



Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan
Board Chair

Michelle J. Walker-Davis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

June 22, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Kamuzu Saunders
Board Chair

Zakiya Sackor
Executive Director

Rocketship Public Charter School
2335 Reynolds Place SE
Washington, DC 20020

Re: 10-Year Charter Review of Rocketship Public Charter School

Dear Chair Saunders and Ms. Sackor:

As required by the D.C. School Reform Act (SRA), the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) conducts a high-stakes review of a public charter school at least once every five years to determine whether the school's charter should be continued or revoked.¹ During the 2025 – 26 school year, DC PCSB conducted a review of Rocketship Public Charter School (the school).

DC PCSB staff prepared a comprehensive report assessing the school's performance against the standard set by law.² On January 21, 2026, DC PCSB shared a draft of the report and invited feedback. DC PCSB staff reviewed the school's input and, where appropriate, incorporated it into a revised report that formed the basis of a formal staff proposal to the DC PCSB Board recommending charter continuance.

At the public board meeting on February 23, 2026, the DC PCSB Board voted to continue the school's charter with conditions based on the findings identified in the report and proposal. School representatives were present and had the opportunity

¹ See DC Code § 38-1802.12(a)(3).

² See DC Code § 38-1802.13(a)-(b).



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to speak before the Board, and members of the public were also invited to provide comment prior to the vote.

Enclosed, you will find the signed copy of the accompanying staff proposal and the full charter review report, which details the basis for the DC PCSB Board's decision.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to the students of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan".

Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle J. Walker-Davis".

Michelle J. Walker-Davis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter Actions Requiring a Vote

- ☐ Approve a Charter Application (15 yrs)
- ☐ Approve a Charter Renewal (15 yrs)
- ☒ Approve Charter Continuance
- ☐ Approve a Charter Amendment Request
- ☐ Give a Charter Notice of Concern
- ☐ Lift the Charter Notice of Concern
- ☐ Commence Charter Revocation Proceedings
- ☐ Revoke a Charter
- ☐ Board Action, Other _____

Non-Voting Board Items

- ☐ Public Hearing Item
- ☐ Discussion Item
- ☐ Read into Record

Policies

- ☐ Open a New Policy or Changes to a Policy for Public Comment
- ☐ Approve a New Policy
- ☐ Approve an Amendment to an Existing Policy

PREPARED BY: Melodi Sampson, Chief School Performance Officer, School Performance Department

SUBJECT: Charter Review: Rocketship Education DC Public Charter School

DATE: February 23, 2026

Recommendation

District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) staff recommends that its Board vote to continue the charter of Rocketship Education DC Public Charter School (Rocketship PCS). This recommendation aligns with DC PCSB's Strategic Roadmap Priority of Excellent Schools.¹

Charter Review Findings

DC PCSB staff conducted a 10-year charter review of Rocketship PCS, as required by the School Reform Act (SRA).² The review includes an evaluation of the school's 1) progress toward meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations (charter

¹ DC PCSB is creating the policies and conditions to support a network of public charter schools in Washington, DC, offering families quality, equity, and diverse educational choices. See the Strategic Roadmap here: <https://bit.ly/3EVeKYg>.

² D.C. Code §§ 38-1802 et seq.

goals); 2) compliance with its charter and applicable federal and local laws; and 3) fiscal management. The chart below summarizes DC PCSB staff's findings in these three areas over the review period.

Charter Review Findings	
Review Period	School year (SY) 2020 – 21 through SY 2024 – 25
Charter Goals	Rocketship PCS – Infinity Community Prep met its charter goals in SY 2022 – 23, did not meet its charter goals in SY 2023 – 24, and met its charter goals in SY 2024 – 25. Rocketship PCS – Legacy Prep and Rocketship PCS – Rise Academy partially met their charter goals in SY 2022 – 23 and 2023 – 24 and met their charter goals in SY 2024 – 25.
Compliance	Rocketship PCS did not materially violate the law or its charter.
Finance	Rocketship PCS did not display a pattern of fiscal mismanagement and is economically viable.

