



# Approve Resolution No. 3189: Renewal of the Charter for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus

March 18, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 10.1

Presented by: Jesse Ramos, Director of Innovative Schools  
Brett Barley, Superintendent  
Bernie Evangelista, Principal

# Tonight's Presentation

- I. SCUSD Charter Review Team
- II. Overview of the Charter School
- III. Charter Renewal Law and Regulations
- IV. Staff Analysis Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criterion
- V. Questions
- VI. Staff's Recommendation to Approve Renewal Charter Petition & Next Steps

# SCUSD Charter Review Team

DEPARTMENT	STAFF MEMBER
Charter Oversight	Jesse Ramos, Director of Innovative Schools
Continuous Improvement and Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ed Eldridge, Director III of Strategy and Continuous Improvement</li> <li>• Steven Ramirez-Fong, Coordinator of LCAP/SPSA and Consolidated Programs</li> </ul>
Curriculum and Instruction	Matt Turkie, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
District Legal Services	Raoul Bozio, In-house Counsel
Enrollment and Family Services	Ken McPeters, Director of Enrollment
Facilities Support Services	Amna Javed, Manager of Facilities/GIS
Fiscal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adrian Vargas, Assistant Superintendent Business Services</li> <li>• Gloria Chung, Budget Analyst</li> <li>• Jesse M. Castillo, Director III Accounting Services</li> </ul>
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina Villegas, Director of Human Resources Services</li> <li>• Tami Mora, Credential Auditor</li> </ul>
Multilingual Literacy	Azarel Iniguez, Coordinator II Multilingual Literacy
Safe Schools	Ray Lozada, Director of Safe Schools
Special Education	Dr. Sadie Hedegard, Assistant Superintendent Special Education Instruction and Learning
Student Hearing and Placement	Stephan Brown, Director of Student Hearing and Placement
Student Support and Health Services	Victoria Flores, Director of Student Support and Health Services
Legal Counsel	Ed Sklar, Attorney with Lozano Smith

# Overview of the Charter School:

## California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus

<b>Years of operations:</b>	In its fifteenth year of operation
<b>Opening date:</b>	August 16, 2006
<b>Census Day Enrollment and Grade Levels in 2019-20:</b>	330, Kindergarten to Eighth grade
<b>Location:</b>	2635 Chestnut Hill Drive, Sacramento CA 95826-2912
<b>Independent or Dependent:</b>	Independent
<b>Renewal petition submission date:</b>	December 4, 2020
<b>Public Hearing:</b>	January 14, 2021
<b>Board Action date:</b>	March 18, 2021
<b>Charter expiration date:</b>	June 30, 2021

# Renewal Law and Regulations

- Overall Approach – Similar to initial approval, but some important differences because the school has a track record
  - Charter authorizers must consider the charter school's performance on the California School Dashboard indicators when evaluating a petition to renew a charter school. The new renewal process creates essentially three tiers of renewal.
    - **High-Performing Charter Schools**
    - **Middle-Performing Charter Schools**
    - **Low-Performing Charter Schools**
- Approve unless... Default in the law is approval

# Renewal Law & Regulations

## July 1, 2020 Changes

1. 60 days for public hearing, 90 days for decision (30 day extension)
2. Petition “deemed complete” by petitioners and legal timeline starts the day submitted
3. Posted recommendations and findings 15 days before decision
4. Decision meeting is a public hearing
5. Petitioners are given equal time to present evidence and testimony in response to recommendations and findings (during decision meeting)

# Renewal Law & Regulations

## No Changes

1. Must include any new laws
2. Look back period of 2 years plus current year
3. Material Changes for expansion (grade levels or facilities)
4. Academic performance given greatest weight
5. Due process rights to school if any major issues / concerns (i.e. Notice of Violation)

# Renewal Law & Regulations

## Renewal Criteria

1. Any new laws
2. Enrollment data
3. Dashboard
  - Academic Performance of significant student groups compared to state based on VERIFIABLE data
  - Year to year growth
4. New reasons to deny cannot be considered (i.e. fiscal impact #s 7, 8)
5. Sound governance, financials and operations
6. If non-renewal, “closure in the best interest of the students”



# Renewal Law & Regulations

## The Basics: Core Charter Performance Questions

1. Is the charter school's educational program a success?
2. Is the charter school financially viable?
3. Is the charter school operating and governed effectively?
4. Is the charter school serving public policy purposes?

# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

California Department of Education designated CMP as a middle performing charter school.

