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Public Charter School - Annual Report and Q4 Financial Report

1 message

Flynn, McCall <MFlynn@mt.gov> Fri, Jun 6, 2025 at 9:59 AM
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Good morning, Public Charter Schools—

Happy end of the school year. I wanted to alert you to two items that will take place over the summer:

1. **Performance Reports**: In accordance with 20-6-809, MCA, the Board of Public Education shall annually publish a performance report for each public charter school. Based on requirements in the Charter Contract and statute, the Board will send an overview of performance framework data and ask that you respond with general assurances and any changes to the charter school program, school mission and vision, and governing and organizational structures. You can expect to receive these reports in the next couple weeks.

I will also be making a presentation at the Board's July meeting more generally about the first year of public charter schools (performance frameworks, financial reports, site visits, etc.).

2. **Q4 Financial Reports**: The final financial reports are due August 14. You will not be required to submit quarterly financial reports in Year 2 (Hooray), rather the Board will likely work with MASBO to discuss other ways the Board can monitor public charter school expenditures.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

McCall Flynn

Executive Director

Montana Board of Public Education

406-444-0300

mflynn@mt.gov

Montana Board of Public Education

227 Academy Charter School
2024-25 Annual Performance Report

INTRODUCTION

As outlined in 20-6-809, MCA, the Board of Public Education must annually publish a performance report for each public charter school under its purview aligned with the Public Charter School Performance Framework. The report summarizes the school's academic performance, financial reporting, and organizational performance utilizing the most recent data available for the year in review. The Annual Performance Report also provides a summary of the mission of the charter school and enrollment demographics.

The Board of Public Education is committed to serving and strengthening Montana's system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools, including public charter schools. This Annual Performance Report is produced in order to:

1. Provide timely information to the charter school on its performance relative to the standards and expectations established by applicable federal and state law and the charter contract.
2. Identify the school's strengths and any areas needing improvement.
3. Provide information that enables the community and the public to understand the school's performance.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

School Name	227 Academy Charter School
School Location	East Helena, MT
Grades Served	Grades 6-12
School Mission	The Mission of the 227 Academy is to provide a personalized education enabling all students to achieve, succeed, and thrive.
Middle School Enrollment	Roughly 33 students
High School Enrollment	Roughly 59 students
Total Enrollment	Roughly 92 students

2024-25 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

For each measure in this report, the school receives one of the ratings described below:

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Exceeds Standard	This rating is reserved for performance that far exceeds expectations, demonstrating exceptional performance on a particular measure. This rating may be used in the academic framework, but it is not typically used in the financial or organizational framework.
Meets Standard	The target for this rating category sets the expectation for charter school performance in all measures in all frameworks—academic, financial, and organizational. Schools earning this rating on a particular measure are performing well in that area.
Approaches Standard	Schools with this rating are approaching but have not fully met expectations for performance on a given measure. While these schools have achieved some of the minimum expectations on the measure in question, these schools may be subject to further analysis and potentially closer monitoring. This rating may be used for academic measures and qualitative measures in the organizational and financial frameworks.

Does Not Meet Standard	Schools with this rating on a measure are performing below the authorizer's expectations, and the school is subject to further analysis, closer monitoring, and possibly intervention. This rating is used on all measures in all frameworks.

This section provides an overview of the school's performance in the year reviewed on a variety of academic, financial and organizational measures the school is accountable for achieving, as established by applicable federal and state law and the charter contract.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INDICATORS AND MEASURES	MEETS STANDARD?	NOTES
Academic Performance		
Mission or School-Specific Goal(s)	Meets Standard	
Overall Math Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	
Overall ELA Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	
Subgroup Math Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	
Subgroup ELA Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	
Attendance	N/A	Applicable next year
Student Engagement	Meets Standard	
Graduation Rate	N/A	Applicable next year
Support for Transitions	Meets Standard	
Post-Secondary Readiness	N/A	High School only
Financial Performance		
Financial Performance and Stability	Meets Standard	
Recurrent Enrollment	N/A	Applicable next year
Organizational Performance		
Charter Governing Board Performance and Stewardship	Meets Standard	

If given a rating of "Approaches Standard" or "Does Not Meet Standard" on any Public Charter School Performance Framework metrics, please briefly provide any context and plans to address these concerns.
Regarding the Math and ELA proficiency/growth and subgroup proficiency/growth, our assessment data lumped 227 students in with the larger populations from EHHS and EVMS. Administrators and staff are able to sort that data and track progress among individual students. This will be documented more clearly in subsequent reports to reflect proficiency and growth among 227 students more clearly.

HIGH SCHOOL INDICATORS AND MEASURES	MEETS STANDARD?	NOTES
Academic Performance		
Mission or School-Specific Goal(s)	Meets Standard	
Overall Math Proficiency and Growth	N/A	Elementary and Middle School only
Overall ELA Proficiency and Growth	N/A	Elementary and Middle School only
Subgroup Math Proficiency and Growth	N/A	Elementary and Middle School only
Subgroup ELA Proficiency and Growth	N/A	Elementary and Middle School only
Attendance	N/A	Applicable next year
Student Engagement	Exceeds Standard	
Graduation Rate	N/A	Applicable next year
Support for Transitions	N/A	Elementary and Middle School only
Post-Secondary Readiness	Meets Standard	
Financial Performance		
Financial Performance and Stability	Meets Standard	

Recurrent Enrollment	N/A	Applicable next year
Organizational Performance		
Charter Governing Board Performance and Stewardship	Meets Standard	

SUMMARY OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

As part of the Public Charter School Performance Framework, schools were asked to report on four open-ended questions to provide the Board of Public Education with additional context.

