

# Annual Performance Report 2021

#### ANSER CHARTER SCHOOL

**Mission Statement:** To educate the whole child in a collaborative learning community where individuals are inspired to be self-motivated and to feel a sense of connection and responsibility to the world.

Chair/President	Caitlyn Scales
Treasurer	Maridee Lemieux
Administrator	Michelle Dunstan
Business Manager	Tiffany Keeley
School Location	202 E. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St., Garden City, ID 83714
School Phone	208-426-9840

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# Introduction

Charter schools in Idaho operate on 5-year terms as defined in a Performance Certificate executed between the school's board and its authorizer. In addition, Idaho law requires that every certificate includes a framework describing the expectations the school must meet in order to earn a next operational term. It also requires that charter school authorizer's complete performance reports for the schools they oversee each year. The annual performance report serves the following purposes:

- 1. To provide transparent information about charter school quality to the public;
- 2. To ensure charter school boards have access to clear expectations and;
- 3. To inform mid-term authorizing decisions.

This report reflects how the school's outcomes during the most recently completed school year measure up against the expectations established in the framework. At the end of each 5-year term, the authorizer reviews the school's annual reports and financial data to inform its decision to renew, conditionally renew, or non-renew, the school for a subsequent term.

Each measure included in the IPCSC's framework has a meets standard benchmark. A school that meets standard on all measures at the end of its current operational term is guaranteed an unconditional renewal. A school that does not meet standard on at least one measure at the end of its current operational term may be conditionally renewed or non-renewed. Because the outcomes on this report inform high-stakes decisions, schools are encouraged to use this information to support their strategic planning efforts each year.

COVID-19 NOTE: Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPCSC has suspended ratings (exceeds, meets, etc.) on academic and financial measures for the FY21 report. All outcomes are included in this report; however, outcomes are not rated.

Anser Charter School Performance Certificate: <u>Anser Performance Certificate</u> Performance Framework: <u>IPCSC Performance Framework</u> Current Term: 2020-2024

## School Overview

Model:	El Education/Expeditionary Learning	
Enrollment Capacity:	709	
Grades Served:	K-9	
Enrollment Projected FY22:	430	

#### **Key Design Elements:**

The school shall implement and maintain the following essential design elements of its educational program:

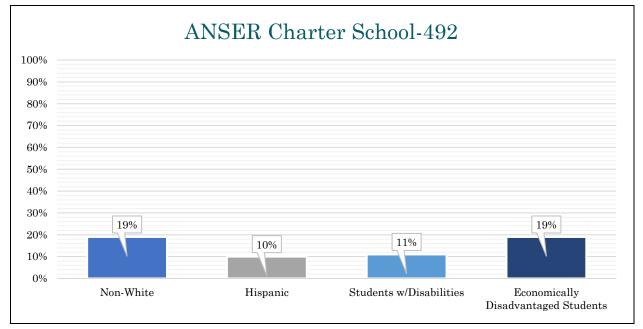
**Community** – Anser educates the whole child and serves families in a learning community founded on collaboration, character, and compassion.

**Expedition** – A year-long or semester long multi-disciplinary investigation framed through guiding questions, through which students learn to think deeply, critically, and to make connections between their learning and their world.

**Service** – Consequential service to others is woven into every Expedition and into the life of the school.

**Adventure** – Any physical, intellectual, or artistic experience that involves risk, challenge, and discovery. These kinds of experiences help learners realize they can do more than they thought possible.

#### 2021 ANSER CHARTER SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY:



## 2020-2021 Annual Snapshot

Schools are encouraged to use this information for strategic planning and to ensure that any identified weaknesses are addressed in advance of renewal consideration.

RATING LEGEND	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD		APPROACHES STANDARD
AC	ACADEMIC OUTCOMES:		
Math Profic	eiency	35%	
Math Growth			n Not Available 2020-2021
ELA Proficiency		55%	
ELA Growth			n Not Available 2020-2021
Literacy Proficiency			L IRI: 67% ING IRI: 64%

MEETSEXCEEDSSTANDARDSTANDARD		NOT RATED DUE TO PANDEMIC
FINANCIAL OUTCOMES: NEAR TERM MEASURES		
Current Ratio		15.32
Unrestricted Days Cash		691
Default		No default
Enrollment Variance		99.54%

OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES: BOARD STEWARDSHIP		
Governance Structure	MEETS STANDARD	
Governance Oversight	MEETS STANDARD	
Governance Compliance	MEETS STANDARD	

OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES: MANAGEMENT	
Student Services	MEETS STANDARD
Data Security/Transparency	MEETS STANDARD
Facility & Services	MEETS STANDARD
Operational Compliance	MEETS STANDARD

FINANCIAL OUTCOMES: SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES		
Total Margin 3 Yr. Aggregate Margin	TM: 6.22% 3YR: 4.25%	
Cash Flow Multi-Year Cash Flow	CF: \$2,400,410 MY: \$7,135,796	
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.96%	
Debt Asset Ratio	.93	
Financial Compliance	No instances of non- compliance	

Note: Due to the impact of the pandemic, Academic outcomes were not available for the 2019-2020 school year. Academic outcomes are available but will <u>not</u> be rated for the 2020-2021 school year.

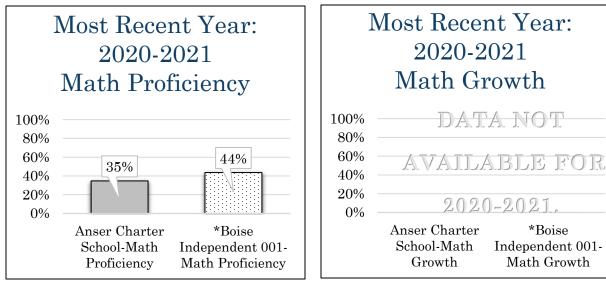
#### <u>Academic Outcomes</u> MATH PROFICIENCY & MATH GROWTH

#### Why This Matters:

The IPCSC must determine whether the academic performance at the school represents a favorable return on the investment of public dollars. For context, the IPCSC considers the school's performance in relation to other educational choices available to families. A school that performs as well or better than the average of its comparison group on the statewide mathematics assessment (ISAT) meets the IPCSC standard on both the math proficiency and math growth measures.

If this standard is not yet met, the school should focus its strategic planning on improving mathematics achievement outcomes to ensure the school will earn a next operational term. If the standard is met, strategic planning may focus on whatever data points will best establish and sustain an exemplary school of the specific model for which the school is chartered.

#### Comparison Group: <u>Boise District (001)</u>



RATING	DOES NOT MEET	APPROACHES	MEETS	EXCEEDS	NOT RATED DUE TO
LEGEND	STANDARD	STANDARD	STANDARD	STANDARD	PANDEMIC

\*Please see the <u>Performance Framework Rubrics</u> for details regarding how each measure is rated.

MEASURE	PROFICIENCY RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
MATH PROFICIENCY	Rating Not Applicable for 2020-2021	Not Applicable for 2020-2021 School Year

MEASURE	GROWTH RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
MATH GROWTH	Rating Not Applicable for 2020-2021	Not Applicable for 2020-2021 School Year

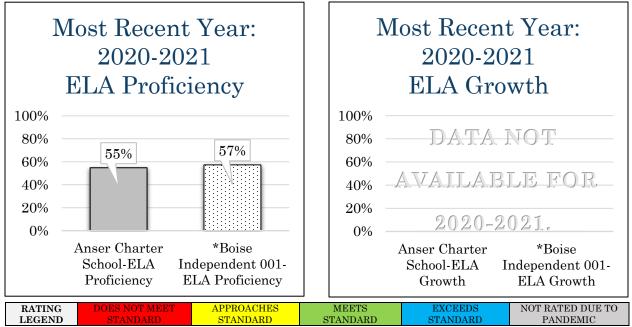
## <u>Academic Outcomes</u> ELA PROFICIENCY & ELA GROWTH

#### Why This Matters:

The IPCSC must determine whether the academic performance at the school represents a favorable return on the investment of public dollars. For context, the IPCSC considers the school's performance in relation to other educational choices available to families. A school that performs as well or better than the average of its comparison group on the statewide ELA assessment (ISAT) meets the IPCSC standard on both the ELA proficiency and ELA growth measures.

If this standard is not yet met, the school should focus its strategic planning on improving these outcomes to ensure the school will earn a next operational term. If the standard is met, strategic planning may focus on whatever data points will best establish and sustain an exemplary school of the specific model for which the school is chartered.

#### Comparison Group: <u>Boise District (001)</u>



\*Please see the Performance Framework Rubrics for details regarding how each measure is rated.

