Annual Performance Report 2024-2025

School Name:
Inspire Connections Academy

Empower Connections Academy – Alternative Program

Mission Statement:

To help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards. Connections Academy is a high-quality, high-tech, high-touch “school without walls” that brings out the best in every student.

School Information	Detail
Board Chair/President	Becky Valentine
Administrator	Kenny McAlister
Business Manager	Brandi Bretz
School Website	School Website

Introduction

In Idaho, charter schools operate under contract terms specified in a Performance Certificate, which is agreed upon by the school's board and its authorizer, as outlined in I.C. §33-5205B. Each Performance Certificate includes a performance framework that outlines the expectations the school must meet to be granted a subsequent operational term. The annual performance report, based on this framework, serves the following purposes:

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

The Idaho Public Charter School Commission (IPCSC) must assess whether the school's performance represents a favorable return on public funds. The IPCSC also considers the school's performance in comparison to other educational options available to families. The data in this report are derived from the previous fiscal year and summarize the outcomes of the school's last year of the contract term for those schools that are up for renewal.

If the performance standards are met, strategic planning may focus on the data points that will establish and sustain a high-performing school. If a standard is not met, the school should focus its strategic planning on improving outcomes to secure a subsequent operational term.

Please see the Performance Framework & Alternative Academic Framework rubrics for details regarding how each measure is rated.

RENEWAL (I.C. §33-5209A)

At the conclusion of the operating term, the performance certificate of each school is reviewed for renewal. Charters may be renewed for successive terms. An authorizer can grant renewal with specific written conditions aimed at improving the public charter school, along with a deadline for meeting these conditions. In making renewal decisions, every authorizer must base its choices on evidence of the school's performance during the term of the performance certificate.

If a public charter school has fulfilled all terms of its performance certificate, the authorizer shall renew the charter for a period of twelve years, or six years in the case of a pilot charter. Conversely, if the school has not met one or more of the requirements, the authorizer may either renew for a six-year term or choose not to renew the charter.

School Overview

School's Operating Term

In 2023, Inspire Connections Academy received a conditional renewal with a five-year operating contract. The current certificate term is from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028. This report directly impacts the school's renewal recommendation. Renewal decisions must be made prior to March 15, 2028.

Conditions may be applied to a school's renewal performance certificate if the school did not meet one or more performance framework requirements; these conditions must be satisfied by specified dates.

Each of the following (3) conditions must be met by the deadlines listed below. If the school meets all conditions by the established deadlines, it may continue operating until its next renewal cycle. However, failure to meet any condition by the specified deadline will require the authorizer to consider, at its next public meeting, whether mid-term revocation of the school's charter is warranted.

Condition 1: On December 11, 2025, the Commission took no action on this unmet renewal condition and allowed the school to continue operations until the next annual report.

DUE November 15, 2025: Inspire's alternative education program, Empower Connections Academy (Empower), must achieve a Meets Standard rating on the math proficiency measure of the Commission's performance framework in fiscal year 2025. Since the corresponding data will be evaluated on or before November 15, 2025, the date by which this condition must be met is November 15, 2025.

Inspire scored 10% below the meets standard mark on this measure in fiscal year 2022. The math proficiency measure is defined in the performance framework and shall be incorporated into Inspire's 2023-2028 performance certificate.

Condition 2: CONDITION MET

DUE July 1, 2023: Inspire is no longer "exempt from some or all measures within the financial portion of the Performance Framework," as stated in Inspire's 2018-2022 performance certificate. The purpose of this condition is to ensure that the public has access to an annual performance report that provides complete and transparent information about Inspire's financial outcomes. This condition must be met by July 1, 2023.

Condition 3: CONDITION MET

DUE July 1, 2023: Inspire's negotiated performance certificate shall include a maximum enrollment number not to exceed 2,150 students. However, Inspire will be permitted to request an increase in this enrollment number through the charter revision process. The purpose of this condition is to ensure budget predictability for all schools and to ensure

that emergency growth decisions are made by the appropriate entity. This condition must be met by July 1, 2023.

