



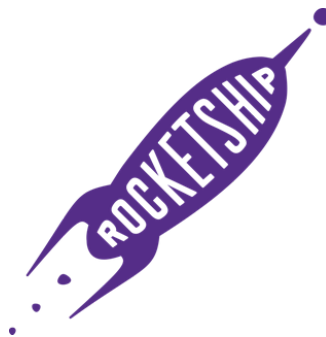
Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

Franklin McKinley School District Staff Report for the Rocketship Spark Academy Charter Renewal Petition

Juan Cruz, Superintendent
George Sanchez, Board President
Steven Sanchez, Board Vice President
Hong Ha Hoang, Board Clerk
Rudy Rodriguez, Board Member
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Charter School Overview



School Name	Rocketship Spark Academy
Charter Management Organization	Rocketship Public Schools
Grades Served	TK - 5
5 year enrollment history (2019-2024)	571, 558, 554, 546, 569 (2021-22 to 2025-26)
School Location	683 Sylvandale Avenue
School Original Charter Date	August, 2013
State Number of Charter School	#1526



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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Strengths	Opportunities
The school is supported by a strong charter management organization and has significant family engagement and support. The school has continued to perform well in academics, enrollment, and meeting the needs of multilingual learner students in the community.	The RS Spark site principal left in 2023-2024, and was replaced with the current school principal. The same year the faculty went from about 30% with clear credentials to a single teacher and two assistant principals with clear credentials. Teacher hiring, placement and credentialing must be monitored. Enrollment remains strong, yet care should be taken to ensure enrollment numbers support financial projections.

EVALUATION METHOD

STANDARD FOR REVIEW OF CHARTER RENEWAL PETITIONS:

Charter renewals are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605 of the Education Code (Ed. Code, § 47607(b).) Renewal petitions must be updated to include reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the essential elements of a charter petition. For purposes of completeness, a renewal petition should contain all of the Section 47605(c)(5)(A)-(O) elements required in the initial petition. Rather than reevaluate elements already approved in the initial petition, staff has focused their review on whether the Charter was sufficiently updated to reflect any changes made to applicable laws or any operational changes the school made since the last renewal. Generally, this means that the petition for renewal should include:

1. Any updates to reflect the charter school's obligations to comply with laws that have been added since the charter petition was originally approved, and
2. Any updates that reflect changes made to the program, including but not limited to key areas such as charter school operations, governance, budget, location, educational program, and student enrollment.

Staff asked the petitioners, at the start of this process, if there have been any substantive changes made to the original charter petition that need to be brought to the District's attention. This may include increases in enrollment; addition of grades served; substantial changes to the governance structure or educational program; changes or additions in location. If so, these may be "material revisions" to the petition that may be considered separately by the District. (If the changes are simply "updates" to state how the charter school will comply with the law, that is not a material revision.)



PERMISSIBLE BASES TO DENY REGARDLESS OF PERFORMANCE CATEGORY:

Regardless of performance category, the law allows denial of a charter renewal petition on two additional bases:

1. The charter is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors; or
2. The charter is not serving the pupils who wish to attend, as documented pursuant to Education Code section 47607(d). (Ed. Code, §47607(a)(2), 47607(e).)

Accordingly, these criteria are included where appropriate in the charts below. Note that the school must be given 30 days' notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school, before denial on these grounds. Renewal may be denied on these grounds only after making a finding that either:

1. The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful; or
2. The violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable. (Ed. Code, § 47607(e).)

STANDARDS ACCORDING TO PERFORMANCE CATEGORY:

Most of the standards for district consideration of a charter renewal petition depend upon the category of performance assigned to the school by the California Department of Education ("CDE") as follows:

- High performing charter school—Section 47607(c)
- Middle performing charter school—Section 47607.2(b)
- Low performing charter school—Section 47607.2(a)

Rocketship Spark Academy (RSS) was identified by the California Department of Education (CDE) as a middle performing school in the 2023 assessment cycle. The CDE will provide a category for the 2024-25 school year in March of 2026.

MIDDLE PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOL

Legal Standard

There is a presumption under the law that the charter of a middle performing charter school should be renewed for five years (no more and no less), unless specified deficiencies warrant denial. In addition to the two bases listed above for any performance category, a governing board can also deny a middle performing charter petition if it makes written findings, supported by specific facts, that:

1. The school failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that benefit students of the school; and
2. Closure is in the best interest of students; and
3. The decision not to renew gave "greater weight" to the school's performance on measures of academic achievement.

(Ed. Code, § 47607.2(b)(6).)



REVIEW OF UPDATES

A middle performing charter must update the petition to reflect any new requirements enacted after its last renewal, as necessary to reflect the current program offered by the charter. (Ed. Code, § 47607(c)(2)(F).)

UPDATES	PAGE NUMBER	NOTES
<i>Does the petition reflect legal updates in accordance with recent changes to the Charter Schools Act?</i>	Pages 5, 6 - 8 Pages 28 - 76	Numerous references throughout the document in appropriate locations, primarily in the Assurances and Declarations and Element A: Educational program sections
<i>Changes to operations or programs</i>	Charter Performance Report, sheet 9, Facilities and Proposed Material Revisions / Substantial Changes.	RSS states that they are not making any material changes in Operations or Programs for this renewal petition period.
<i>Are any of the changes “material” requiring a material revision (including expansion of sites or grade levels)?</i>	Charter Performance Report, sheet 9, Facilities and Proposed Material Revisions.	There are no material changes identified.

REVIEW OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

In considering the renewal petition of a middle performing charter, the district must take into account:

1. Schoolwide performance and performance of all student groups on the California Dashboard - providing greater weight to performance on measures of academic performance; and
2. Clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, that shows either:
 - a. The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement (defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school), or
 - b. Strong secondary outcomes equal to similar peers (defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates.)

(Ed. Code, § 47607.2(b).)

REVIEW OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE Ed. Code, § 47607.2(b)	DATA CONSIDERED AND FINDINGS
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Schoolwide academic performance on the California Dashboard	The State Dashboard shows declines in ELA from Blue in 2022-23, to Green in 2023-24 and to Orange in 2024-25. Math declined from Blue in 2022-23 to Green for two years (2023-24 and 24-25). EL progress was Red in 2022-23, then rose to Blue in 2023-24, and was in Orange in 2024-25.
Student group academic performance on the California Dashboard	The major student demographic groups at Rocketship Spark include: Hispanic and Latino (56.4%), Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (57.30%), Multilingual Learners (48.40%), and Asian (34.2%) so data analysis focuses there. Tables and charts are included in this report illustrating trends and providing information toward understanding performance. Overall, Rocketship Spark saw declines in ELA, Math, and EL progress and fell behind the State for at least one subgroup in ELA. Staff also noted significant gaps between student groups, illustrating a critical area for school focus. These are discussed later in this document.
Other California Dashboard data considered	Classrooms with properly credentialed faculty has been a concern for the last two years. According to the 2023-2024 California State Dashboard, Rocketship has lost several clear credentialled teachers.
Evidence of measurable increases in academic achievement	Academic achievement measures suffered in 2020 - 2022, began recovering, and then fell back in the 2024-25 school year.
Evidence of comparably strong secondary outcomes	N/A

PROCESS STEPS

1. The Charter School submitted a renewal petition to the District following District procedure on September 10, 2025.

2. The site visit to RSS for both regular and annual renewal petition element review was completed on October 2, 2025.
3. The District and the Charter School signed an agreement to extend the public hearing of the charter petition to November 18, 2025 and the final decision date hearing to December 9, 2025.

RENEWAL SITE REVIEW FINDINGS

The site visit to review RSS for both regular annual and renewal petition element review was completed on October 2, 2025.

The Site Visit team included Superintendent Juan Cruz; Dr. Limary Trujillo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; Dr. George Kleidon, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Ms. Jennifer Klassen, Director of Student Wellness and Support Services/Early Learning; Ms. Taylor Nguyen, Coordinator of State and Categorical Programs; Ms. Shelly Pardo, Director of Special Education, and Dr. Linda Delgado and Mr. Douglas Pelton, EdMetrix Education Consultants.

The site visit began with an hour of discussion with school and Rocketship network administrators regarding overall school performance and strategies. The FMSD team then split into groups with one group interviewing students and parents, another group touring classrooms, and other FMSD team members meeting with human resources and special education staff and reviewing school records. The team then reconvened to compare notes and share observations. The site visit closed with a review of observations with the Rocketship staff, requests for additional information and some followup questions, and a zoom meeting in the afternoon for a teacher interview.