Rocketship PCS adopted the Performance Management Framework (PMF) as its charter goals and committed to earning an average PMF score equal to or exceeding 45.0% for school years 2020 – 21, 2021 – 22, 2022 – 23, 2023 – 24, and 2024 – 25.^{3,4} However, given DC PCSB's PMF revision efforts and the disruption in schooling and data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic, DC PCSB ceased producing the PMF after SY 2018 – 19 and did not assess goal attainment for school years 2020 – 21 or 2021 – 22.⁵ Consequently, for this review period, DC PCSB staff assessed Rocketship PCS's charter goals performance using SY 2022 – 23, SY 2023 – 24, and SY 2024 – 25 goal attainment pathways as outlined in DC PCSB's *Charter Goals Policy*.⁶

The *Charter Goals Policy* offers multiple pathways to demonstrate goal attainment and requires schools to meet one pathway in each school year.

In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity Community Prep (Rocketship PCS – Infinity) met Pathway D by exceeding the target score of 40.0% on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) DC School Report Card. That same year,

³ See the *Elect to Adopt the PMF as Charter Goals Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/2PTj7fL>.

⁴ See Rocketship PCS's Charter Agreement, Appendix A1.

⁵ Per DC PCSB's *COVID-19 Impact Policy*, DC PCSB ceased collection, aggregation, and publication of academic data for SY 2019 – 20 and SY 2020 – 21 and did not produce the PMF for those years. (See the *COVID-19 Impact Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/3fy5zDo>.) In September 2021, DC PCSB announced its plan to revise its accountability system. Consequently, DC PCSB did not resume production of the PMF.

⁶ See the *Charter Goals Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4cpui8l>.

Rocketship PCS – Legacy Prep (Rocketship PCS – Legacy) and Rocketship PCS – Rise Academy (Rocketship PCS – Rise) did not fully meet any pathway. Rocketship PCS – Legacy partially met Pathway C by exceeding publisher growth criteria on its nationally normed growth assessment in English language arts (ELA)/reading. Rocketship PCS – Rise partially met Pathway B by exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

In SY 2023 – 24, Rocketship PCS – Infinity did not fully meet any goal attainment pathway. Furthermore, the campus failed to substantially or partially meet a pathway, which means that, on pathways with multiple measures, Rocketship PCS – Infinity failed to meet the criteria for a minimum of 50.0% of the measures on the pathway.⁷ That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise both partially met Pathway B by meeting or exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity met Pathway B by earning a Level 3 or better on DC PCSB’s accountability system, ASPIRE. That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise met Pathway D by improving their ASPIRE scores from the prior year.

Separate and apart from the school’s goal attainment, results from the Qualitative Site Review (QSR) suggest that Rocketship PCS – Infinity is performing slightly above “proficient” in the classroom environment domain and between “basic” and “proficient” in the instruction domain.^{8,9} Rocketship PCS – Legacy is performing between “basic” and “proficient” in the classroom environment domain and between “basic” and “proficient” in the instruction domain. Rocketship PCS – Rise is performing between “basic” and “proficient” (closer to “proficient”) in both the classroom environment and instruction domains.

⁷ Per the *Charter Goals Policy*, DC PCSB staff also considered student group performance on transitional goals. DC PCSB staff primarily reviewed performance among economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and emerging multilingual learner student groups. DC PCSB staff found that none of these student groups at Rocketship PCS – Infinity fully met a *Charter Goals Policy* pathway in SY 2023 – 24.

⁸ QSR observers rate the classroom environment and instruction on the Charlotte Danielson *Framework for Teaching* scale from one to four: “1” indicates “unsatisfactory” performance, “2” indicates “basic,” “3” indicates “proficient,” and “4” indicates “distinguished.”

⁹ See the QSR section on page 7 of the school’s charter review report for further details about each campus’s QSR performance.

DC PCSB staff also evaluated the school's compliance with applicable federal and local laws and with its charter. DC PCSB staff determined the school has not committed a material violation of law or of its charter.

DC PCSB staff also evaluated the school's fiscal management. DC PCSB staff determined that the school has not engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), has not engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and is economically viable.

DC PCSB staff's complete findings are detailed in the school's Preliminary Charter Review Report (Attachment A), which forms the basis of staff's recommendation along with this proposal.¹⁰

Based on these findings, DC PCSB staff recommends the Board vote to continue Rocketship PCS's charter.