School Details

Model: Virtual and Virtual Alternative

Enrollment Capacity: 2150

2024-2025 Enrollment: 1279

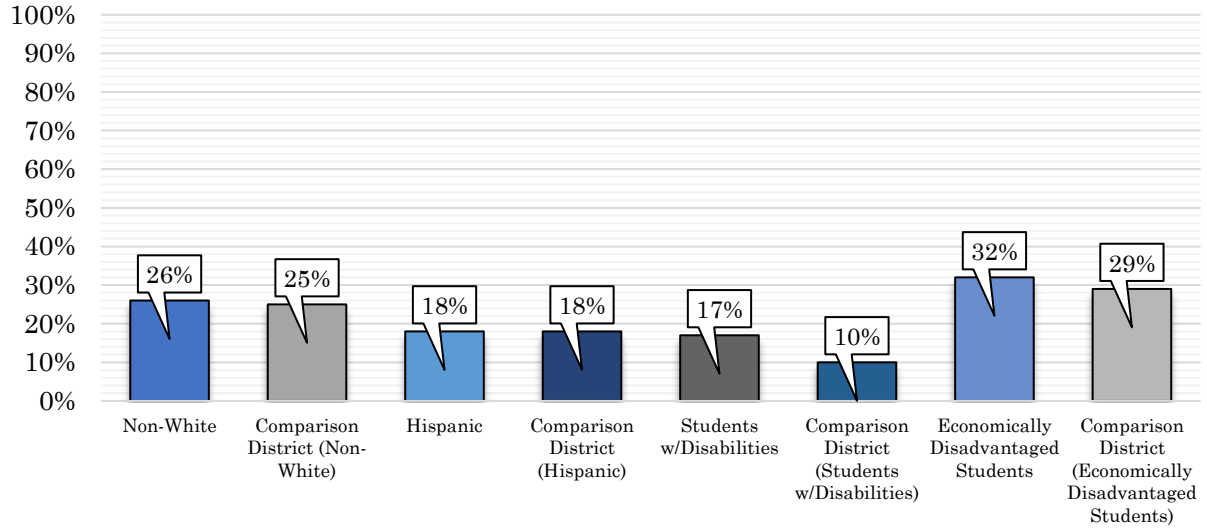
Grades Served: Kindergarten – 12th Grade

Key Design Elements:

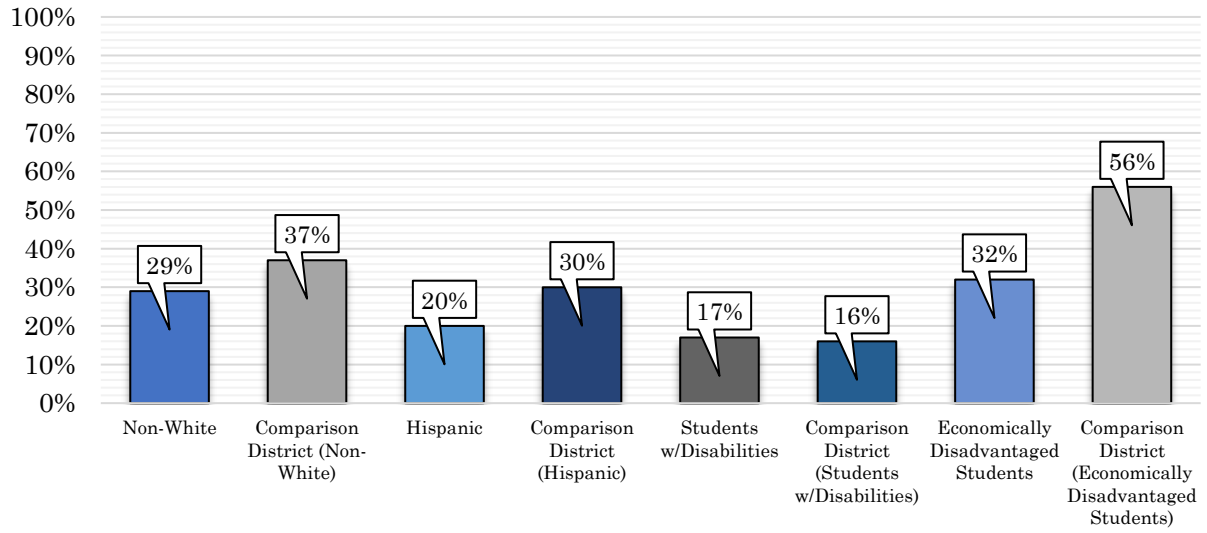
1. Implementation of Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) designed collaboratively by teachers, parents and students to support each student's personal and/or academic growth.
2. Ensuring appropriate one-on-one student/teacher/guardian or learning coach interaction for elementary (K-5) students, the minimum interaction frequency will be bi-monthly. For secondary (6-12) students, the minimum will be eight (8) times per school year.
3. Weekly live lessons will be consistently available to all students.
4. Fostering collaborative staff teamwork through a Professional Learning Community (PLC) model.
5. Providing enhanced learning through online technology.

