



**Franklin-McKinley
School District**

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS



Educational Services

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Petition: Rocketship Spark Renewal

Review and Recommendation to the Franklin-McKinley Board of Education
December 9, 2025



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Summary of Petition Review Process

- Each petition reviewed is separate and unique
- Board review should mirror staff's approach
 - Evaluation based on statutory criteria
 - Public comment relating to one petition should not influence assessment of other petitions
 - No choosing between petitions; all petitions that meet statutory criteria must be granted
- Timeline
 - Public hearing within 60 days of filing, both parties agreed on an extension
 - Decision within 90 days of filing



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Summary of Petition Review Process

May 19, 2025 Charter Renewal Check-In

September 10, 2025 Petition Submitted

October 02, 2025 Petition Renewal Site Visit

October 02 - Staff review of artifacts
November 21, 2025 - One follow-up request

November 18, 2025 Charter Petition: Public Hearing

November 21, 2025 FMSD Staff Report posted on Website

December 09, 2025 Presentation of review summary and presentation



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Renewal Requirements

Education Code section 47607(b) states that “renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria in Section 47605” – the same used for initial charter petitions.

- Same timeline as charter approval process – 90 days to make decision – must have public hearing within 60 days of renewal petition submission.
- A petition for renewal shall be considered by the district governing board upon receipt of the petition with all of the requirements set forth in this subdivision:
 - Documentation that the charter school meets at least one of the criteria specified in [Education Code section 47607](#).
 - A copy of the renewal charter petition including a reasonably comprehensive description of how the charter school has met all new charter school requirements enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed. (5 CCR 11966.4)



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Renewal Requirements (Continued)

(b)(1) When considering a petition for renewal, the district governing board shall consider the past performance of the school's academics, finances, and operation in evaluating the likelihood of future success, along with future plans for improvement if any.

(b)(2) The district governing board may deny a petition for renewal of a charter school only if the district governing board makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the grounds for denial set forth in [Education Code section 47605\(b\)](#) or facts to support a failure to meet one of the criteria set forth in [Education Code section 47607\(b\)](#). (5 CCR 11966.4).



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Renewal Requirements CAASPP Scores

In addition to minimum requirements, FMSD also conducted a 3-year comparison of Rocketship Spark's Smarter Balanced Scores:

- Comparative data for grades 3-8
- AB 1505 (2020) created three performance tiers for charter renewals: “high performing,” “mid-performing,” and “low-performing”.
 - CDE designated Rocketship Spark as “mid-performing”



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For **mid-performing charters**, the authorizer shall consider clear and convincing evidence that:

- The Charter School has achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school.

An authorizer **may only deny** renewal upon findings that:

- (1) the charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress towards meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school,
- (2) that closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils, and
- (3) if applicable, its decision provided greater weight to performance of measurements of academic performance (Ed. Code §47607.2(b))



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CAASPP Scores English Language Arts

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

**Pages 10-11 of the FMSD Staff Report to the Rocketship Spark Renewal Petition*



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CAASPP Scores Math

Math	2018-19 (at last renewal)	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

**Page 10-11 of the FMSD Staff Report to the Rocketship Spark Renewal Petition*



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Statutory Review Criteria

Required Petition Components: Reasonably comprehensive description of 15 following areas:

Educational Program	Measurable student outcomes and state priorities	Method for measuring pupil progress	Suspension/ expulsion procedures	Attendance alternatives
Governance and parent involvement	Employment qualifications	Health and safety procedures	Means of achieving racial/ethnic balance	Admission requirements
Financial Audits	Staff retirement system	Employee rights	Dispute resolution procedures	Reporting & Accountability: Facilities/ Procedures for school closure



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Statutory Review Criteria *(Continued)*

Shall not deny absent written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, that:

- The petition does not contain an affirmation of each required condition as described in Ed Code 47605e.
- The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all 15 required elements
- The charter school presents an unsound educational program; and/or
- The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
- The petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school.



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Approval/Denial

Based on the careful and thorough review given to the petition as presented here, the respectful recommendation to the Board of Education is to take one of the following two options identified in the Education Code:

Option 1: Approve the renewal of Rocketship Spark College-Bound Language Flagship for a term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031.

Option 2: The Board hereby denies the request to renew the charter of Rocketship Spark Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, and hereby adopts the above factual findings contained in the accompanying staff report in support of its decision.

An abstract graphic on a dark gray background featuring several stylized stars and arrows in bright colors: orange, green, blue, and yellow. The stars and arrows are of various sizes and orientations, creating a dynamic and energetic composition. A prominent blue arrow curves across the middle of the frame.

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Questions?