Charter Review Standard

The SRA stipulates that DC PCSB "shall review [a school's] charter at least once every [five] years."¹¹ As part of this review, DC PCSB must determine whether:

- 1) The school committed a violation of applicable law, or a material violation of the conditions, terms, standards, or procedures set forth in its charter, including violations relating to the education of children with disabilities; and/or
- 2) The school failed to meet the goals and student academic achievement expectations set forth in its charter.¹²

If DC PCSB determines that a school has committed a violation of applicable law or a material violation of the terms of its charter or has not met its goals and academic achievement expectations, it may, at its discretion, revoke the school's charter, or grant the school a continuance.¹³

Additionally, there is a fiscal component to the charter review. DC PCSB is required by the SRA to revoke a school's charter if DC PCSB determines in its review that the school: 1) has engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to generally accepted accounting principles, 2) has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and/or 3) is no longer economically viable.¹⁴

¹⁰ The report will be finalized following the Board's vote on the school's continuance.

¹¹ D.C. Code § 38-1802.12(a)(3).

¹² D.C. Code § 38-1802.13(a).

¹³ DC PCSB may impose conditions of continuance if it deems such conditions appropriate.

¹⁴ D.C. Code § 38-1802.13(b).

Background

Rocketship PCS began operation in 2016 under authorization from DC PCSB. The school currently educates 1,083 students in grades prekindergarten – 3 (PK3) through 5.¹⁵ The school operates three campuses located in Wards 5, 7, and 8. Rocketship PCS's mission is:

Rocketship Education DC will eliminate the achievement gap by graduating our students at or above grade level in Language Arts and Math.¹⁶

Notification

On January 7, 2026, DC PCSB staff notified the following Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners of the school's 10-year charter review: Shelagh Bocoum (5A09), Angela Sydnor (7B08), and Thomas Von Williams, Jr. (8B03). DC PCSB staff also posted a notice for public comment on the charter review in the DC Register and on the DC PCSB website.¹⁷

Subsequent Financial Update Memo

Given the time it takes to prepare a review or renewal report, and the timeline on which key financial data becomes available, these reports do not reflect the most current information about a school's fiscal management and financial health. However, this information is critical to ensure the DC PCSB Board and members of the public have an accurate understanding of the school's financial performance. Accordingly, at the time of a school's charter review or renewal vote, DC PCSB staff prepares a Subsequent Financial Update Memo that provides any significant additional information regarding the school's fiscal management and financial performance since the drafting of the report.

The Subsequent Financial Update Memo for Rocketship PCS may be accessed in the materials for this Board meeting.¹⁸

Attachment(s) to this Proposal

Attachment A: Rocketship PCS 10-Year Preliminary Charter Review Report

Attachment B: Optional Report Response from the School (if submitted)

¹⁵ This enrollment figure reflects the final audited data for SY 2025-26.

¹⁶ This mission statement is captured in Rocketship PCS's charter agreement.

¹⁷ See the notice here: <https://bit.ly/4rCbHxO>.

¹⁸ Meeting materials can be accessed via the "Meeting Materials" link on the February 2026 Board Meeting page: <https://bit.ly/40a5kVT>.

Date: 2/23/26

DC PCSB Action: ☐ Approved ☒ Approved with Changes ☐ Rejected

Changes to the Original Proposal:

By March 23, 2026, the school and DC PCSB must execute a charter amendment and this amendment must do two things. First, set a minimum ASPIRE score of 35.0% percent for school year 2027 – 28 and school year 2028 – 29 for both Rocketship PCS – Rise and Rocketship PCS – Legacy. If either campus scores below 35.0% in either year, that campus will close at the end of the following school year and the entire LEA's enrollment ceiling will decrease accordingly. Second, remove all language from the charter agreement authorizing the LEA to open up to eight campuses and grow to an enrollment of 5,200 students. The LEA's current enrollment ceiling will be capped at its current level (1,950 students).

Board Vice-Chair Signature: 



2025 – 26 10-Year Charter Review Report Rocketship Education DC Public Charter School

February 23, 2026

DC Public Charter School Board
100 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
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¹ To request a text-only and/or a black-and-white version of this report, please contact communications@dcpcsb.org.