How has the public charter school prioritized innovation different from a program that the school district could operate or currently operates without the public charter designation?
Students at 227 Academy benefit from a variety of instructional methods designed to accommodate diverse learning styles. They have the flexibility to progress independently through standards and proficiency scales at their own pace. Our high school staff is trained in competency-based instruction and prioritizes proficiency scales for essential standards. This approach ensures that all instruction is tailored to meet students' needs, while also providing appropriate interventions. Additionally, we offer a range of learning options, including in-person instruction, competency-based learning, remote education, dual enrollment opportunities, and hybrid learning formats.
Why is the public charter school innovating? What are the student needs in the community that are trying to be met?
Our goal is to increase student graduation rates while supporting students as they pursue their career goals at Helena College. By supporting and implementing these processes, we aim to equip students with valuable skills that they can bring back to our community. Students are also participating in work-study programs that align with their career paths, ranging from childcare to construction. We are currently collaborating with Dick Construction to integrate work-study opportunities with classes through MTSS, further expanding job opportunities for our students.
How is the public charter school flexible and nimble in response to the needs of students?
Each student has a unique path to graduation. Some students are advancing by taking a heavy load of college courses through Helena College, while others are increasing their credits through credit recovery at 227 Academy. We are creating flexible pathways for all students that meet the necessary requirements and support their success both academically and in life. When a student decides that their current path is not working, we adapt their plan to align with their new goals. Our focus is on meeting students' needs to help them succeed in an academic setting.
What roadblocks or challenges is the public charter school encountering in efforts to innovate in the public charter school?
One of the biggest challenges we've faced as a public charter school was enrolling 6th grade students who were interested in our program, not realizing that they would not be counted towards our enrollment numbers. This issue took up spots for our 7th and 8th grade students, making it difficult, from a numbers standpoint, to increase spots without having to move our 6th grade charter students back to the EVMS school. This, in turn, affected our funding. Another challenge is the difficulty of being innovative while adhering to the same accreditation rules and regulations as traditional schools. We strive to be unique, but these guidelines often act as roadblocks to our creativity and innovation.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES:

As outlined in 7.1.3 and 7.1.4 of the Charter Contract, the Charter Governing Board must annually submit to the Board of Public Education a statement of assurances relating to compliance with the Charter Contract and applicable law. The chair of the Charter Governing Board shall initial the following statements of assurance that

the public charter school is in compliance with requirements outlined in the Charter Contract and applicable statute:

_____ 227 Academy Charter School is in compliance with the provisions in Title 20 of Montana Code Annotated and local rule, regulation, policy, and procedure relating to noncharter public schools within the located school district.

_____ 227 Academy Charter School is in compliance with the requirements outlined in the Charter Contract.

CHARTER SCHOOL CHANGES:

As outlined in 7.1.4 of the Charter Contract, public charter schools must annually submit to the Board of Public Education a statement outlining changes to the school's educational program, mission, and governing and organizational structures during the previous year. Please also include any substantive changes expected for the upcoming school year.

Changes to Educational Program:
No Planned Changes
Changes to Public Charter School Mission and Vision:
No Planned Changes
Changes to Governing and Organizational Structures:
No Planned Changes

Signature_____

Chair of the Charter Governing Board Date

Please submit the Annual Report to bpe@mt.gov

Susie Hedalen, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501



Phone: 406.444.3680
opi.mt.gov

County: 025 Lewis & Clark
System: 0615 East Helena Public Schools
School: 3028 227 Academy- Middle School

FINAL ACCREDITATION STATUS:	**Regular**
Assurance Standards Level:	Regular
Student Performance Standards Level	Regular MD
Corrective Plan	NO

School Assurance Standards:

STANDARD	ARM RULE	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
E	10.55.702-710,10.55.716	4	3	
F	10.55.712, 10.55.713	4	4	
G	10.55.714	4	4	
I	10.55.902,10.55.904	4	4	
K	10.55.901,10.55.902, 10.55.904	4	4	N/A

Susie Hedalen, Superintendent
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School Student Performance Standards:

STANDARD	ARM RULE	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
SP-A	10.55.603	4	3	Reviewer 1: The district provided evidence of a tool, student overall proficiency, and a brief narrative on how the school is using data to make instructional decisions. To improve a score in this area, include detailed evidence of teachers making instructional decision based on the data. No additional evidence was provided in the addendum concerning data driven decisions. Reviewer 2: The district provided evidence of an assessment tool and progress monitoring of students math skills. A document outlined how the data is used to schedule math instruction. To improve to a regular the data needs to illustrate how the students are progressing in their math learning.
SP-B	10.55.603	4	3	The district provided evidence of a valid tool along with data. No evidence was provided in the initial or addendum submission concerning how the teachers use the data to make data driven decisions.

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County: 025 Lewis & Clark
System: 0615 East Helena Public Schools
School: 3029 227 Academy- HS

FINAL ACCREDITATION STATUS:	**Regular**
Assurance Standards Level:	Regular
Student Performance Standards Level	Regular
Corrective Plan	NO

School Assurance Standards:

STANDARD	ARM RULE	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
E	10.55.702-710,10.55.716	4	4	
F	10.55.712, 10.55.713	4	3	
G	10.55.714	4	4	
I	10.55.902,10.55.904	4	4	
K	10.55.901,10.55.902, 10.55.904	4	4	N/A

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School Student Performance Standards:

STANDARD	ARM RULE	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
SP-C	10.55.606(6)	4	4	Reviewer 1: The school provided several pieces of evidence to demonstrate students are college and career ready upon graduation by offering advanced placement courses, courses to promote career readiness, and college credit offerings. Reviewer 2: The district has submitted evidence to meet the standard showing students are college and career ready.