2024-2025 Demographic Summary

Inspire Connections Academy



Empower Connections Academy



2024-2025 Annual Snapshot

Academics

RATING LEGEND	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD	APPROACHES STANDARD	MEETS STANDARD	EXCEEDS STANDARD	NOT RATED

Academic Measure – Inspire Connections Academy	Academic Score	Academic Rating
Math Proficiency	19%	**Approaches Standard**
Math Growth	27.1%	**Approaches Standard**
ELA Proficiency	41.1%	**Meets Standard**
ELA Growth	41.1%	**Approaches Standard**
Literacy Proficiency	Fall IRI: >58% Spring IRI: 59.1%	**Meets Standard**
College & Career Readiness 4 Yr ACGR	78.1%	**Meets Standard**

*Beginning in FY25 Academic data displayed on the Idaho Report Card changed from *Continuously Enrolled* student data to *All* student data.

Academic Measure – Empower Connections Academy	Academic Score	Academic Rating
Math Proficiency	13.6%	**Approaches Standard**
Math Growth	NR	**Not Rated**
ELA Proficiency	27.3%	**Approaches Standard**
ELA Growth	NR	**Not Rated**
Literacy Proficiency	Fall IRI: NA Spring IRI: NA	**Not Rated**
College & Career Readiness 4 Yr ACGR	61.6%	**Meets Standard**

Alternative Academic Measure – Empower Connections Academy	Academic Score	Academic Rating
Math Achievement and Growth – Option 1	89.71%	**Exceeds Standard**
ELA Achievement and Growth – Option 1	84.56%	**Exceeds Standard**
Progress toward Graduation – Option 1	71.35%	**Meets Standard**
Postsecondary Readiness – Option 2	88%	**Exceeds Standard**

Operations

RATING LEGEND	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD	MEETS STANDARD	NOT RATED

Operational Measure	Operational Rating
Governance Structure	**Meets Standard**
Governance Oversight	**Meets Standard**
Student Services	**Meets Standard**
Data Security/Transparency	**Meets Standard**
Facility & Services	**Meets Standard**

Financial

RATING LEGEND	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD	APPROACHES STANDARD	MEETS STANDARD	EXCEEDS STANDARD	NOT RATED

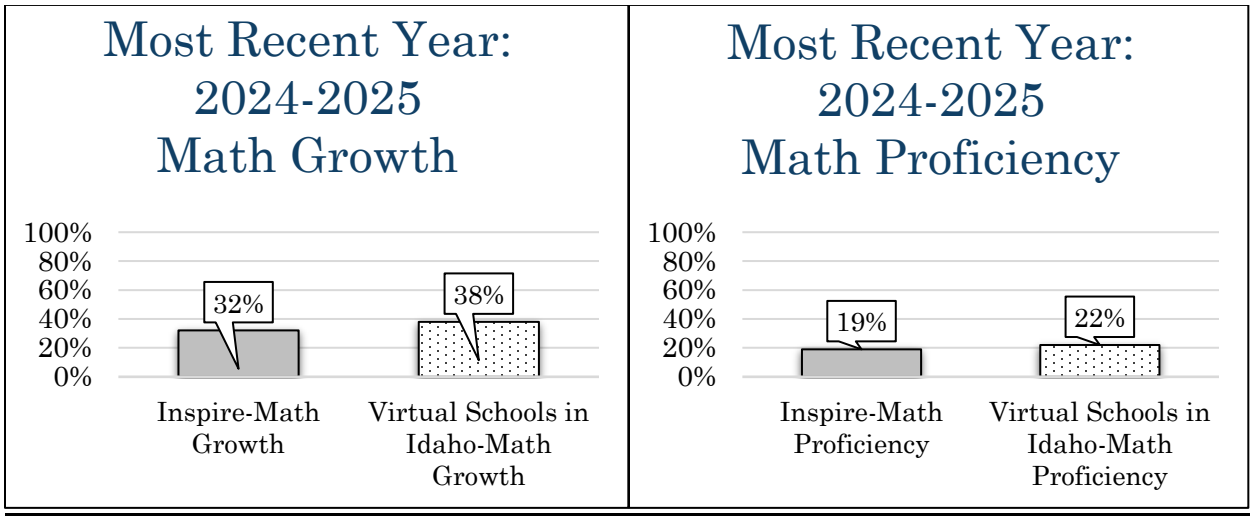
Financial Measurement	Financial Rating
Current Ratio	**Meets Standard**
Unrestricted Days Cash	**Exceeds Standard**
Default	**Exceeds Standard**
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	**Exceeds Standard**
Debt Asset Ratio	**Exceeds Standard**
Financial Compliance	**Exceeds Standard**

2024-2025 Academic Outcomes – Inspire Connections Academy

Math Growth and Proficiency

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.