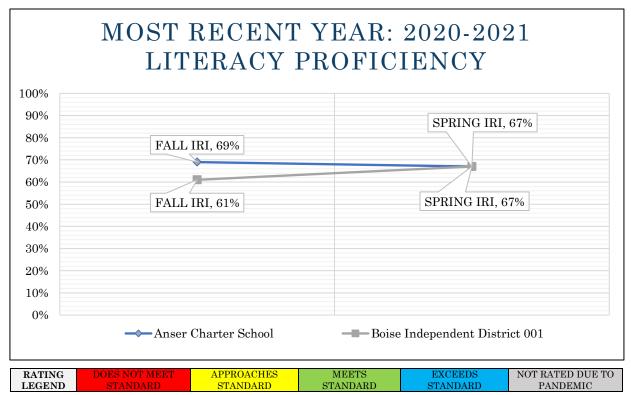
MEASURE	PROFICIENCY RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
ELA PROFICIENCY	Rating Not Applicable for 2020-2021	Not Applicable for 2020-2021 School Year
MEASURE	GROWTH RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
ELA GROWTH	Rating Not Applicable for 2020-2021	Not Applicable for 2020-2021 School Year

# Academic Outcomes

#### Why This Matters:

The IPCSC must determine whether the academic performance at the school represents a favorable return on the investment of public dollars. For context, the IPCSC considers the school's performance in relation to other educational choices available to families. A school that performs as well or better than the average of its comparison group on the spring statewide literacy assessment (IRI) meets the IPCSC standard. Alternatively, a school that did not perform as well or better than its comparison group on the spring assessment, but that did improve its outcome by at least 10% from fall to spring, also meets standard.

If this standard is not yet met, the school should focus its strategic planning on improving these outcomes to ensure the school will earn a next operational term. If the standard is met, strategic planning may focus on whatever data points will best establish and sustain an exemplary school of the specific model for which the school is chartered.



#### Comparison Group: <u>Boise District (001)</u>

\*Please see the <u>Performance Framework Rubrics</u> for details regarding how each measure is rated.

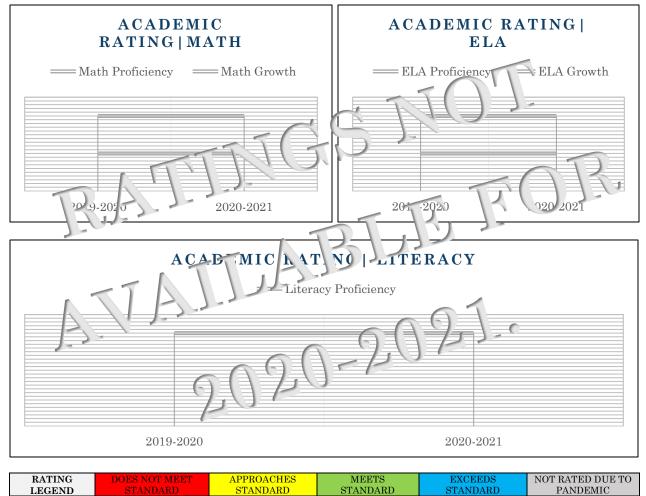
MEASURE	PROFICIENCY RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
LITERACY PROFICIENCY	Rating Not Applicable for 2020-2021	Not Applicable for 2020-2021 School Year

## Longitudinal Academic Ratings | 2020-2024

Longitudinal data provides a snapshot of a school's ratings over the school's current performance certificate (5 years). This data helps to identify performance trends and changes over time. Schools are encouraged to consider how this data might be used to drive strategic planning as the school approach its next renewal decision.

## Academic Ratings | Revised Framework

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, no academic data was available for the 2019-2020 school year. Additionally, as ratings are sued to inform charter renewal decisions, the IPCSC chose to suspend ratings for the 2020-21 school year due to the anticipated impact of the pandemic.



LEGEND

## Operational Outcomes BOARD STEWARDSHIP

#### Why This Matters:

At the highest level, the success of a charter school is driven by the ability of its governing board to govern effectively. The measures in this section help identify the strengths and challenges faced by the school's board. As success on these measures was not unduly influenced by the pandemic, ratings are applied for the 2020-2021 school year. \*Please see the <u>Performance Framework Rubrics</u> for details regarding how each measure is rated.