Notes and observations from the FMSD staff discussion after interviews, files reviews, and classroom visits are listed below:

- Noted clear routines in classrooms and a clean environment.
- The school has a strong and positive school culture
- District staff continue to question how parents are getting the information about participation not being a requirement for their student to attend the school, and reiterated in the debrief with school and CMO leaders that if the school shows parents their accumulated hours, then the perception will remain that there is a requirement.
- District staff noted that students were able to talk during “circles” in the morning and utilized “turn and talks” to deepen learning, check for understanding and develop positive relationships at school.
- In terms of staffing and inclusion, it was noted that one student talked about feeling comfortable with a teacher, noting that “she looked like her”.
- During the interviews, parents described liking “Spark day” and being involved in the school through the various organized and informal opportunities provided by the school.



- Staff noted that the students interviewed said that they like choices, and to be surveyed so that they could share their opinions, for example “what we want to do at recess”.
- Staff observed that though FMSD has stopped the practice of “writing lines”, a student did talk about it being a current disciplinary consequence used at the school.
- It was noted that students were interested in having more art, particularly in the upper grades.
- From discussions with students, there was a sense that some disciplinary consequences had impacts on student recess or lunch time. FMSD staff noted that it is not legal to take away recess and lunch time as punishment.
- FMSD staff discussed the Special Education student transitions to District schools as an improvement area, where school and District will work together to improve.
- District staff noted that some incentives—such as “clip-ups” and “Rocket Money”—are increasingly viewed in educational research as less effective and potentially reinforcing inequities.

Additional questions were formatted and sent to Rocketship Spark after the visit, as shown in Exhibit A, in the Exhibits section of this report.

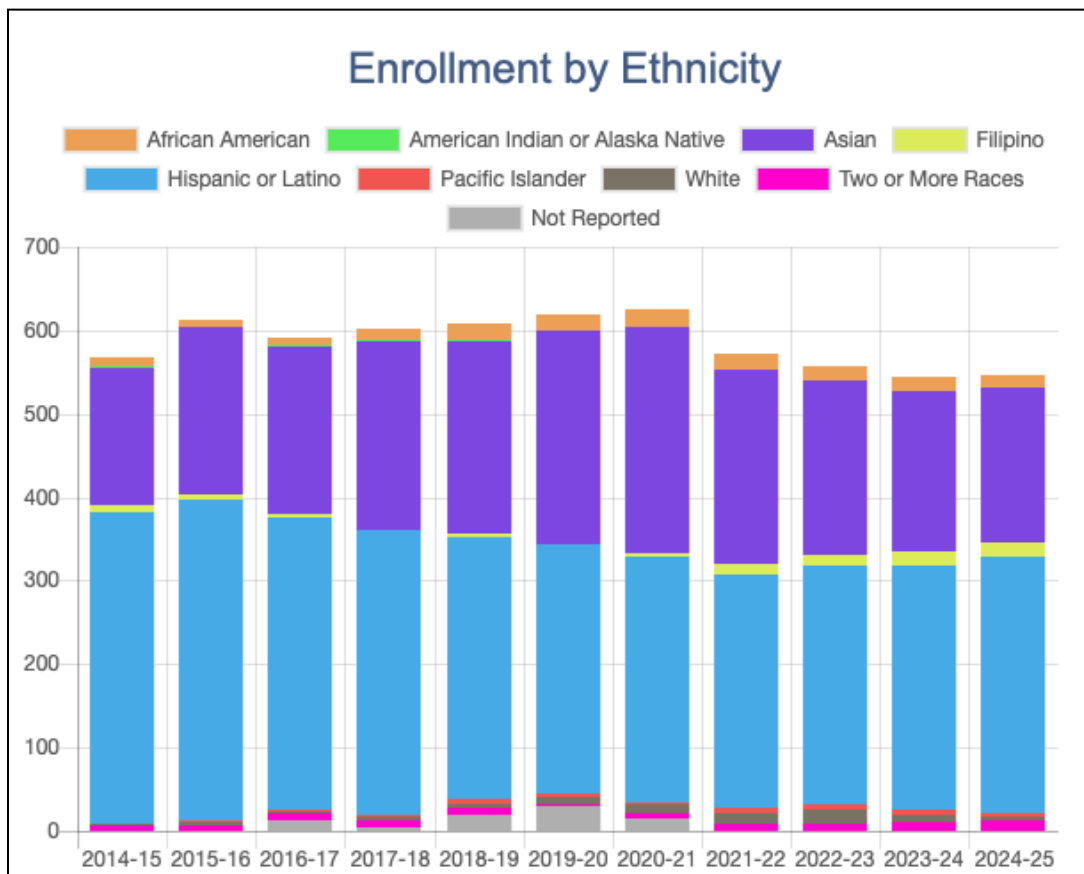
STUDENTS SERVED

Prior to examining performance scores, a review of the school’s enrollment provides context. First, a look at student student groups from 2021 through 2025 by academic year are shown below.

Student Groups	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Multilingual Learners	53.80%	49.10%	46.70%	48.40%
Foster Youth	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.20%
Homeless Youth	1.60%	2.70%	5.70%	9.50%
Migrant Education	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Students with Disabilities	8.20%	9.70%	9.70%	10.30%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	60.10%	59.50%	59.00%	57.30%
All Students	571	558	544	546

The largest student groups served are Multilingual Learners (ELs), and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students (SED).

Over time ethnic enrollment has been fairly consistent, as demonstrated by the following chart.



For the 2024-25 academic year the two most prominent ethnicities served were Hispanic and Latino at 56.4%, and Asian at 34.2%.

Combining the largest student student groups served suggests focus on English Language Learners, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students. The largest ethnic populations served includes Hispanic and Latino, and Asian students. These form a central focus of this review.



RENEWAL CRITERIA I:

Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?

1. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: CALIFORNIA DASHBOARD

The table below is a three year performance history comparing RSS to the District and State.

Franklin McKinley School District										
Rocketship Spark Academy										
School-wide Performance										
State Measures		2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	Indicator	RS Spark	FMSD	State	RS Spark	FMSD	State	RS Spark	FMSD	State
	ELA	Blue	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow
	MATH	Blue	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow
	EL Progress	Red	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Red	Orange	Orange	Green	Yellow
	Suspension	Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Green
	Chronic Absenteeism	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Local Indicators	Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities	Met			Met			Met		
	Implementation of Academic Standards	Met			Met			Met		
	Parent and Family Engagement	Met			Met			Met		
	Local Climate Survey	Met			Met			Met		
	Access to a Broad Course of Study	Met			Met			Met		
Note: Suspension and Chronic Absenteeism have performance descriptions opposite of ELA, Math and ELP scales										
		Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue				
		<---- Range ---->								

Though RSS showed EL progress as red in 2022-23, data shows a recovery in the 2023-2024 school year to blue. RSS was rated higher in the State color coding of performance categories at the school level in Math and Suspension, with chronic absenteeism similar to State and District indicators for the latest year of data (2024-25). The newly released 2024-25 State dashboard data does show declines in ELA and EL progress for Rocketship, below the State colors, and staff are concerned about this trend.

The two tables below show six years of ELA and Math performance comparing RSS, the District, and the State.