Comparison Group: Virtual Schools in Idaho

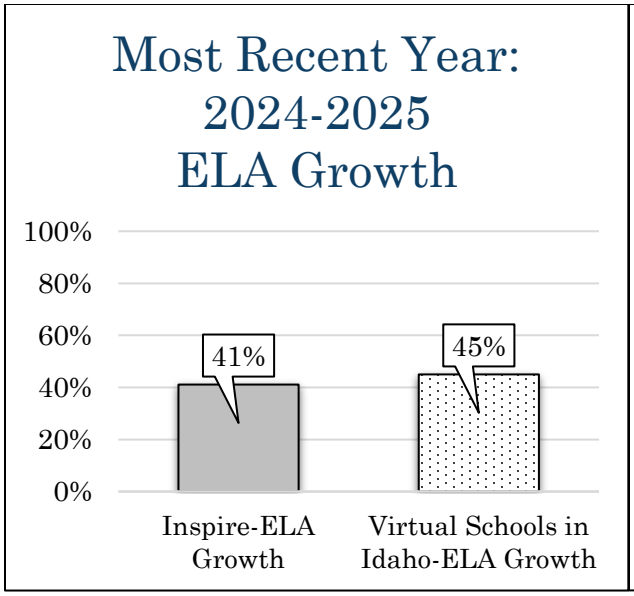


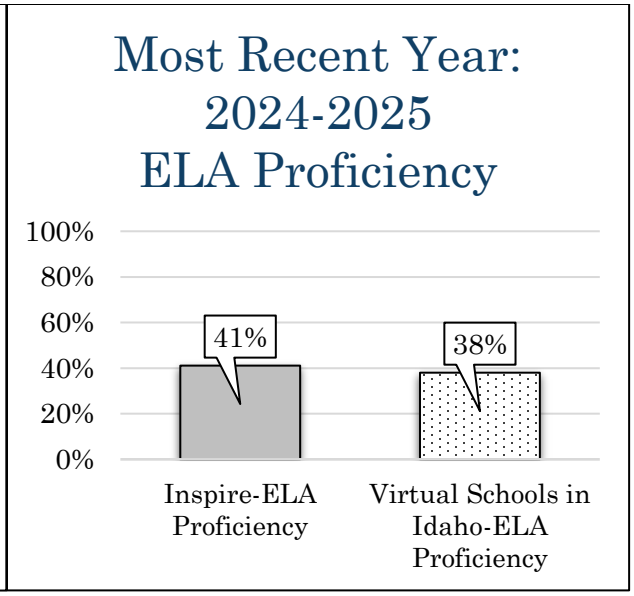
MEASURE	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
MATH GROWTH	**Approaches Standard**	The school's growth rate falls between the average and one standard deviation below the average of the school's identified comparison group.
MATH PROFICIENCY	**Approaches Standard**	The school's proficiency rate is more than one standard deviation below the average of the school's identified comparison group.

ELA Growth and Proficiency

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.