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD		
Governance Structure Measure	Data/Evidence Source	
The board bylaws are compliant with ID law.	Bylaws 05/25/21. If the school has amended its bylaws since this date, please provide an updated copy to the IPCSC.	
The school's articles of incorporation are current.	Articles of Incorporation initially filed on 03/24/1997. Most recently updated on 03/09/2021.	
The board does operate in compliance with its bylaws.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.	
Investigations were not conducted into ethical behavior or conflict of interest regarding any board director this year. *No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The board did not experience Open Meeting Law violations that needed to be cured this year.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.	
<b>Comments/ Context:</b> As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.		

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Governance Oversight Measure	Data/Evidence Source		
The IPCSC did not evaluate the boards review of academic data in a timely and thorough manner due to pandemic for 2020-2021.	*No instances of non-compliance documented		
The board did review financial reports in a timely and thorough manner.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The board did maintain compliant policies.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The board did engage in strategic planning. *No instances of non-compliance documented. See c			
The board did conduct a compliant evaluation of their school leader or management organization. *No instances of non-compliance documented			
<b>Comments/ Context:</b> Board meeting minutes reflected several instances of strategic planning/continuous improvement planning & management throughout the year which is a good practice. As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.			

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Governance Compliance Measure Data/Evidence Source			
The IPCSC did not issue courtesy letters to the school noting compliance concerns this year.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
Another investigative body was not notified of concerns at his school this year. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
<b>Comments/ Context:</b> As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.			

#### **Operational Outcomes** MANAGEMENT

#### Why This Matters:

The systems and structures that support school operations are an important part of the school's overall success. The measures in this section help identify the strengths and challenges that impact the school's day-to-day operations. As success on these measures was not unduly influenced by the pandemic, ratings are applied for the 2020-2021 school year.

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Student Services	Data/Evidence Source		
The school's English Language Learners program is in good standing.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The school's Special Education program is in good standing.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The school's college and career readiness program is in good standing.	Reviewed on 3/18/2021 Continuous Improvement Plan 2020-2021		
Comments/ Context: As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three			

year, the consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Data Security and Information Transparency Data/Evidence Source			
The school's website is not compliant and updated appropriately. *See comments.			
The school did experience issues involving data security this year.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The school did not experience compliance issues with public records requests. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
Comments/ Context: As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three			

consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.

STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Facility and Services	Data/Evidence Source		
The school's occupancy certificate is current.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
Safety inspections and evacuation drills are compliant.	Building Inspection: 1/19/2021		
	Fire Marshal: 1/19/2021		
	Health Inspection: 4/20/2021		
	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
he IPCSC did not evaluate school transportation for students due to easure being waived for 2020-2021. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
The IPCSC did not evaluate school nutrition for students due to measure being waived for 2020-2021.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
<b>Comments/ Context:</b> As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.			

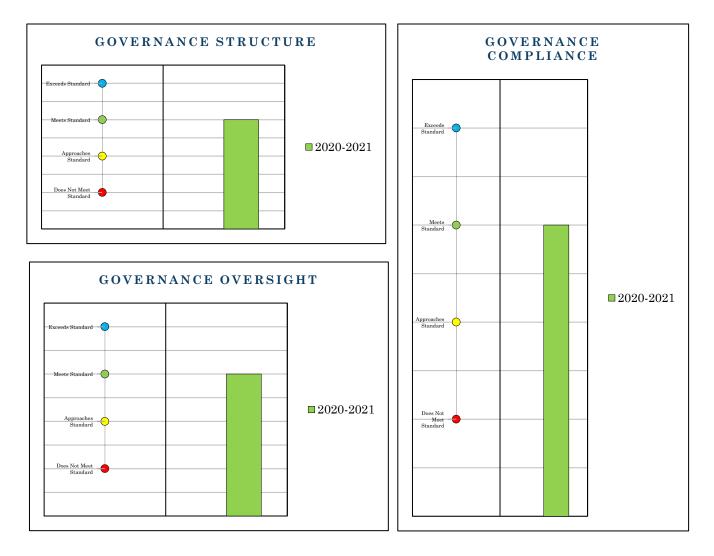
STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Operational Compliance Data/Evidence Source			
Required reports were submitted accurately and on time. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
The enrollment process is compliant. *No instances of non-compliance doc			
The teachers are properly credentialed. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
Corrective action plans were not issued by the SDE this year. *No instances of non-compliance documented.			
<b>Comments/ Context:</b> As this school has only been in the IPCSC portfolio for 1 year, the IPCSC will need to evaluate the school for three consecutive years before the school is eligible to earn an exceeds rating.			