School View, All Students					
English Language Arts	2018-19 (at last renewal)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Rocketship Spark	31.4 pts above maintained +2.9 pts	0.9 pts below	19.4 pts above increased +20.3 pts	11.7 pts above declined -7.6 pts	10.7 pts below declined -22.5 pts
FMSD	13.2 pts below maintained +0.7 pts	36 pts below	38.5 pts below maintained -2.5 pts	43.4 pts below declined -4.9 pts	41.2 pts below maintained +2.2 pts
California	2.5 pts below increased +3.7 pts	12.2 pts below	13.6 pts below maintained -1.4 pts	13.2 pts below maintained +0.4 pts	8.1 pts below increased +5.1 pts

Math	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Rocketship Spark	64.7 pts above increased +14.4 pts	7.2 pts below	18.1 pts above increased +25.3 pts	21.9 pts above increased +3.8 pts	9.9 pts above declined -12 pts
FMSD	34.6 pts below declined -3.4 pts	62 pts below	63.1 pts below maintained -1.1 pts	64.5 pts below maintained -1.4 pts	64.3 pts below maintained +0.2 pts
California	33.5 pts below maintained +2.9 pts	51.7 pts below	49.1 pts below maintained +2.6 pts	47.6 pts below maintained +1.5 pts	42.4 pts below increased +5.2 pts

Dataquest State Dashboard Data: 11/1/2025

The tables above show that RSS lost ground in terms of performance in both ELA and Math during the pandemic years of 2020, 2021, and 2022. The school began recovering performance in these two areas in 2022-23 and (in Math) 2023-24. District staff observed a decline in 2024-25 in both areas, and are looking to see how the school addresses this trajectory. RSS is now performing better than the District and State in Math, but fell short of the state in 2024-25 in ELA.

a. STUDENT GROUP PERFORMANCE: DASHBOARD

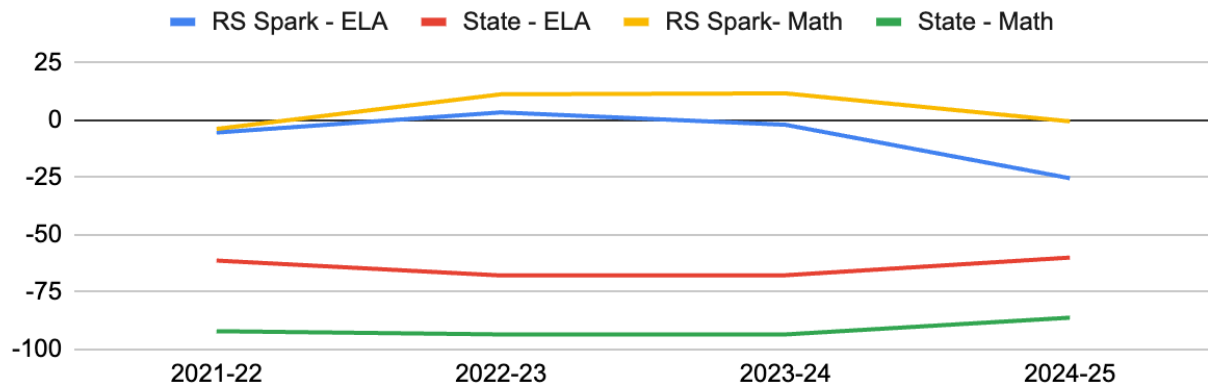
RSS sustained scores for the English Language Learner (ELL) student groups above the state averages for all years reflected in the table, yet both ELL and the Hispanic student groups declined in ELA and Math in 2024-25. RSS fell behind the State in the Hispanic subgroup in ELA. Below are a series of tables and charts for the four largest student groups: Multilingual Learners, Hispanic and Latino, Asian, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged demonstrating scores and changes.



		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Multilingual Learners	RS Spark - ELA	-5.4	3.4	-2.0	-25.3
	State - ELA	-61.2	-67.7	-67.6	-59.9
	RS Spark- Math	-3.8	11.3	11.7	-0.5
	State - Math	-92	-93.4	-93.4	-86.1

Negative numbers in the table below are points below the state performance target.

4 Year Student Group Comparison: English Learners



Negative numbers in the table below are points below the state performance target.

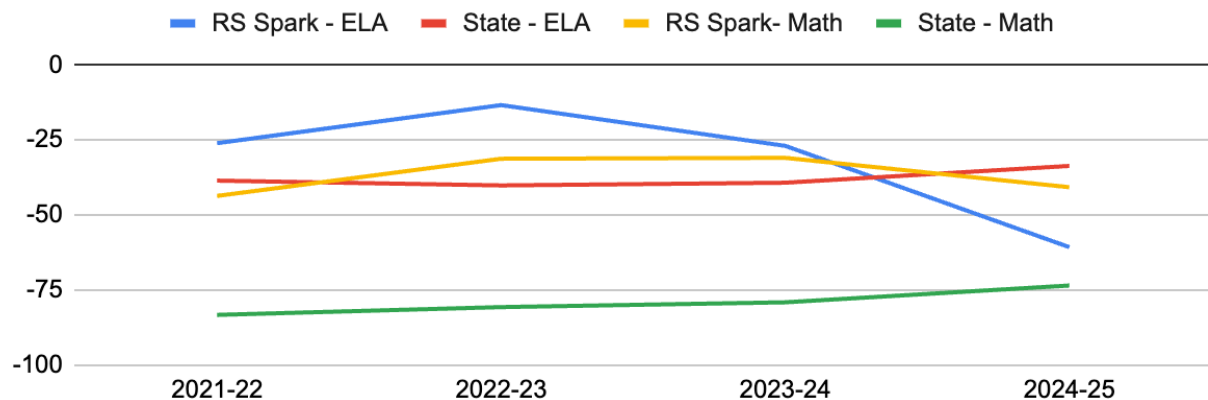
Rocketship Spark's Multilingual Learners show a decline in 2024-25 in both ELA and Math, with comparative State scores climbing in both performance areas, an area for improvement, yet it is clear that the school has outperformed the state in both ELA and Math.



		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Hispanic and Latino	RS Spark - ELA	-26.1	-13.4	-27.0	-60.8
	State - ELA	-38.6	-40.2	-39.3	-33.7
	RS Spark- Math	-43.7	-31.3	-31.0	-40.8
	State - Math	-83.4	-80.8	-79.2	-73.6

Negative numbers in the table below are points below the state performance target.

4 Year Student Group Comparison: Hispanic and Latino



Negative numbers in the table below are points below the state performance target.

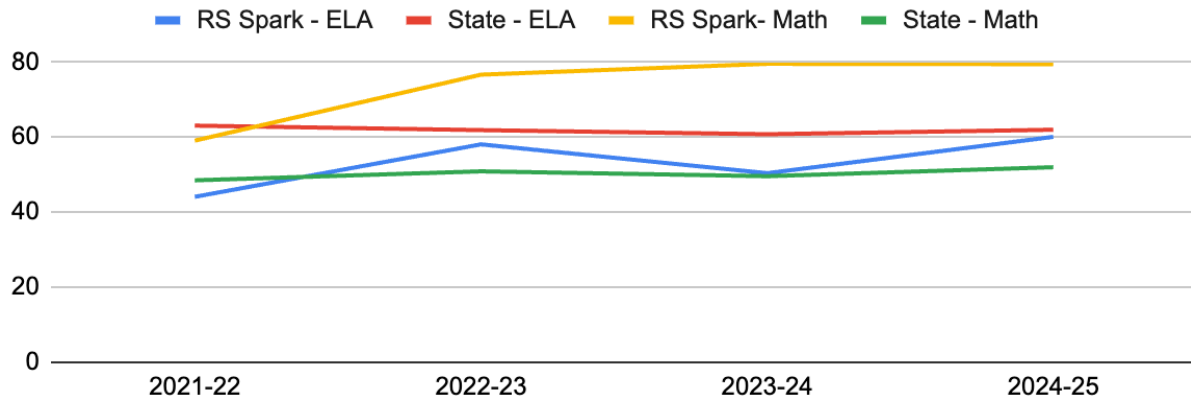
The Hispanic and Latino student group at RSS showed a decline beginning in 2023-24 and 2024-25 in ELA and in 2024-25 in Math, with comparative State scores climbing in both performance areas. The State outperformed RSS in ELA for this student group.

Asian students comprised 34.2 % of the school's enrollment for the 2024-25 academic year, so their data are provided and reviewed below.

		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Asian	RS Spark - ELA	44	58	50.3	60
	State - ELA	63	61.8	60.7	61.9
	RS Spark- Math	59	76.6	79.5	79.4
	State - Math	48.4	50.8	49.5	51.9



4 Year Student Group Comparison: Asian



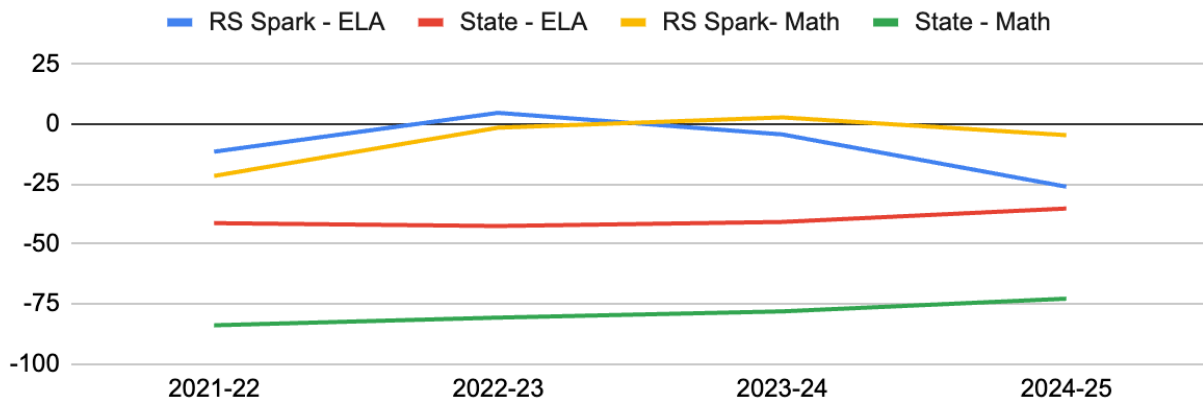
Asian students continue to grow toward or beyond performance targets in both ELA and Math. The state outperformed RSS for ELA and RSS outperformed the state in Math.