Comparison Group: Virtual Schools in Idaho



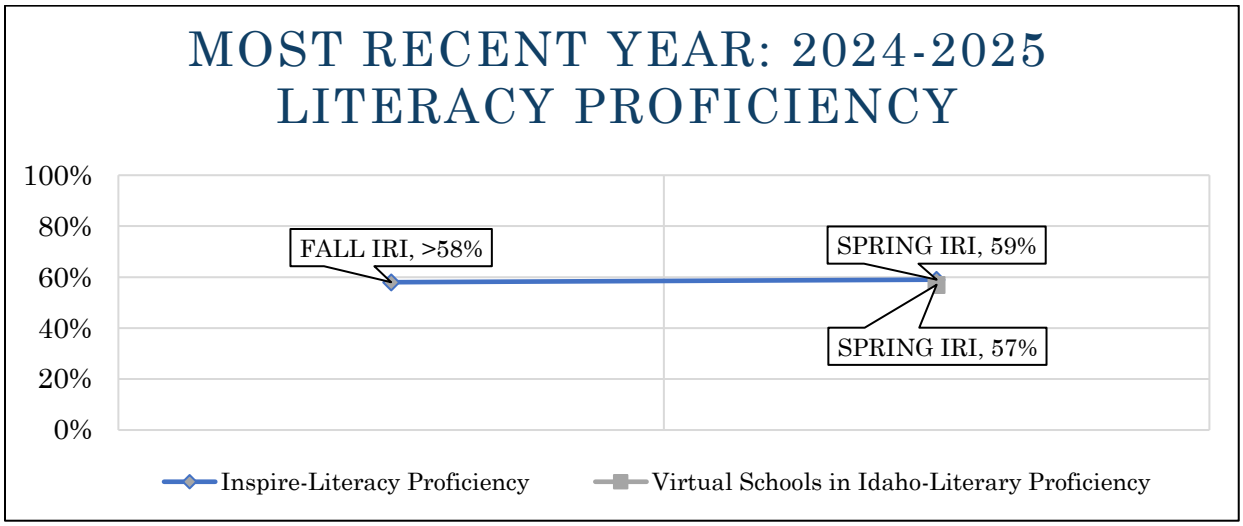


MEASURE	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
ELA GROWTH	**Approaches Standard**	The school's growth rate falls between the average and one standard deviation below the average of the school's identified comparison group.
ELA PROFICIENCY	**Meets Standard**	The school's proficiency rate falls between the average and one standard deviation above the average of the school's identified comparison group.

Literacy Proficiency

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.