## Longitudinal Operational Ratings | 2020-2024

## Board Stewardship

Longitudinal data provides a snapshot of a school's ratings over the school's current performance certificate (5 years). This data helps to identify performance trends and changes over time. Schools are encouraged to consider how this data might be used to drive your strategic planning as your school approach its next renewal decision.

Note: In 2020, the IPCSC reorganized these measures for clarity. Operational outcomes are now divided into two sections (board stewardship and management) based on the primary party responsible for the school's success on each measure.



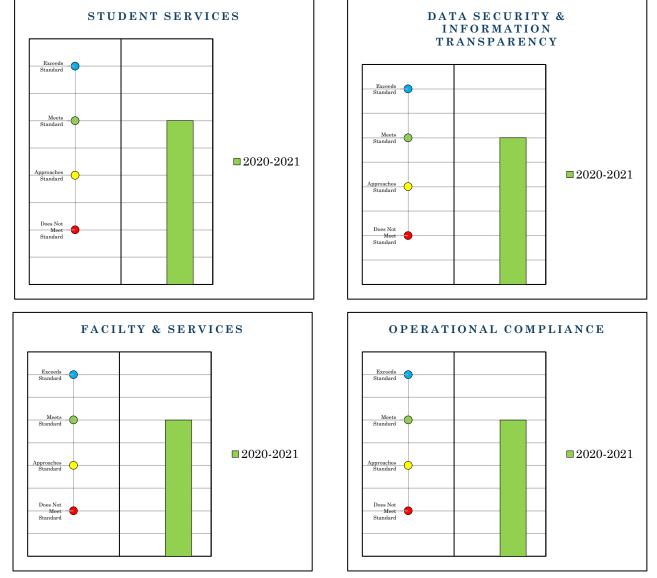
#### Operational Ratings: Board Stewardship | Revised Framework

## Longitudinal Operational Ratings | 2020-2024

## <u>Management</u>

Longitudinal data provides a snapshot of a school's ratings over the school's current performance certificate (5 years). This data helps to identify performance trends and changes over time. Schools are encouraged to consider how this data might be used to drive your strategic planning as your school approach its next renewal decision.

Note: In 2020, the IPCSC reorganized these measures for clarity. Operational outcomes are now divided into two sections (board stewardship and management) based on the primary party responsible for the school's success on each measure



#### Operational Ratings: Management | Revised Framework

IPCSC Annual Report 2021

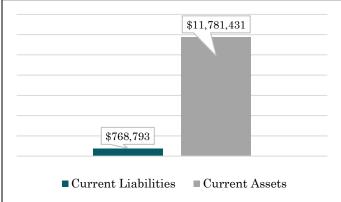
Anser Charter School

## Financial Outcomes NEAR TERM MEASURES

These measures evaluate whether a school is likely to meet its financial obligations in the next year. \*Please see the <u>Performance Framework Rubrics</u> for details regarding how each measure is rated.

## Current Ratio

The school has a current ratio of more than 1.5.	Current Ratio 15.32	Ratings Not Applicable for 2020-2021
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#### Why This Matters:

Current Ratio is a comparison of a school's financial obligations due within one year (current liabilities) to the cash and investments held by the school (current assets).

A school with more assets than liabilities (a Current Ratio greater than 1.0) would be able to meet its financial obligations for the

# Days Unrestricted

Cash On Hand

**6**168

2020

A school with more liabilities than assets (a Current Ratio of less than 1.0) is dependent on revenue it has not yet received to meet existing financial obligations.

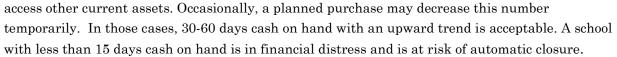
## Unrestricted Days Cash

The school has more than 60	691 Days	Ratings Not Applicable
days cash on hand.	691 Days	for 2020-2021

#### Why this Matters:

This measure estimates a school's average daily cost of operations and considers the number of days a school could operate using only its available cash and investments.