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students comprised 57.3% of enrollment, and the performance data for that group follows.

		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	RS Spark - ELA	-11.6	4.6	-4.4	-26.2
	State - ELA	-41.4	-42.6	-40.9	-35.3
	RS Spark- Math	-21.7	-1.6	2.7	-4.7
	State - Math	-84	-80.8	-78.2	-72.9

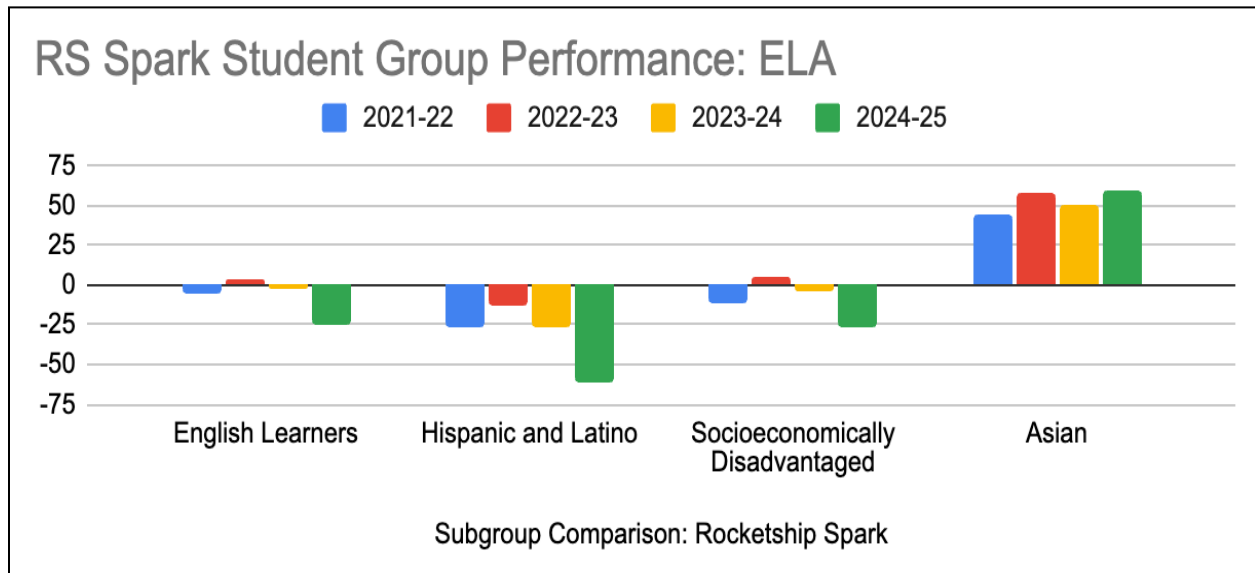
- Negative numbers in the table below are points below the state performance target.

4 Year Subgroup Comparison: Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



The Socioeconomically Disadvantaged subgroup at RSS showed a decline in 2024-25 in both ELA and Math, while comparative State scores climbed in both performance areas. RSS dropped significantly for this subgroup in ELA, and by just a few percentage points in Math. The school has outperformed the state for each year reviewed.

The data above is aggregated and compared next providing a review of the student groups that comprise the Rocketship Spark enrollment. Included are the four largest student groups served: ELs, Hispanic and Latino, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and Asian students. The zero line is the state's performance target, so that student groups who average zero or any positive number are on target.



The charts above and below show comparisons between key student groups at RSS in both ELA and Math performance over the last four years. Notable are the positive performance trend for the Asian subgroup and the downward trend for the other three student groups.

The chart demonstrates a significant instructional opportunity gap at Rocketship Spark School. 60% of Asian students are on target or above the proficiency target in ELA, whereas for Socioeconomic students those attaining proficiency average -26.2 points from the target. The difference is 86.2 points. In math the gap is nearly as wide, at 84.1 points.

b. STUDENT PERFORMANCE - CA DASHBOARD EL PROGRESS

To be noted as well is a drop in the ELL performance in the 2024-25 dashboard results for Rocketship Spark, when both FMSD and the state show improvement.

EL PROGRESS	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25



Rocketship Spark	36.9% making progress	40.1% making progress	31.0% making progress declined -9.1%	70.1% making progress increased +39.1%	51.2% making progress declined -18.9%
FMSD	52.7% making progress	56.1% making progress	52.1% making progress declined -4%	40.9% making progress declined -11.1%	49.1% making progress increased +8.2%
California	48.3% making progress	50.3% making progress	48.7% making progress maintained -1.6%	45.7% making progress declined -3%	46.4% making progress maintained +0.7%

c. ENGLISH LEARNER PERFORMANCE: ELPAC

The following report from Dataquest shows the status of students by grade level where the RFEP column shows those students who were classified EL when starting at the school but have been reclassified as Proficient in English.

2024-25							
Grade	Multilingual Learners				EL Total	RFEP	Total (Ever-EL)
	EL 0-3 Years	At-Risk 4-5 Years	LTEL 6+ Years	EL 4+ Years Not At-Risk or LTEL			
TK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KN	59	0	0	0	59	0	59
1	60	0	0	0	60	0	60
2	46	0	0	0	46	2	48
3	33	5	0	0	38	15	53
4	8	14	0	26	48	13	61
5	0	3	0	10	13	3	16
(Total) RSS	206	22	0	36	264	33	297
FMSD	1,904	439	351	700	3,394	1,289	4,683
County	28,399	4,830	9,127	8,429	50,785	41,741	92,526
State	516,866	115,010	198,881	178,309	1,009,066	909,319	1,918,385
<i>Dataquest EL Enrollment: "At-Risk" and "LTEL" by grade report</i>							

2. VERIFIED DATA

Education Code requires the authorizer of a charter school in the Middle or Low performing tiers to consider Verified Data for an elementary or middle school showing that the school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement defined by at least one year's progress for each



year in school. Verified data submitted for review must include the results of a minimum of 95% of eligible students to be included in the review. The list of qualifying Verified Data that the California State Board of Education allows for use in evaluation in the renewal process is defined in Education Code Section 47607.2(c)(1).

RSS submitted schoolwide NWEA data in their submission.

As suggested by the California Department of Education (CDE), Verified data from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) will reflect a minimum of 1 year growth for students when using a Conditional Growth Indicator (CGI) of between -0.2 and +0.2. The table provided by RSS in their charter renewal supplemental materials submission demonstrates continued minimum of one year growth in the last 6 years for all but student groups in all educational areas with the exception of students with disabilities (Sw/D in the table below) in the 2021-22 school year.