Comparison Group: Virtual Schools in Idaho

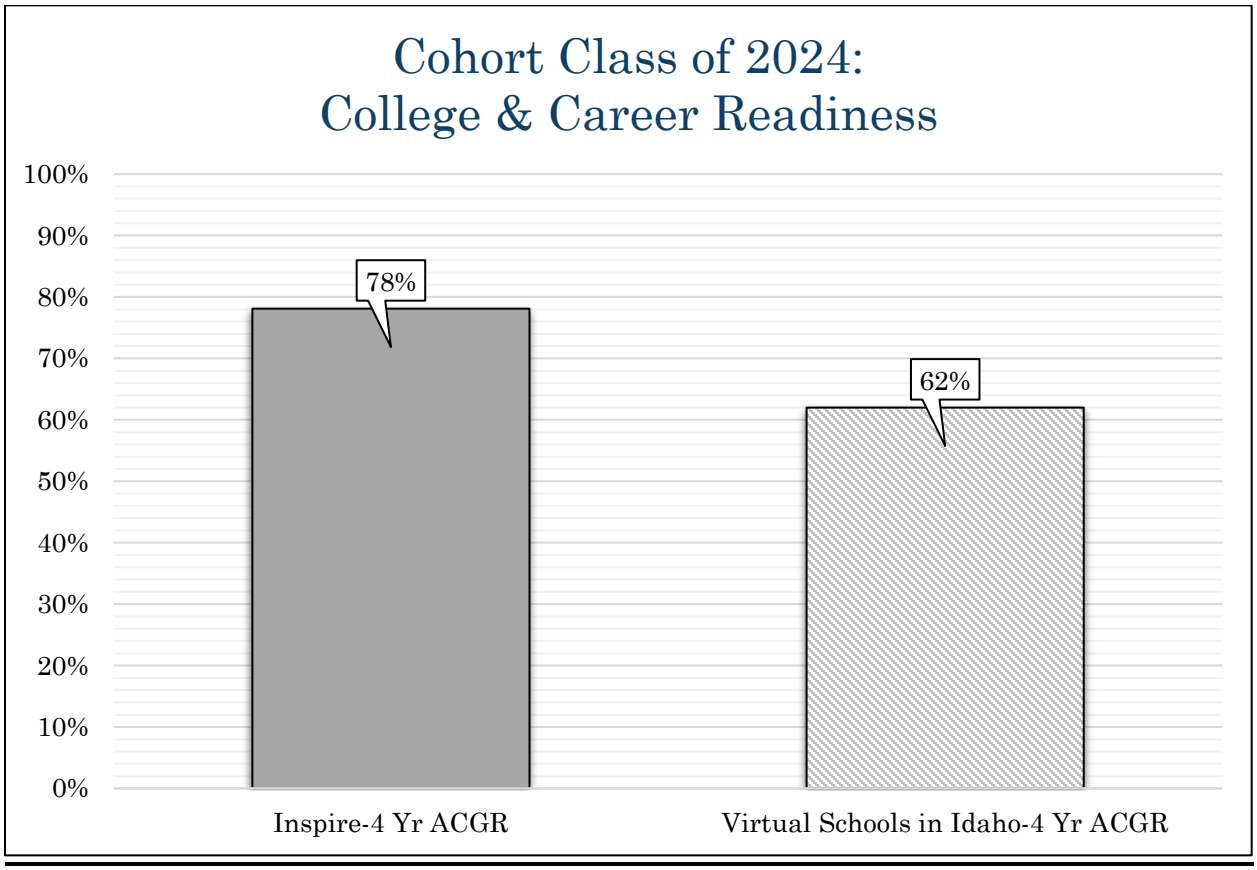


MEASURE	PROFICIENCY RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
LITERACY PROFICIENCY	**Meets Standard**	The school's proficiency rate on the spring administration of the statewide literacy assessment is within one standard deviation above the average of the school's identified comparison group.

College & Career Readiness

A school with a 4-year graduation rate equal to or greater than the average of its comparison group meets the IPCSC standard.

Comparison Group: Virtual Schools in Idaho



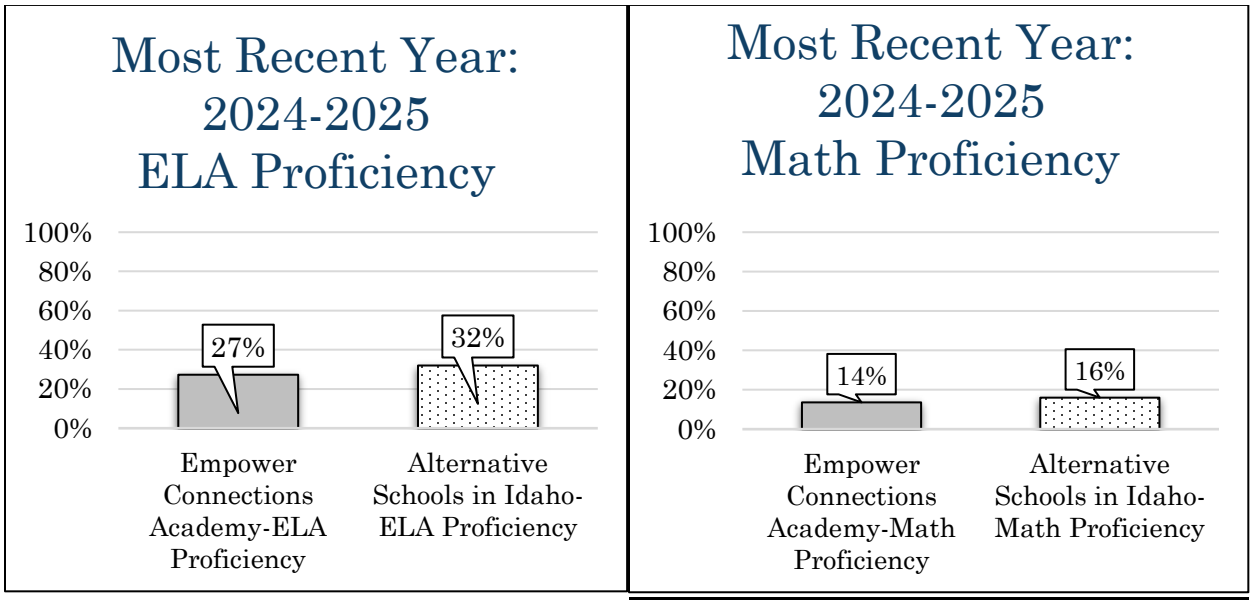
MEASURE	COLLEGE & CAREER RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
College & Career Readiness	**Meets Standard**	The school's 4-Year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) falls between the average and one standard deviation above the average of the school's identified comparison group.

2024-2025 Academic Outcomes – Empower Connections Academy

ELA and Math Proficiency

A school that performs as well or better than the average of its comparison group on the statewide ELA and mathematics assessment (ISAT) meets the IPCSC standard on both the ELA and math proficiency measures.