BOARD VOTE AND KEY FINDINGS

Rocketship Education DC Public Charter School (Rocketship PCS)²	
Review or Renewal	10-year charter review
Review Period	School year (SY) 2020 – 21 through SY 2024 – 25
Charter Goals	Rocketship PCS – Infinity Community Prep met its charter goals in SY 2022 – 23, did not meet its charter goals in SY 2023 – 24, and met its charter goals in SY 2024 – 25. Rocketship PCS – Legacy Prep and Rocketship PCS – Rise Academy partially met their charter goals in SY 2022 – 23 and 2023 – 24 and met their charter goals in SY 2024 – 25.
Compliance	Rocketship PCS did not materially violate the law or its charter.
Finance	Rocketship PCS did not display a pattern of fiscal mismanagement and is economically viable.
Board Vote	The Board voted 7 – 0 to conditionally continue Rocketship PCS’s charter.

Pursuant to the School Reform Act (SRA), the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) “shall review [a school’s] charter at least once every [five] years.”³ During SY 2024 – 25, DC PCSB conducted a 10-year charter review of Rocketship PCS, evaluating the school’s progress toward meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations (charter goals). DC PCSB also evaluated the school’s compliance with applicable federal and local laws, compliance with its charter, and fiscal management.

Goals and Academic Achievement Expectations (Charter Goals)

Rocketship PCS adopted the Performance Management Framework (PMF) as its charter goals and committed to earning an average PMF score equal to or exceeding 45.0% for school years 2020 – 21, 2021 – 22, 2022 – 23, 2023 – 24, and 2024 – 25.^{4, 5} However, given DC PCSB’s PMF revision efforts and the disruption in schooling and data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic, DC PCSB ceased producing the PMF after SY 2018 – 19 and did not assess goal attainment for school years 2020 – 21 or 2021 – 22.⁶ Consequently, for this review period, DC PCSB assessed Rocketship PCS’s charter goals performance using SY 2022 – 23,

² See Rocketship PCS’s Charter Agreement and Amendments, Appendices A1 – A10. All appendices are located here: <https://bit.ly/402eXpC>.

³ D.C. Code § 38-1802.12(a)(3).

⁴ See the *Elect to Adopt the PMF as Charter Goals Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/2PTj7fL>.

⁵ See Rocketship PCS’s Charter Agreement, Appendix A1.

⁶ Per DC PCSB’s *COVID-19 Impact Policy*, DC PCSB ceased collection, aggregation, and publication of academic data for SY 2019 – 20 and SY 2020 – 21 and did not produce the PMF for those years. (See the *COVID-19 Impact Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/3fy5zDg>.) In September 2021, DC PCSB announced its plan to revise its accountability system. Consequently, DC PCSB did not resume production of the PMF.

SY 2023 – 24, and SY 2024 – 25 goal attainment pathways as outlined in DC PCSB's *Charter Goals Policy*.⁷

The *Charter Goals Policy* offers multiple pathways to demonstrate goal attainment and requires schools to meet one pathway in each school year.

In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity Community Prep (Rocketship PCS – Infinity) met Pathway D by exceeding the target score of 40.0% on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) DC School Report Card. That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy Prep (Rocketship PCS – Legacy) and Rocketship PCS – Rise Academy (Rocketship PCS – Rise) did not fully meet any pathway. Rocketship PCS – Legacy partially met Pathway C by exceeding publisher growth criteria on its nationally normed growth assessment in ELA/reading. Rocketship PCS – Rise partially met Pathway B by exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

In SY 2023 – 24, Rocketship PCS – Infinity did not fully meet any goal attainment pathway. Furthermore, the campus failed to substantially or partially meet a pathway, which means that, on pathways with multiple measures, Rocketship PCS – Infinity failed to meet the criteria for a minimum of 50.0% of the measures on the pathway.⁸ That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise both partially met Pathway B by meeting or exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity met Pathway B by earning a Level 3 or better on DC PCSB's accountability system, ASPIRE. That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise met Pathway D by improving their ASPIRE scores from the prior year.

Separate and apart from the school's goal attainment, during the Qualitative Site Review (QSR), Rocketship PCS – Infinity's programming rated just above proficient in the classroom environment domain and between basic and proficient in the instruction domain.^{9,10} Rocketship PCS – Legacy's programming rated between basic and proficient in the classroom environment domain and just above basic in the instruction domain. Rocketship

⁷ See the *Charter Goals Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4cpui81>.