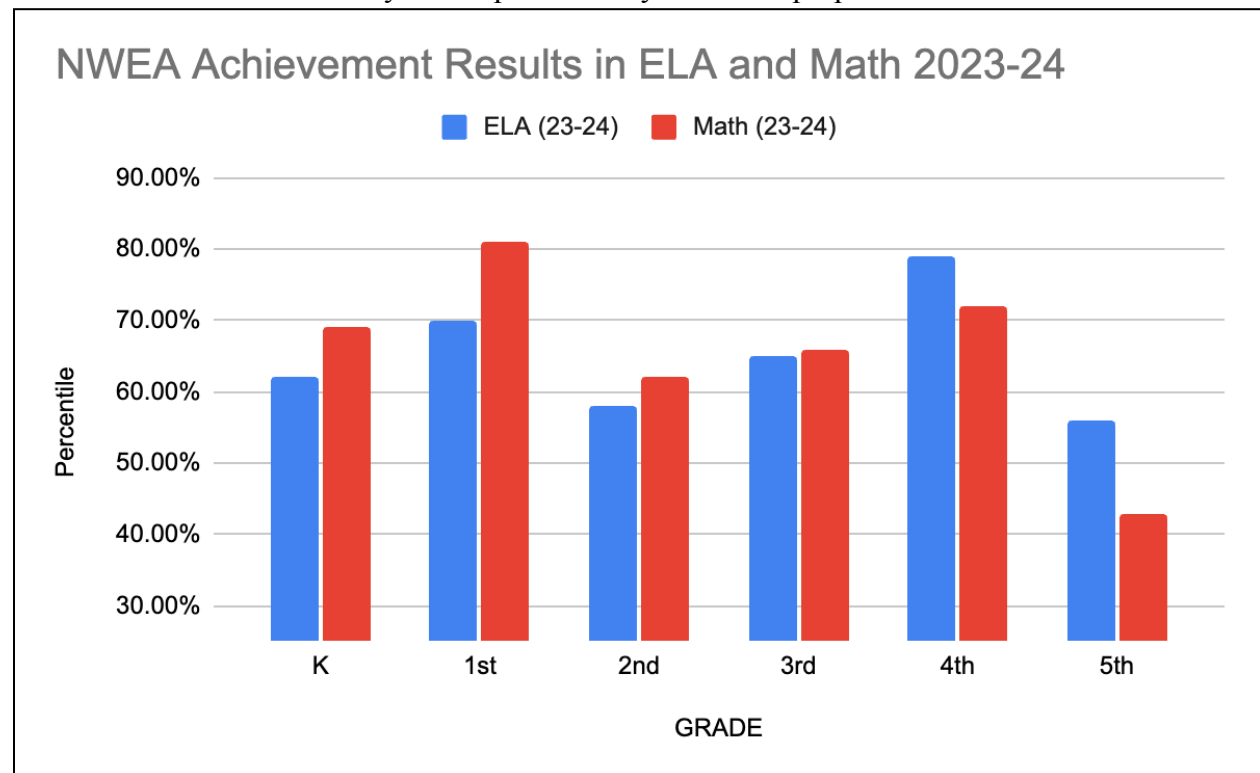
Table 15- Average CGI at Rocketship Spark Academy (2018-19 – 2024-25)						
Student Group	2018-19	2019-20*	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Mathematics						
All students	1.10	0.47	0.18	0.34	0.40	0.39
Asian	1.40	0.73	0.34	0.38	0.49	0.53
EL	1.16	0.59	0.19	0.36	0.47	0.45
Hispanic	0.87	0.24	0.04	0.30	0.36	0.32
FRL	1.02	0.37	0.13	0.33	0.39	0.30
SwD	0.84	0.08	-0.43	0.54	0.44	0.74
Reading						
All students	0.50	0.31	0.13	0.26	0.30	0.17
Asian	0.63	0.68	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.23
EL	0.62	0.33	0.10	0.28	0.36	0.02
Hispanic	0.40	-0.04	0.02	0.23	0.28	0.12
FRL	0.48	0.26	0.06	0.26	0.23	0.11
SwD	0.51	0.40	-0.25	0.93	0.04	0.39
* Growth reported is Fall-to-Winter because spring assessment could not be administered due to COVID-19 school closures Growth based on 2020 NWEA Norms						

Note: Data above and below is based on renewal petition verified data submission elements



	GRADE	ELA (23-24)	ELA (24-25)	Math (23-24)	Math (24-25)
Percentile	<i>K</i>	62%	62%	69%	73%
	<i>1st</i>	70%	42%	81%	65%
	<i>2nd</i>	58%	68%	62%	70%
	<i>3rd</i>	65%	60%	66%	60%
	<i>4th</i>	79%	67%	72%	58%
	<i>5th</i>	56%	77%	43%	77%

The charts below show NWEA results as proportion of students above the 50th percentile for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years as presented by Rocketship Spark.





RENEWAL CRITERIA II:

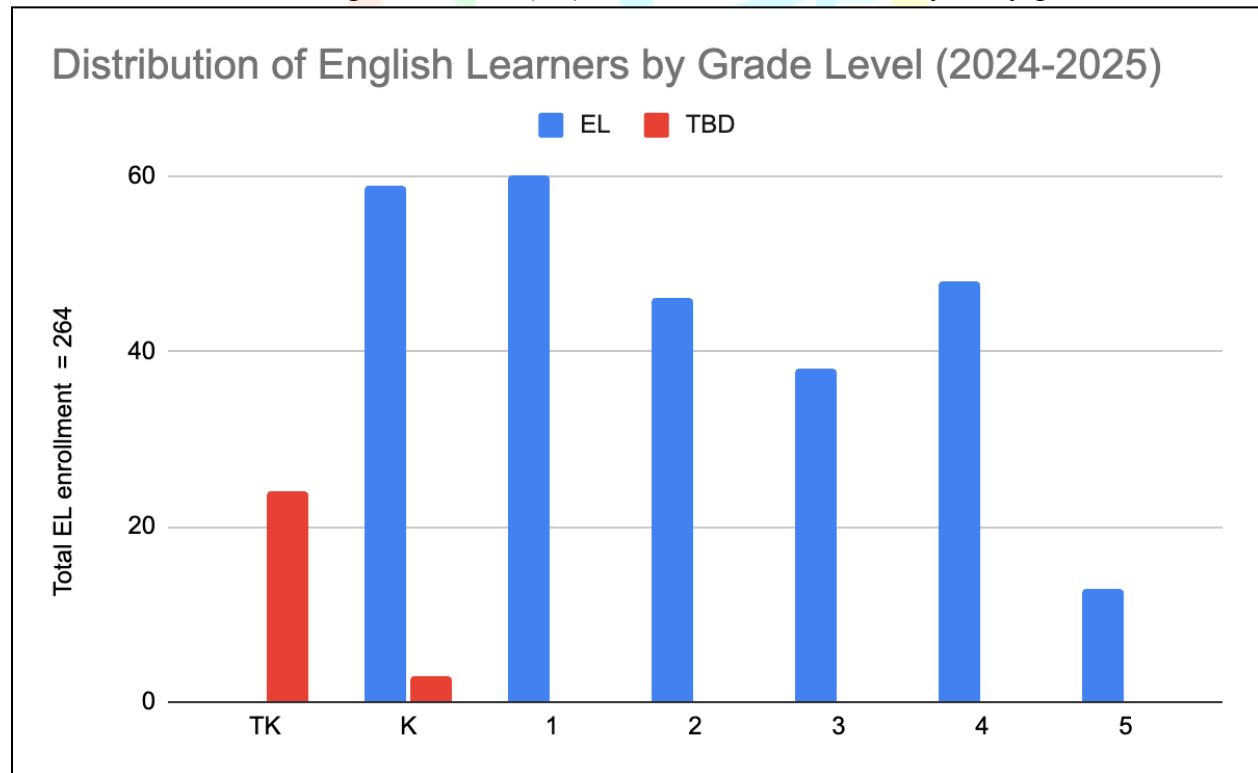
Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?

1. ENROLLMENT

The chart below is intended to demonstrate the current and past 6 years of enrollment levels at RSS.

Enrollment Comparison								
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total 6-yr change
Rocketship Spark	618	625	571	558	544	546	569	
		1.1%	-8.6%	-2.3%	-2.5%	0.4%	4.2%	-7.9%
FMSD	6,575	6,611	6,196	5,952	5,766	5,703	5,465	
		0.5%	-6.3%	-3.9%	-3.1%	-1.1%	-4.2%	-16.9%

The chart below shows English Learner (EL) enrollment for the current year by grade.





2. FINANCE

a. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The FMSD Fiscal Team reviewed various supporting documents to evaluate the fiscal solvency of the Rocketship Spark Academy Charter.

b. FINANCIAL REVIEW FINDINGS

- i. Financial assumptions appear reasonable. Reserves meet the 3% threshold. No items noted.
- ii. Current enrollment numbers exceed adopted budget assumptions by 38 students (as of October 2, 2025), indicating the charter may expect a larger ending fund balance and reserve than previously projected. The projected FY 25-26 reserve percentage at the adopted budget is 77.6%, which far exceeds the State required 4% reserve of a district the size of Rocketship Spark. As an entity, the required reserve for Rocketship is 3%.