Comparison Group: Alternative Schools in Idaho

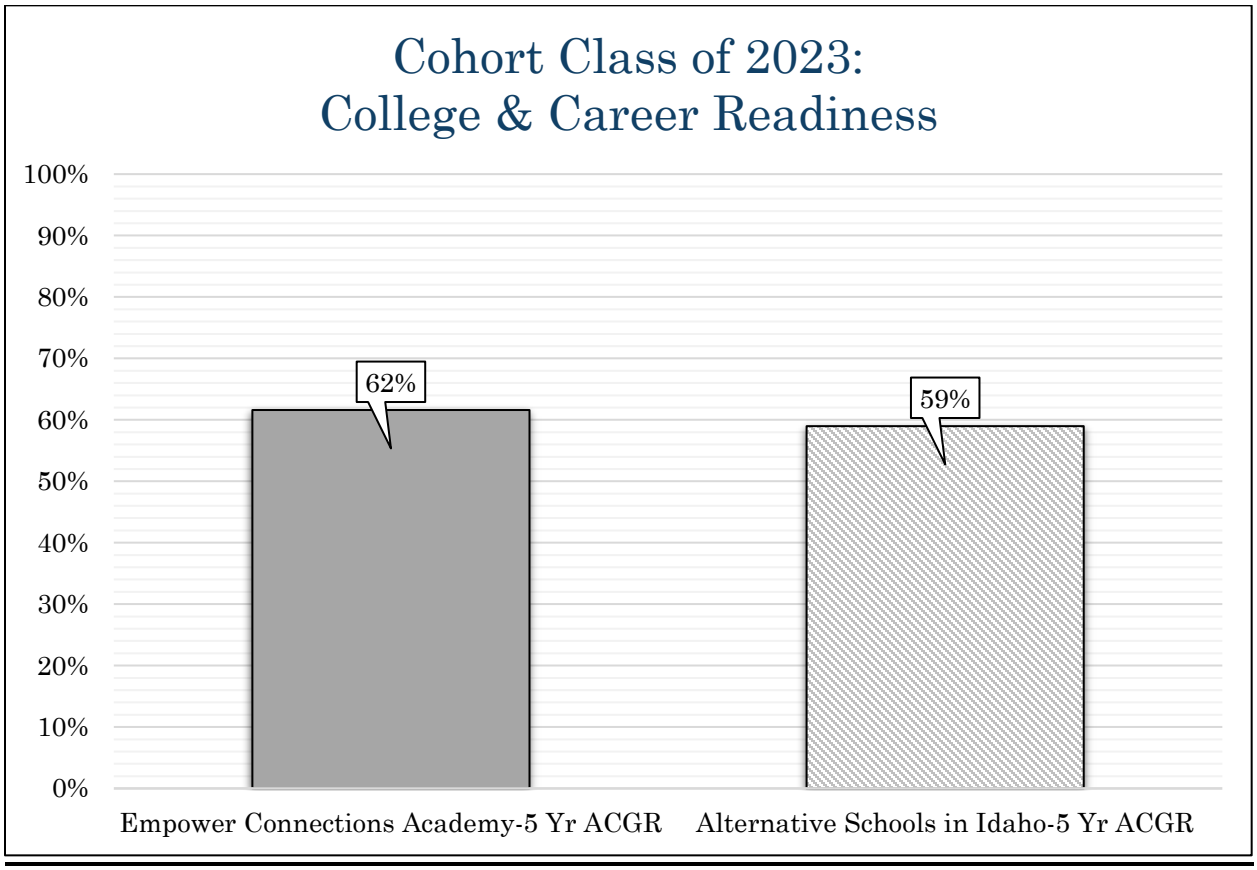


MEASURE	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
ELA Proficiency	**Approaches Standard**	The school's proficiency rate falls between the average and one standard deviation below the average of the school's identified comparison group.
MATH Proficiency	**Approaches Standard**	The school's proficiency rate falls between the average and one standard deviation below the average of the school's identified comparison group.

College & Career Readiness

A school with a 5-year graduation rate equal to or greater than the average of its comparison group meets the IPCSC standard.

Comparison Group: Alternative Schools in Idaho



MEASURE	COLLEGE & CAREER RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
College & Career Readiness	**Meets Standard**	The school's 5-Year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) falls between the average and one standard deviation above the average of the school's identified comparison group.

2024-2025 Alternative Academic Outcomes

Math Achievement & Growth

GOAL – Option 1	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
Percentage of continuously enrolled students who have either a) completed all math requirements before the beginning of the year (grades 9-12), b) completed the remaining number of math credits required for graduation (grades 9-12), or c) completed at least one year-long required math course (all applicable grades).	**Exceeds Standard**	75-100% of continuously enrolled students to complete a, b or c

ELA Achievement & Growth

GOAL – Option 1	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
Percentage of continuously enrolled students who have either a) completed all ELA requirements before the beginning of the year (grades 9-12), b) completed the remaining number of ELA credits required for graduation (grades 9-12), or c) completed at least one year-long required ELA course (all applicable grades).	**Exceeds Standard**	75-100% of continuously enrolled students to complete a, b or c