A school with at least 60 days cash on hand would be able to meet its immediate financial obligations with available cash, buying the time it might take to



691

2021

next year without relying on future revenue.

#### <u>Default</u>

The school is not in default of any financial	
obligations and did not experience any instances	Ratings Not Applicable for 2020-2021
of default during the fiscal year.	

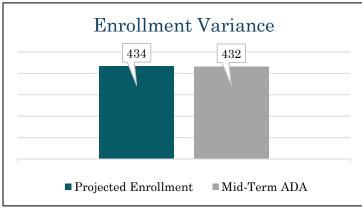
#### Why this Matters:

This measure identifies whether a school has defaulted on any of its financial obligations. Default can mean many things. Examples of default include: paying bills late, failing to make payroll, or inaccurately filing reports required for funding. Default can also include a failure to meet any additional requirements of long-term debt as established by the lender (such as meeting a specific enrollment target or maintaining a greater amount of cash on hand than the PCSC requires).

Any act of default can result in disruption of services, loans being called due, or funding that is inaccurate or withheld.

#### Enrollment Variance

The school achieved and sustained		
at least 95% of its projected	Enrollment Variance	Ratings Not Applicable
enrollment during the most recent	99.54%	for 2020-2021
school year.		



#### Why this Matters:

The Enrollment Variance measure considers what percentage of a school's projected enrollment was achieved. As the majority of a public school's funding is generated by student enrollment, this measure reflects a school's ability to execute its budget to plan.

A school that achieves at least 95% of its

projected enrollment will likely experience few bumps and may make minor adjustments. A school that achieves less than 95% of projected enrollment is likely to face budget challenges requiring more significant budget amendments and may be in financial distress.

## <u>Financial Outcomes</u> SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

These measures help determine whether a school is likely to remain financially stable into the future.

## Total Margin

The school's aggregated 3-year total margin is positive, and the most recent year's total margin is positive.	CY Total Margin 45.34% 3-Year Aggregated 52.17%	Ratings Not Applicable for 2020-2021
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#### Why this Matters:

The Total Margin compares a school's total revenue to its net income. Specifically, this measure identifies what percentage of a school's total revenue in a given year was not expended during that year. A school with a positive total margin spent less than it brought in. That is, the school is living within its means and can plan for future purchases and investments.

An occasional negative total margin may indicate that a planned or necessary purchase has taken place. This is not necessarily a negative indicator.



However, if the Total Margin is chronically negative or severe decreases appear, the school may be in financial distress. Aggregating this margin over three years helps to identify these long-term trends.

Note: for the purposes of this calculation, pension liability is excluded from the school's net income.

#### Cash Flow

The school's multi-year	Most Recent Year	
cumulative cash flow is positive,	\$10,195,439	Ratings Not Applicable
and the most recent year's cash	Previous Year \$1,339,863	for 2020-2021
flow is positive.	Multi-Year \$11,535,302	

+ \$10,195,439

#### Why this Matters:

The Cash Flow measure considers the change in a school's cash balance over time. A school with a positive cash flow is increasing its reserves and is likely able to fund future projects and purchases.

A school with a negative cash flow is using its existing reserves to fund general operations and is not likely to have the financial flexibility to fund future plans.

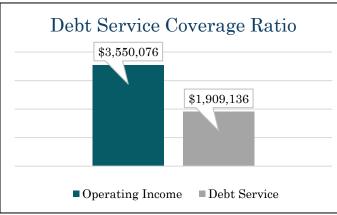
A multi-year cumulative cash flow helps to identify long-term trends.

## Debt Service Coverage Ratio

The school's debt service<br/>coverage ratio is between .9 and<br/>1.09.Debt Service Coverage<br/>Ratio .94Ratings Not Applicable<br/>for 2020-2021

Most Recent Year

\$1,339,863



#### Why this Matters:

Previous Year

Cash Flow

+ \$11,535,302

Multi-Year Cumulative

\$11,535,302

+ \$1,339,863

\$11,535,302

This measure evaluates a school's ability to make payments on debt due in a given year using only that year's income. This helps determine whether a school has more debt than it can manage.

\$1,339,863

A school with more Operating Income than Debt Service (a Debt Service Coverage Ratio greater than 1) can meet the financial obligations of their debt. A

school with more Debt Service than Operating Income (a ratio of less than 1) is reliant on either reserves or revenues anticipated in future years to meet its debt obligations.