Rocketship Spark Academy		
<i>Audit Issues</i>		
Year	New Findings	Repeat Findings
2019-2020	none	none
2020-2021	none	none
2021-2022	none	none
2022-2023	2023-001 Transitional Kindergarten. Identified issue, not conforming to law: not more than 24 students per site and 1 adult for each 12 students	none
2023-2024	2023-001 Corrective actions for Transitional Kindergarten have been implemented and tested. This is no longer a finding for Rocketship Spark in 2023-24. We noted 3 new findings in the 23-24 audit, but they were not related to Rocketship Spark. They were: 1. Finding 2024-001 - Transitional Kindergarten average enrollment exceeds 20 students at Rocketship Si Se Puede	none



	2. Finding 2024-002 - Unduplicated Pupil Counts - Rocketship Rising Stars 3. Finding 2024-003 - Attendance - Rocketship Alma For each of these items, we have reviewed the summary of corrective actions implemented, and they are deemed appropriate. We await the audit findings for FY 2024-25 to ensure the corrective actions remain effective.	
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Note- Audit report for 2024-25 not due until December 15, 2025

c. KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

The Exhibit below shows key financial indicators for Rocketship Spark Academy over the last five years ending 2024/25 as assembled from annual audit reports (and unaudited actuals for 2024-25).

	Financial Overview				
Rocketship Spark Academy	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 Unaudited
Ending Fund Balance (K. Fund Bal. Net Position)	\$5,218,675	\$5,325,390	\$6,498,008	\$7,888,567	\$8,478,860
Revenues (A.5. Total Revenues)	\$8,441,874	\$9,107,849	\$11,448,368	\$11,945,297	\$11,551,062
Expenses (B.8. Total Expenditures)	\$7,497,415	\$9,001,134	\$10,315,750	\$10,554,738	\$10,960,768
Transfers		0	0	0	0
Spending (Revenues - Expenses)	\$944,459	\$106,715	\$1,132,618	\$1,390,559	\$590,294
Spending ratio (% of Revenue Spent)	88.81%	98.83%	90.11%	88.36%	94.89%
Reserve ratio (Ending Fund Balance / Current Expenses)	69.61%	59.16%	62.99%	74.74%	77.36%
Enrollment	625	571	558	544	546



Unduplicated Enrollment	492	446	417	398	305
<i>Note: Data is assembled from Audit reports submitted each year to FMSD by Rocketship Schools per MOU.</i>					

The following figure shows current enrollment by grade level. This chart is included to highlight the particular importance of TK and K enrollment as an indicator of future enrollment. RSS leadership will need to address student / family recruitment to sustain enrollment with changing District demographics and balance of TK and K student populations and flow into grade 1.

School - Enrollment by grade								
Academic Year	Total	Grade TK	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
2017-18	601	0.00%	21.30%	17.80%	18.50%	18.80%	18.30%	5.30%
2018-19	608	0.00%	23.00%	19.10%	18.90%	18.40%	16.10%	4.40%
2019-20	618	0.00%	21.80%	19.60%	18.40%	17.80%	17.60%	4.70%
2020-21	625	0.00%	22.20%	18.90%	18.70%	17.40%	16.80%	5.90%
2021-22	571	0.00%	22.60%	17.90%	18.90%	18.90%	16.30%	5.40%
2022-23	558	0.00%	22.80%	17.70%	17.60%	17.90%	17.40%	6.60%
2023-24	544	8.50%	14.70%	17.30%	19.30%	18.00%	16.70%	5.50%
2024-25	546	8.10%	20.00%	16.70%	15.90%	18.70%	15.80%	4.90%

3. STAFFING AND TEACHER CREDENTIALING

Following Education code 47605(I)(1), FMSD monitors and assesses charter school compliance to meet CDE requirements for classroom teachers. The following Exhibit shows the latest four years of CDE teacher credential data from Dataquest for RSS, the District, the County, and State.

Franklin McKinley School District - Rocketship Spark Teacher Credential Status								
Name	Total Teaching FTE	Clear	Out-of Field	Intern	Ineffective	Incomplete	Unknown	N/A
2023-24								
Rocketship Spark	16.5	33.30%	0.00%	12.10%	54.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FMSD	366.4	80.40%	1.30%	4.30%	8.20%	5.70%	0.00%	0.00%
Santa Clara	11,375.40	84.30%	2.20%	1.70%	6.80%	4.80%	0.20%	0.00%
Statewide	278,927.10	82.50%	4.30%	2.20%	6.00%	4.60%	0.10%	0.30%



2022-23								
Rocketship Spark Academy	16.5	39.40%	6.10%	30.30%	24.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FMSD	386.5	78.30%	1.20%	5.40%	9.80%	2.70%	2.80%	0.00%
Santa Clara	11,291.70	85.20%	2.10%	1.80%	6.10%	4.20%	0.70%	0.00%
Statewide	277,698.00	83.20%	4.20%	2.00%	5.40%	4.70%	0.30%	0.20%
2021-22								
Rocketship Spark	17	35.30%	0.00%	17.60%	47.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FMSD	420.6	79.10%	1.30%	3.90%	9.30%	5.80%	0.60%	0.00%
Santa Clara	11,665.70	86.30%	2.20%	1.90%	4.70%	4.80%	0.10%	0.00%
Statewide	279,044.90	84.00%	4.30%	1.70%	4.30%	5.20%	0.30%	0.20%
2020-21								
Rocketship Spark	18	33.30%	5.60%	33.30%	27.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FMSD	417.1	79.90%	1.80%	4.40%	8.40%	5.40%	0.00%	0.00%
Santa Clara	11,885.70	86.00%	2.60%	1.70%	4.00%	5.50%	0.30%	0.00%
Statewide	274,759.10	83.10%	4.40%	1.50%	4.10%	5.70%	1.00%	0.20%

During the October 2025 site visit conversations District staff noted the current year number of clear credentialed teachers assigned to classrooms at RSS is now only one, with two Assistant Principals and the Principal with clear credentials along with an Educational Specialist with a clear credential. The current data is from monthly teacher credential updates provided to the District by all authorized District charter schools including Rocketship Spark. District staff continue to discuss the importance of clear credentialed teachers in classrooms and an open dialog with families about the level of experience in their student's classrooms.



RENEWAL CRITERIA III:

Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?

Element	Yes/No
Description of educational program	Yes
Measurable pupil outcomes	Yes
Method for assessing pupil progress	Yes
Governance structure of the school	Yes
Employee qualifications	Yes
Health & safety procedures	Yes
Means to achieve race/ethnic balance	Yes
Admission requirements, if applicable	Yes
Manner in which annual independent financial audits shall be conducted	Yes
Student suspension & expulsion procedures	Yes
Staff coverage by State Teachers' Retirement System, Public Employees' Retirement System or Social Security	Yes
Public school attendance alternatives	Yes
District employee leave & return rights	Yes
Dispute resolution process	Yes
Procedures for closure of school	Yes

RENEWAL CRITERIA IV:

Is the Charter School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?

Review of Student Disenrollment

The table below is based on the Education Code 47607(d) information supplied by the CDE to Districts requesting for the school or schools submitting renewal petitions. The table reflects the percentage of students who leave before the end of the school year or who do not return the next year. These numbers reflect a stable quantity of students who are enrolled at the beginning of the year but leave before the end of the year, as well as students who do not return for the next year. Note: students who would be moving to a grade level not offered at the school are not included in the percentage.

There is no clear indicator that Rocketship Spark is not serving all of the students in the district who wish to attend on this particular assessment criteria.

Retention			
2023-2024			
	Students leaving / not returning	School Average scores	Difference from school average scores
% leaving before end of year	18.59%		
<i>ELA Distance from Std.</i>	30.28	11.7	18.6
<i>MATH Distance from Std.</i>	30.95	21.9	9.1
% not returning	22.63%		
<i>ELA Distance from Std.</i>	38.17	11.7	26.5
<i>MATH Distance from Std.</i>	34.77	21.9	12.9

Note: Assembled from 7607(b)(1)(B) and (C) data requested from CDE

In the chart above, both groups assessed above showed higher scores than the school averages in ELA and Math. The two groups show a relatively high percentage of students leaving before the end of the 2023-24 school year, and a high percentage of students not returning in the 2023-24 school year but who attended in 2022-23.

The following chart is another view of disenrollment data, disaggregated by subgroup for the 2024-2025 school year. In particular, Students with Disabilities who can be vulnerable to disenrollment are shown as a lower proportion of those students who do leave before the end of the year. The Homeless Youth subgroup is shown as having the highest proportion of students leaving during the 2024-25 school year.