Progress toward Graduation

GOAL – Option 1	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
Percentage of students who were enrolled for at least one full term who earned the minimum average number of credits per enrolled term.	**Meets Standard**	65-74% of students enrolled for at least one full term earn the minimum number of credits per enrolled term

Postsecondary Readiness

GOAL – Option 2	RATING	APPLICABLE RUBRIC DESCRIPTION
Percentage of students in their 4th or 5th cohort year who either graduate by the end of the year or who continue their education the following year.	**Exceeds Standard**	75-100% of students in their 4th or 5th cohort year who either graduate at the end of the year or who continue their education the following year

2024-2025 Operational Outcomes

Board Governance

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.

Measure	Rating	Rubric Description
Governance Structure	**Meets Standard**	No Issues
Governance Oversight	**Meets Standard**	No Issues

Management

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.

Measure	Rating	Rubric Description
Student Services	**Meets Standard**	No Issues
Data Security and Information Transparency	**Meets Standard**	No Issues
Facility and Services	**Meets Standard**	No Issues

2024-2025 Financial Outcomes

Near Term Measures

These measures evaluate whether a school is likely to meet its financial obligations in the next year. Data sources include but are not limited to the school's fiscal audit, state agency reporting, and school reporting requirements.

Measure	Value	Rating	Rubric Description
Current Ratio	1.36	**Meets Standard**	The school has a current ratio of at least 1.1 (or between 1.0 and 1.1 with a 1-year positive trend).
Days Cash on Hand	101.05	**Exceeds Standard**	The school has more than 60 days cash on hand.
Default	None	**Exceeds Standard**	The school has met standard for at least 3 consecutive years, including the most recently completed school year.

Current Ratio

The Current Ratio compares a school's short-term financial obligations (current liabilities) to its available cash and investments (current assets). A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates the school can meet its financial obligations for the next year without relying on future revenue, while a ratio less than 1.0 suggests the school depends on future revenue to cover its existing obligations.

Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Current Ratio
$4,171,501	$3,066,172	1.36

Days Cash on Hand

Days cash on hand measures how long a school can cover its operating costs using only available cash and investments. A school with at least 60 days cash on hand can meet immediate financial obligations, while 30-60 days is acceptable if improving. Less than 15 days indicates financial distress and risk of automatic closure. Schools in their first or second year of operation must have a minimum of 30 days cash on hand.

Default

Default occurs when a school fails to meet its financial obligations, such as late bill payments, missed payroll, inaccurate funding reports, or failing to meet lender requirements like enrollment targets or cash reserves. Any default can lead to service disruptions, loans being called due, or withheld funding.

Sustainability Measures

These measures help determine whether a school is likely to remain financially stable into the future. Data sources include but are not limited to the school's fiscal audit, state agency reporting, and school reporting requirements.

Measure	Value	Rating	Rubric Description
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.91	**Exceeds Standard**	The school's debt service coverage ratio is 1.5 or greater or the school operates debt-free.
Debt to Asset Ratio	0.67	**Exceeds Standard**	The school has met standard for 3 consecutive years, including the most recently completed school year, or the school operates debt-free.
Financial Compliance	Yes	**Exceeds Standard**	The school has met standard for at least 3 consecutive years, including the most recently completed school year.

Debt Service Coverage Ratio

Debt Service Coverage Ratio assesses a school's ability to cover annual debt payments using only that year's income. A Debt Service Coverage Ratio greater than 1 indicates the school can meet its debt obligations, while a ratio below 1 suggests reliance on reserves or future revenue to cover debt.

Table Calculation for a school that owns its facility or for a leased facility and the lease is capitalized

Net Income + Depreciation Expense + Interest Expense	Principal + Interest + Lease Payments	Debt Service Coverage Ratio
$122,769	$64,206	1.91

Debt to Asset Ratio

The Debt to Asset Ratio compares a school's total liabilities to its total assets, minus pension liability. 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.

Total Liabilities, less pension liabilities	Total Assets, less pension assets	Debt to Asset Ratio
$3,278,977	$4,920,061	0.67

Financial Compliance

The school's financial management adheres to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), ensuring that accounting practices are up to standard. Additionally, the internal controls in place are fully compliant with relevant regulations. Notably, the most recent financial audit confirmed that there were no issues or findings, reflecting a high level of accuracy and compliance.

Closing Remarks and Contact Information

The 2024-2025 Annual Report has been prepared by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission staff.

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

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