⁸ Per the *Charter Goals Policy*, DC PCSB staff also considered student group performance on transitional goals. DC PCSB staff primarily reviewed performance among economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and emerging multilingual learner student groups. DC PCSB staff found that none of these student groups at Rocketship PCS – Infinity fully met a *Charter Goals Policy* pathway in SY 2023 – 24.

⁹ QSR observers rate the classroom environment and instruction on the Charlotte Danielson *Framework for Teaching* scale from one to four: "1" indicates "unsatisfactory" performance, "2" indicates "basic," "3" indicates "proficient," and "4" indicates "distinguished."

¹⁰ See the QSR section on page 6 of this report for further details about each campus's QSR performance.

PCS – Rise’s programming rated just below proficient in the classroom environment and instruction domains.

Compliance

DC PCSB determined the school has not committed a material violation of law or of its charter. However, in June 2025, OSSE found that Rocketship PCS violated special education law by denying a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for not evaluating a student in all areas of suspected disability. Rocketship PCS also received a “Building (Needs Intervention)” designation in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021 and FFY 2023 on its Special Education Performance Report (SEPR). Notably, Rocketship PCS completed all corrective actions regarding these findings and is implementing a Continuous Improvement Plan with support from OSSE. This plan will be monitored through SY 2025 – 26.

Finance

DC PCSB determined the school has not engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), has not engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and is economically viable.

Staff Recommendation

Based on these findings, DC PCSB staff recommended the Board vote to continue Rocketship PCS’s charter.

Board Vote

Given concerns around the school’s performance, at its public meeting on February 23, 2026, the DC PCSB Board voted 7 – 0 to modify staff’s recommendation and continue Rocketship PCS’s charter with conditions. Specifically, the Board required the school and DC PCSB to execute a charter agreement amendment by March 23, 2026 that:

- i. Sets a minimum ASPIRE score of 35% for SY 2027–28 and SY 2028–29 for Rocketship PCS – Rise Academy and Rocketship PCS – Legacy Prep. If either campus scores below 35% in either year, that campus will close at the end of the following school year, and the school’s enrollment ceiling will decrease accordingly.
- ii. Removes all language from the charter agreement authorizing the school to open up to eight campuses and grow to an enrollment of 5,200 students, capping the enrollment ceiling at its current level of 1,950.

The following report includes a school background section followed by analyses of the school’s academic performance and goal attainment, charter and legal compliance, and fiscal management.

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Rocketship PCS¹¹			
Year Opened	SY 2016 – 17	Chartered Grade Span	Pre-kindergarten 3 (PK3) – 5
Number of Campuses	3	Current Enrollment Ceiling	1,950
Ward(s)	5, 7, and 8	Audited Enrollment and Grade Span	1,083, PK3 – 5
Mission Statement			
Rocketship Education DC will eliminate the achievement gap by graduating our students at or above grade level in Language Arts and Math. ¹²			

School Overview

Rocketship PCS describes its programming as a personalized approach to learning involving small-group instruction, adaptive online curricula, and other interventions.¹³ The local education agency (LEA)¹⁴ emphasizes developing strong social-emotional skills and engaging families in the school community. Rocketship PCS teachers specialize in a specific content area. The school says teachers and instructional leaders receive professional development via personalized instructional coaching.

Rocketship PCS is part of a network of charter schools managed by Rocketship Education, a charter management organization headquartered in California. DC PCSB approved the LEA to operate up to eight campuses, beginning with one and adding no more than one campus per year, contingent upon the LEA meeting certain performance conditions.¹⁵ Rocketship PCS opened its Rise, Legacy, and Infinity campuses in school years 2016 – 17, 2017 – 18, and 2020 – 21, respectively.

Enrollment and Demographic Data

The tables below show Rocketship PCS's enrollment history and demographic information.

¹¹ See Rocketship PCS's original charter agreement, Appendix A1.

¹² This mission statement is captured in Rocketship PCS's charter agreement.

¹³ See Rocketship PCS's annual report for SY 2023 – 24, Appendix B.

¹⁴ An "LEA" is any individual or group of public charter schools operating under a single charter.

¹⁵ See the performance conditions in Rocketship PCS's Charter Agreement, Appendix A1.