Enrollment Stability Data						
	Student Group	Adjusted Cumulative Enrollment	Stability Count	Stability Rate	Non-Stability Count	Non-Stability Rate
2024 - 25	Multilingual Learners	281	261	92.90%	20	7.10%
	Homeless Youth	63	50	79.40%	13	20.60%
	Students With Disabilities	73	65	89.00%	8	11.00%
	Foster Youth	*	*	*	*	*
	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	352	319	90.60%	33	9.40%

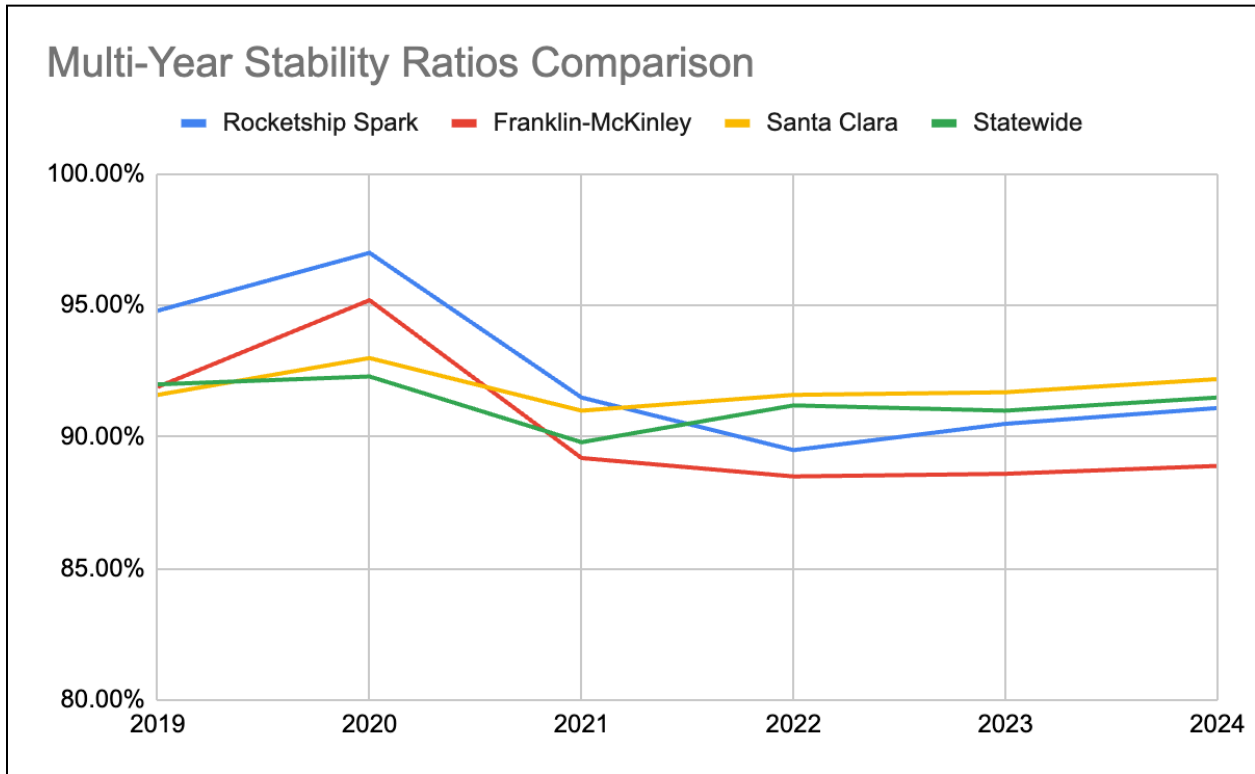
Note: All tables and charts from DataQuest Stability Reports data

The second chart in the stability rate analysis shows an overall comparison of RSS with District, County, and State:

Multi Year Stability Rate						
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Rocketship Spark	94.80%	97.0%	91.5%	89.5%	90.5%	91.1%
FMSD	91.90%	95.2%	89.2%	88.5%	88.6%	88.9%
Santa Clara	91.60%	93.0%	91.0%	91.6%	91.7%	92.2%
Statewide	92.00%	92.3%	89.8%	91.2%	91.0%	91.5%

Note: All tables and charts from DataQuest Stability Reports data

In this comparative view of stability data generated by the California Department of Education shows that Rocketship Spark compared favorably against the County, State, and District for the first three years shown but fell behind the State and County from 2022-23 through 2024-25. Stability rates seem to be consistent in the post pandemic years.



Note: Chart developed from DataQuest Stability Reports data



OTHER RENEWAL CRITERIA:

ISSUES, INFORMATION REQUESTS, AND NOTICES:

Rocketship Spark Academy: Submission Information								
	<i>Submissions total</i>	<i>Submissions Late</i>	<i>Submissions past due</i>	<i>late submissions %</i>	<i>Past due %</i>	<i>Letters of inquiry</i>	<i>Notices of Concern</i>	<i>Notices to Correct</i>
2022-23	29	2	0	7%	0	0	0	0
2023-24	34	6	0	18%	0%	0	0	0
2024-25	58	1	0	2%	0%	0	0	0
2025-26 (as of 11/1/2025)	26	0	0	0%	0%	1	0	0

The Rocketship Spark school and the Rocketship CMO maintain a good communication channel to the District, regularly reaching out to District staff and Superintendent, and FMSD Board of Trustees to share events, ask questions, and otherwise maintain an open channel of communication. Rocketship schools have done a good job of fulfilling requests from the District for materials required by the District in performing oversight as required by California Education Code. Rocketship has made sure to submit requirements into Epicenter on schedule with no late submissions so far in the 2025-26 school year, in an improving posture year over year.

No notices of concern or notices to correct have been issued in the past 4 years, and only in the renewal year has FMSD sent a Letter of Inquiry (LoI) on 10/12/25 in regard to charter renewal / site visit related questions.

NOTICES OF CONCERN AND/OR NOTICES TO CURE AND CORRECT

If credible evidence suggests that a charter school has violated state or federal law or the terms of its charter petition, the Superintendent will send the school, charter school board, or charter management organization a Notice of Concern regarding the issue, which includes remedies the charter school must implement to rectify the issue and resolve the Notice of Concern.

Education Code section 47607(e) provides grounds for denying renewal upon substantial fiscal or governance factors, independent of a charter school's academic performance. That statute states as follows:

Notwithstanding [Education Code 47607] subdivision (c) and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 47607.2, the chartering authority may deny renewal of a charter school upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors, or is not serving all pupils who wish to attend, as documented pursuant to subdivision (d). The chartering authority may deny renewal of a charter school under this subdivision only after it has provided at least 30 days' notice to the charter school of the alleged violation and provided the charter school with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school. The chartering authority may deny renewal only by making either of the following findings:

- (1) The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful.
- (2) The violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable.

There were no Notices of Concern, or Notices to Cure and Correct issued during the current petition period from 2019 through 2025.



REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AFTER SITE VISIT

A request (Exhibit A) was made to RSS following the FMSD Charter Oversight site visit of October 12, 2025. Responses to the October 12, 2025 memo to RSS are shown in Exhibit B and Exhibit C.





**Franklin-McKinley
School District**
PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

EXHIBITS A - C





EXHIBIT A. SITE VISIT FOLLOW UP NOTICE FROM THE DISTRICT TO RSS

As we discussed in our Franklin McKinley School District (FMSD) site visit conference, there is some additional information that we are requesting in support of the charter renewal petition submitted by Rocketship Schools for Spark Academy.

10/10/2025

This letter is to request information about the following issues or concerns.

1. At the site visit of 10/2/2025, Superintendent Cruz noted that the submission of annual budget materials the MYP file didn't have dollar values for FY 26-27 and 27-28. There were links for those values to documents not submitted.
2. Annual budget financial projections for 2025-26 estimated 531 students, and the enrollment projection submitted just prior to the 10/2/2025 site visit showed 569 students.
3. The enrollment breakdown by subgroup provided by Rocketship Spark shows a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged proportion of just under 48% for the current year, down from just under 60% last year for the same subgroup.
4. The last Rocketship audit report reviewed by FMSD staff (From December 2024) showed three corrective action plans in progress
 - a. "...Si Se Puede not meeting TK class size ratios. **Corrective Action Plan:** Prior to enrolling any early enrollment students into Transitional Kindergarten, Rocketship will ensure appropriate staffing is in place to meet the maximum class size requirement for classrooms with early enrollment students. If meeting the reduced class size requirement is not feasible due to staffing or other issues, the student will not be enrolled".
 - b. "...Rising Star incorrectly identifying one student as being eligible for reduced meal plans. **Corrective Action Plan:** Staff have undergone additional training focused on the careful review of unique identifiers, such as ID numbers or birth dates. This approach ensures that benefits are assigned to the correct individuals, minimizing the risk of misallocation. Furthermore, staff members will proactively follow up with parents or guardians in cases where there is any uncertainty or ambiguity regarding the student's information on the listing".
 - c. "...incorrect count of total instructional days at Alma Academy. They [Rocketship Spark] reported 180 but only had 179. **Corrective Action Plan:** Management will implement an additional layer of review to verify the accuracy of the actual days reported in the annual attendance report prior to its submission. Furthermore, management will ensure that all reviews and submissions are conducted within the designated open months of the Principal Apportionment Data Collection (PADC) system".



