90221 (grades 9-12). However, staff notes that Lifeline’s website indicates that it operates grades TK through 4 at 415 South Tamarind Avenue, Compton, California 90220, that it operates grades 5 through 8 at 477 E. Compton Boulevard, Compton, California 90221, and that it operates grades 9 through 12 at 255 South Santa Fe Avenue, Compton, California 90221. Lifeline should clarify its current addresses and the grade levels operating at each address. A change in location would require a material revision to Lifeline’s charter.

## **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on District staff’s analysis of the criteria for renewal detailed above, and the corresponding findings of fact, District staff has determined that Lifeline meets the minimum criteria for renewal and recommends renewal for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2025 and concluding on June 30, 2030. Any technical issues or omissions in the Renewal Petition can be addressed in a memorandum of understanding or by a material revision if necessary.