School	District	County	School Type	Performance Level
California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus	SCUSD	Sacramento	Elementary Schools (Public)	Middle Performing

# Renewal Law & Regulations

## Middle Tier Denial

May deny only upon making written findings of the following:

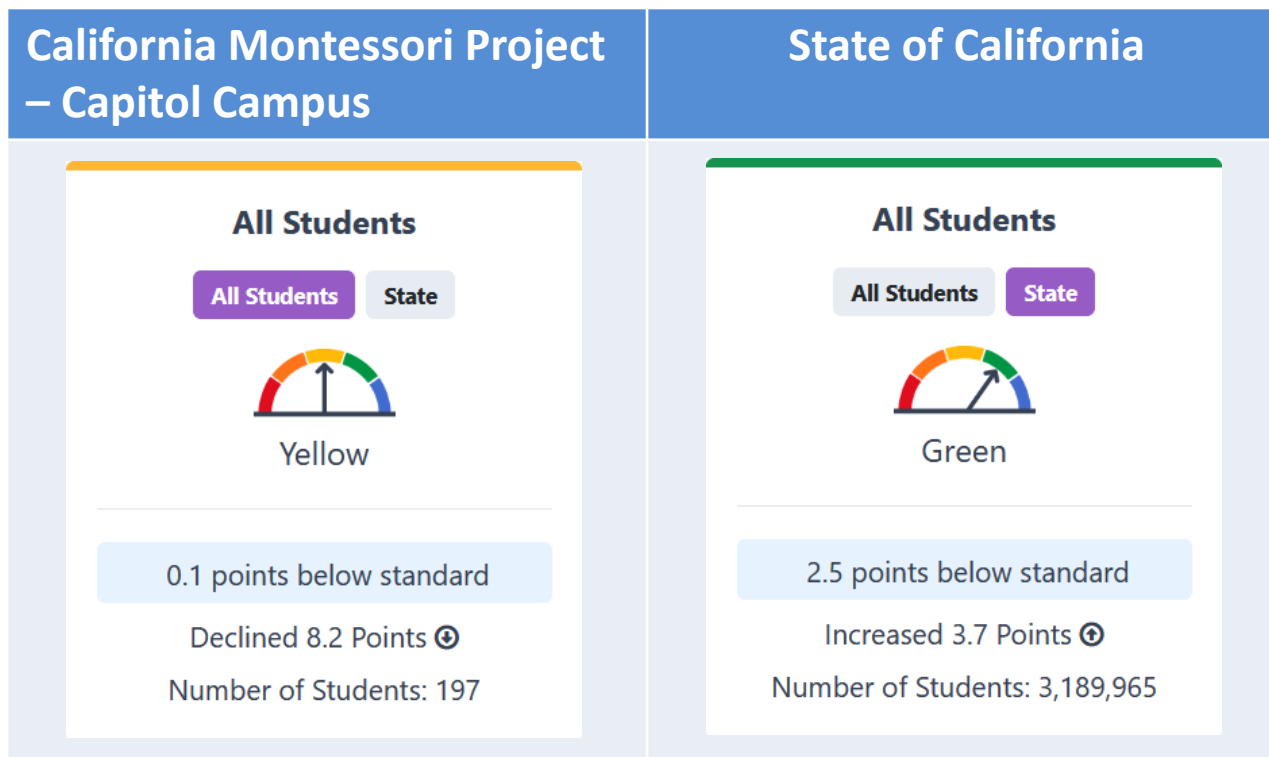
- School failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards; AND
- Closure is in the best interest of students; AND
- Its decision placed greater weight on performance on academic measures

# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Did the school fail to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards?