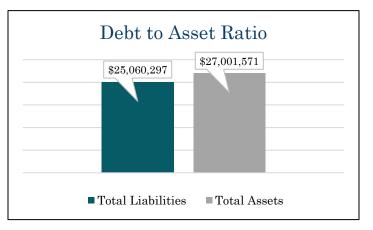
## Debt to Asset Ratio

The school's Debt to Asset Ratio is less than 0.9.	Debt/Asset Ratio .85	Ratings Not Applicable for 2020-2021
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#### Why This Matters:

The Debt to Asset Ratio compares a school's total liabilities to its total assets. This helps determine whether a school would be able to meet both its short and long-term financial obligations.

A school whose total liabilities are 90% or less of its Total Assets is



likely to be able to repay all short-term debts and still manage to set its long-term affairs in order in a worst-case scenario. A school with more liabilities than assets would not be able to meet all its financial obligations in a worst-case scenario.

Note: for the purposes of this measure, pension liability is excluded from the school's total liabilities.

## **Financial** Compliance

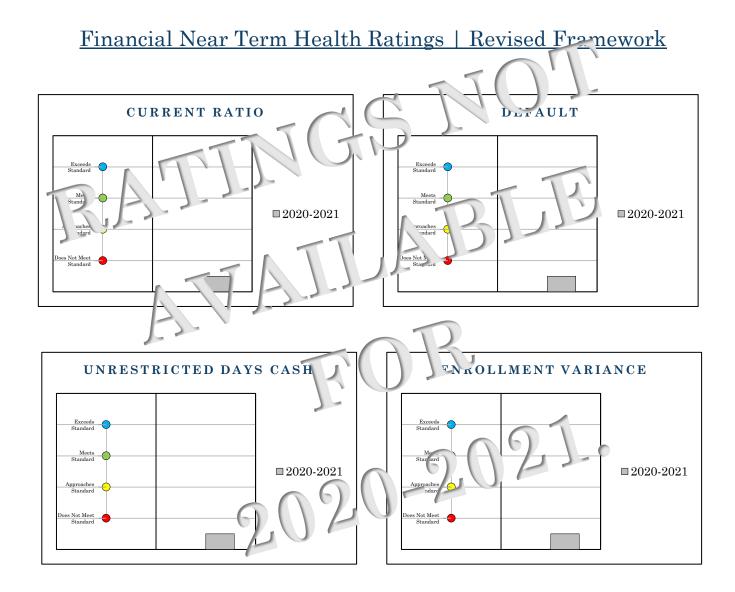
STANDARD RATING: MEETS STANDARD			
Financial Operations	Data and/or Evidence Source		
The school's finances are managed in compliance	Financial Audit 9/2/2021		
with GAAP.			
Expenditures and contracts are posted online	School's Expenditure Page 7/29/2021		
appropriately.			
The school maintains compliant internal controls.	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
The school is not operating under a Notification of	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
Fiscal Concern.			
The school is not operating under a Notification of	*No instances of non-compliance documented.		
Possible or Imminent Closure.			
Comments/Context			

## Longitudinal Financial Ratings | 2020-2024

Longitudinal data provides a snapshot of a school's ratings over the school's current performance certificate (5 years). This data helps to identify performance trends and changes over time. Schools are encouraged to consider how this data might be used to drive your strategic planning as your school approach its next renewal decision.

Notes: The 2020 framework revision removed the "cash ratio" measure and moved the existing enrollment variance measure to the financial section.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, financial outcomes are not rated for 2020-21. Additionally, the enrollment variance measure was calculated based on projected enrollment and actual enrollment (not ADA).



## Longitudinal Financial Ratings | 2020-2024

Longitudinal data provides a snapshot of a school's ratings over the school's current performance certificate (5 years). This data helps to identify performance trends and changes over time. Schools are encouraged to consider how this data might be used to drive your strategic planning as your school approach its next renewal decision.

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Due to the impact of the pandemic, financial outcomes are not rated for 2020-21. Additionally, the enrollment variance measure was calculated based on projected enrollment and actual enrollment (not ADA).

## <u>Financial Sustainability Ratings | Revised Framework</u>



IPCSC Annual Report 2021

The 2020-2021 Annual Report has been finalized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission staff.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the IPCSC.



# IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION $304~N.~8^{\mathrm{th}}~St.~Ste.242$

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