Please respond to the following questions:

1. At the site visit of 10/2/2025, FMSD staff noted that in the submission of annual budget materials the MYP file didn't have dollar values for FY 26-27 and 27-28. There were links for those values to documents not submitted. Provide the MYP files or values as noted missing.
2. Annual budget financial projections for 2025-26 estimated 531 students, and the enrollment projection submitted just prior to the 10/2/2025 site visit showed 569 students. Please provide the in-district and out-of-district enrollment information broken out by sub-group and grade level. Provide confirmation of the number of students for the current year and any impact on Rocketship Spark finances.
3. The enrollment breakdown by subgroup provided by Rocketship Spark shows a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) proportion of just under 48% for the current year, down from just under 60% last year for the same subgroup. In order to demonstrate that all students who wish to attend are able to, please provide any plans to address the growing disparity in the SED subgroup between Rocketship Spark and the Franklin McKinley School District.
4. The last Rocketship audit report reviewed by FMSD staff (From December 2024) showed three corrective action plans in progress. Provide an update to FMSD on progress by the Rocketship Schools Charter Management Organization on the corrective action plans from the 2024 Audit report and include how those action plans address resolving the issues noted across all Rocketship schools.

Please respond to this letter with an explanation or provision of any requested documentation by 10/23/2025.



**EXHIBIT B. RESPONSE FROM ROCKETSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
SITE VISIT FOLLOW UP NOTICE(S) FROM THE DISTRICT TO RSS
DATED 10/10/2025:**

**Request for Information: FMSD / Rocketship Spark Academy
Charter Renewal**

Friday, Oct 17th (Requesting Date)

FMSD Requested Information	Rocketship Public Schools Response
At the site visit of 10/2/2025, FMSD staff noted that in the submission of annual budget materials the MYP file didn't have dollar values for FY 26-27 and 27-28. There were links for those values to documents not submitted.	This information was submitted July 1, 2025 in response to FMSD outreach ("an issue with the FY26 Adopted Budget submission MYP tab") <u>The updated files for ROMO and RSK may be found here:</u> RSK FY26 Adopted Budget Submission - Final...
Annual budget financial projections for 2025-26 estimated 531 students, and the enrollment projection submitted just prior to the 10/2/2025 site visit showed 569 students. Please provide the in-district and out-of-district enrollment information broken out by sub-group and grade level.	Information can be found here: RSK In-district and Out-of-District Enrollment Total Enrollment as of 10/23 is 572
Provide confirmation of the number of students for the current year and any impact on Rocketship Spark finances.	The initial financial projections for the 2025–26 school year estimated a conservative enrollment of 531 students for Rocketship Spark Academy. This figure was developed in early spring 2025 based on preliminary retention and recruitment assumptions available at that time. By the time of the October 2, 2025 site visit, enrollment projections had been updated to 569 students. This increase was primarily due to two factors: 1. <u>Rising 5th Grade Enrollment:</u> A higher-than-expected number of 4th grade students chose to continue at Spark for 5th grade. We had initially planned for only one 5th grade cohort but opened a second 5th



Request for Information: FMSD / Rocketship Spark Academy Charter Renewal

	grade section in response to strong family demand. 2. <u>Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (TK):</u> We also opened an additional TK cohort to meet increased community demand for early learning spaces, aligned with the implementation of Universal TK in the Franklin-McKinley community. As of the most recent enrollment reporting period, Rocketship Spark Academy is serving 572 students for the 2025–26 school year. The net increase in enrollment revenue associated with this growth was largely offset by corresponding staffing and operational costs required to support the additional TK and 5th grade cohorts. These adjustments reflect our ongoing commitment to meeting family needs and ensuring access to high-quality, tuition-free public education in the local community.
The enrollment breakdown by subgroup provided by Rocketship Spark shows a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) proportion of just under 48% for the current year, down from just under 60% last year for the same subgroup. In order to demonstrate that all students who wish to attend are able to, please provide any plans to address the growing disparity in the SED subgroup between	Rocketship Spark remains deeply committed to serving all students in the Franklin-McKinley School District, including those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. We recognize the recent decrease in SED enrollment in the community overall, and are monitoring this shift to ensure continued equitable access. As part of our equity commitment, Rocketship has added a Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL)



Request for Information: FMSD / Rocketship Spark Academy Charter Renewal

Rocketship Spark and the Franklin McKinley School District.	lottery priority, a promise we made many years ago to expand into all of our schools as they go through the reauthorization process. After the renewal process, this lottery preference can go into effect starting July 1, 2026, helping ensure that students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds have equitable access to enrollment. This reflects a long-standing promise aligned with our mission to serve underserved communities and remove barriers to access. Additionally, to reaffirm equitable access and maintain strong representation of SED students, Rocketship Spark continues to: <u>Deepening community outreach:</u> Partnering with local preschools, faith-based organizations, and housing developments to reach families in high-need areas of the district. <u>Expanding multilingual engagement:</u> Increasing enrollment support for Spanish- and Vietnamese-speaking families through information sessions, translated materials, and community liaisons. <u>Reinforcing our open-enrollment message:</u> Updating outreach materials to emphasize that Rocketship schools are public, tuition-free, and open to all students regardless of income or address within the district.
The last Rocketship audit report reviewed by FMSD staff (From December 2024) showed three	Previous communication to FMSD January 2025



Request for Information: FMSD / Rocketship Spark Academy Charter Renewal

corrective action plans in progress. Provide an update to FMSD on progress by the Rocketship Schools Charter Management Organization on the corrective action plans from the 2024 Audit report, and include how those action plans address resolving the issues noted across all Rocketship schools.	Oct 2025 Update: <u>Finding 2024-001 - Transitional Kindergarten - Rocketship Si Se Puede</u> Through the 2024-2025 school year, Rocketship continued to monitor school compliance with TK early enrollment requirements and Rocketship guidance, requiring Superintendent approval before any early enrollment student was enrolled. No early enrollment students were enrolled at any Rocketship school in the 2024-2025 school year. In the 2025-2026 school year, the TK early enrollment program has ended, with any student who turns four by September 1st eligible to enroll in TK. <u>Finding 2024-002 - Unduplicated Pupil Counts - Rocketship Rising Stars</u> Rocketship has implemented annual training on the careful review of unique identifiers to ensure benefits are assigned to the correct individuals. All staff involved in the processing of meal applications receive this training prior to the start of the application collection period. No issues in the unduplicated pupil count were identified in the preliminary results of the 2024-2025 audit. <u>Finding 2024-003 - Attendance - Rocketship Alma</u> Rocketship staff continue to abide by the updated procedures in the Attendance Reporting Manual in regard to the verification of the accuracy of days reported in the annual attendance report submission and any emergency closure days. No issues were identified in the 2024-2025 Annual Attendance Report for any Rocketship schools.
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**EXHIBIT C. RESPONSE FROM ROCKETSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
SITE VISIT FOLLOW UP NOTICE(S) FROM THE DISTRICT TO RSS
DATED 11/3/2025:**

**Request for Information: FMSD / Rocketship Spark Academy
Charter Renewal**

FMSD Requested Information: Monday, Nov 3 Request

Please provide the following NWEA data or point us to where in your submission materials you included these NWEA details by grade level.

RPS Response Details:

23-24SY				24-25SY			
NWEA Achievement Results				NWEA Achievement Results			
	GRADE	ELA	Math		GRADE	ELA	Math
% students at 50th percentile +	K	62%	69%	% students at 50th percentile +	K	62%	73%
	1	70%	81%		1	42%	65%
	2	58%	62%		2	68%	70%
	3	65%	66%		3	60%	60%
	4	79%	72%		4	67%	58%
	5	56%	43%		5	77%	77%
	Overall	56%	43%		Overall	60%	66%