Enrollment Measure	School Year				
	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25
Audited Enrollment ¹⁶	1,524	1,553	1,493	1,376	1,197
Enrollment Ceiling ¹⁷	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950

Audited Enrollment by Campus	School Year				
	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25
Rocketship PCS – Infinity	160	235	306	341	321
Rocketship PCS – Legacy	679	660	658	609	530
Rocketship PCS – Rise	685	658	529	426	346

Student Group	Percentage Enrolled
At-Risk or Economically Disadvantaged Students	70.8%
Emerging Multilingual Learner (EML)	6.6%
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	19.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian	0.1%
Black or African American	89.8%
Hispanic/Latino	8.3%
Multiracial	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	0.6%

Qualitative Site Review

DC PCSB staff conducted a QSR at Rocketship PCS to evaluate its performance in two domains—classroom environment and instructional quality.¹⁸ DC PCSB staff observed the school’s overall, special education, and EML programs.

The QSR team rated the classroom environment and instruction from one to four: “1” indicates “unsatisfactory” performance, “2” indicates “basic,” “3” indicates “proficient,” and “4” indicates “distinguished.”¹⁹

¹⁶ OSSE conducts an annual enrollment audit to determine the number of students at each DC public school.

¹⁷ Each charter LEA has an enrollment ceiling in its charter agreement, designating the maximum number of students for which the school can receive per pupil funding during each school year.

¹⁸ DC PCSB staff used the classroom environment and instruction rubric as defined in the Charlotte Danielson *Framework for Teaching*. Danielson, Charlotte. *The Framework for Teaching: Evaluation Instrument*. Princeton, NJ: Danielson Group, 2013.

¹⁹ See the school’s QSR report in Appendix C for a detailed description of each performance level.

The following table reports the percentage of classrooms at each Rocketship PCS campus that QSR observers rated “proficient” or “distinguished.”²⁰

Rocketship PCS’s Percent of Classrooms Rated “Proficient” or “Distinguished”		
School	Classroom Environment	Instruction
Rocketship PCS – Infinity	83.9%	66.0%
Rocketship PCS – Legacy	62.7%	58.9%
Rocketship PCS – Rise	83.7%	77.3%

The following chart shows Rocketship PCS’s average ratings in each program.

School	Observed Program	Classroom Environment	Instruction
Rocketship PCS – Infinity	Overall	3.02	2.55
	Special Education	3.25	2.75
	EML	3.00	1.88
Rocketship PCS – Legacy	Overall	2.54	2.36
	Special Education	2.94	2.79
Rocketship PCS – Rise	Overall	2.83	2.77
	Special Education	3.00	3.00

DC PCSB staff and consultants also reviewed sample ELA and math assignments to determine if they aligned with grade-level standards.²¹ Evaluators rated each assignment as “sufficient,” “minimal,” or “no opportunity,” describing the opportunity students had to meaningfully practice and connect grade-level content to the real world. See Rocketship PCS’s assignment review ratings in the table below.

Rocketship PCS Assignment Review Ratings		
Overall Rating	ELA Assignments	Math Assignments
Sufficient	15	15
Minimal	0	0
No Opportunity	0	0

Rocketship PCS – Legacy demonstrated concerning QSR performance, particularly in its overall instruction domain scores. On average, 41.1% of Rocketship PCS – Legacy’s observed classrooms earned a rating of “basic” or “unsatisfactory” in the instruction domain. Given this concerning performance, DC PCSB will conduct additional QSR visits at Rocketship PCS – Legacy during the next five-year review period. In addition, Rocketship PCS –

²⁰ From SY 2022 – 23 through SY 2024 – 25, the average percentages of PK – 8 classrooms rated “proficient” or “distinguished” were 80.6% in the classroom environment domain and 68.7% in the instruction domain.

²¹ DC PCSB staff and consultants used The New Teacher Project’s *Assignment Review Protocol*. See the protocol here: <https://bit.ly/3PfYLKH>.

Infinity’s EML program observation ratings were “basic” or below in the instruction domain. Notably, these results are incongruent with Rocketship PCS – Infinity’s ACCESS growth rate of 100% for EML students in SY 2024 – 25. Thus, DC PCSB will initiate an EML audit and monitoring cycle for this campus to determine if any additional action is required.

Rocketship PCS’s full QSR results are available in Appendix C.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Designations

Per ESSA, OSSE must designate DC’s lowest performing schools for improvement and additional support. In 2024, OSSE designated Rocketship PCS – Legacy as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school for scoring in the bottom 5.0% of DC public and public charter schools on OSSE’s statewide accountability system in SY 2023 – 24. This designation lasts for three years.