### English Language Arts

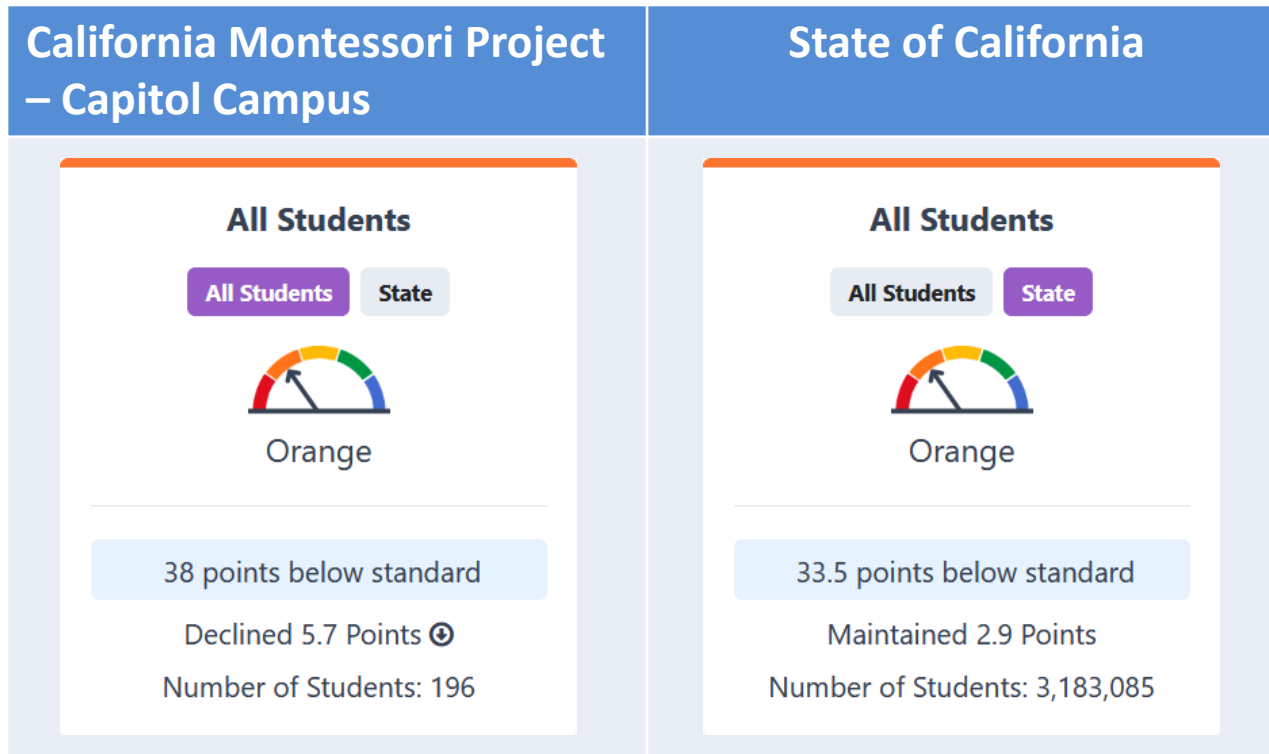


# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Did the school fail to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards?

### Mathematics



# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Did the school fail to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards?

<b>CMP Student Groups Performing Below the State in English Language Arts</b>	<b>California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus Achievement Level</b>	<b>State of California Achievement Level</b>
All Students	Yellow	Green
Hispanic Students	Orange	Yellow
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students	Orange	Yellow

# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Did the school fail to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards?

<b>CMP Student Groups Performing Below the State in Mathematics</b>	<b>California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus Achievement Level</b>	<b>State of California Achievement Level</b>
Hispanic Students	Orange	Yellow
White Students	Orange	Green
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students	Orange	Yellow
Students with Disabilities	Red	Orange

# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Did the school fail to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards?

### CMP's Proposed Actions for Improvement

- To address the deficits in its students' performance, CMP mentions in its petition that it will continue or implement the following actions:
- Classroom Instructional Rounds
- Diagnostic and Interim Assessments - "Prior to school year 2019-20 CMP did not have a K-8 ELA and Math diagnostic and interim assessment system. Starting in the fall of 2019, CMP students took three i-Ready assessments over the school year."
- Hiring a Math Specialist
- Implementation of Math Intervention Program
- Expansion of Reading Intervention Programs
- Montessori Curriculum Guide Aligned to California State Standards
- Standards Based Report Cards - "For the first time, CMP students are now being measured on their progress towards mastery of California's state standards."



# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Circumstances that Impacted Analysis of Student Performance:

- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) was not administered in 2019-2020.
- Verified Data List was not posted in time to be used for evaluation.



# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Is the closure of the charter in the best interest of students?

### **Renewal is in the Best Interests of Students**

CMP-Capitol has served students in Sacramento City Unified for 20 years. Our small school, with intimate classrooms, and deep collaboration between families, teachers, and administrators has been a popular choice for Sacramento families for years. Every year CMP-Capitol has more applicants than we have space to accommodate. CMP-Capitol conducts a random public lottery to admit students due to the great interest in our program. For a range of reasons, families have determined that attending this school is in the best interest of their children.

# Staff Analysis

## Using Middle Tier Evaluation Criteria

Middle Tier Evaluation Criterion, the Basics	Staff Evaluation	Comments
Is the charter school's educational program a success?	CMP failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because the CAASPP was not administered in 2019-20, data was not available for 2 years back plus current year.</li> <li>• CMP has identified several actions that they plan to take to address student needs.</li> <li>• It is a School Board's decision to place a priority on performance on academic measures during a renewal and revocation.</li> </ul>
Is the charter school financially viable?	Yes	CMP projects an ending fund balance of 19% in FY21 and growing to 36% in its 5th year. However, this is contingent upon forgiveness of the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) in FY21. If the loan is not forgiven, then the fund balance, as a whole, is 6% and growing to 19% in year 5. California Montessori Project's (CMP) required reserve is 4%.
Is the charter school operating and governed effectively?	Yes	The renewal petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 elements required as set forth in the Charter Schools Act.
Is the charter school serving public policy purposes?	Yes	It is in the best interest of students.

# Q & A

# Staff's Recommendation & Next Steps

- Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board take due consideration to the content of the Executive Summary and requests that the Board conference and take action to approve the petition to renew California Montessori Project - Capitol Campus for a term of five years ending June 30, 2026.

- Next Steps

If the Board approves the petition to renew the charter, SCUSD, as the charter authorizer, will provide continued oversight by conducting annual visits and programmatic audits to review the charter school's academic achievement, as well as records of past performance and plans regarding academics, finances, and operations. Additionally, the District and CMP will collaborate on the timely submission of a signed Operational Memorandum of Understanding.