Previous Charter Reviews²²

School Year and Review	Outcome	Findings
2020 – 21, Five-year review	Continued	Met the standard for continuance. Staff noted that both campuses under assessment, Rocketship PCS – Rise and Rocketship PCS – Legacy, met their charter goals.

Communication with the School

In September 2025, DC PCSB conducted an Effective Organization Meeting with Rocketship PCS staff to discuss concerns about the school’s academic performance ahead of its 10-year review in SY 2025 - 26.²³ DC PCSB staff explained the charter review evaluation criteria and how DC PCSB will assess academic performance for Rocketship PCS’s review. Staff noted the school was not on track to meet its goals given Rocketship PCS – Infinity met a goal attainment pathway in SY 2022 – 23 but did not meet a goal attainment pathway in SY 2023 – 24. Additionally, the remaining Rocketship PCS campuses, Legacy Prep and Rise Academy, each partially met a pathway in SY 2022 – 23 and SY 2023 – 24.

The Rocketship PCS team acknowledged the academic challenges the LEA has faced during the review period and highlighted three primary concerns that required greater focus: talent challenges, lack of adherence to the school’s education model, and limited attention to key data. They also noted a lack of transparency between the school and its board, which contributed to many of these challenges. To address some of these factors, Rocketship PCS hired a new executive director in April 2024, and implemented several strategies to address academic challenges, such as prioritizing real-time coaching during classroom visits, and identifying barriers early.

²² See Rocketship PCS’s previous charter review report, Appendix D.

²³ See the invitation letter and follow-up letter for the September 2025 meeting, Appendices E1 – E2.

DC PCSB expressed appreciation for Rocketship PCS's candor and explained DC PCSB would continue to monitor the school's academic and financial performance leading up to its 10-year charter review in SY 2025 – 26.

School Response to Review Report

DC PCSB invited Rocketship PCS to submit a response to this report to share additional information about the school and its performance over the review period. This response is included as Appendix P.

CHARTER REVIEW STANDARD

The SRA stipulates that DC PCSB “shall review [a school's] charter at least once every [five] years.”²⁴ As part of this review, DC PCSB must determine whether:

- 1) The school committed a violation of applicable law, or a material violation of the conditions, terms, standards, or procedures set forth in its charter, including violations relating to the education of children with disabilities; and/or
- 2) The school failed to meet the goals and student academic achievement expectations set forth in its charter.²⁵

If DC PCSB determines that a school has committed a violation of applicable law or a material violation of the terms of its charter or has not met its goals and academic achievement expectations, it may, at its discretion, revoke the school's charter, or grant the school a continuance.²⁶

Additionally, there is a fiscal component to the charter review. DC PCSB is required by the SRA to revoke a school's charter if DC PCSB determines in its review that the school: 1) has engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to GAAP, 2) has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and/or 3) is no longer economically viable.²⁷

The following three report sections summarize findings on the LEA's performance in the three areas as follows. Section One assesses the LEA's goal attainment; Section Two assesses the LEA's compliance with applicable laws, including local and federal laws pertaining to SWD and EMLs; and Section Three assesses the LEA's financial performance.

²⁴ D.C. Code § 38-1802.12(a)(3).

²⁵ D.C. Code § 38-1802.13(a).

²⁶ DC PCSB may impose conditions of continuance if it deems such conditions appropriate.

²⁷ D.C. Code § 38-1802.13(b).

SECTION ONE: GOALS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT EXPECTATIONS

Key Findings					
- In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity fully met a goal attainment pathway while Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise each partially met pathway. In SY 2023 – 24, Rocketship PCS – Infinity declined to a “Not Met” determination and the remaining campuses again partially met a pathway. In SY 2024 – 25, all three campuses fully met a goal attainment pathway. - In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity demonstrated state assessment proficiency rates above the state rate in ELA and math. Also, in SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity and Rocketship PCS – Legacy exceeded ELA growth criteria on their nationally normed growth assessment, NWEA MAP. In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity and Rocketship PCS – Legacy demonstrated math growth outcomes on the state assessment exceeding both state and publisher targets. Additionally, Rocketship PCS – Infinity’s ACCESS growth performance was equivalent to the state’s performance of 100% in SY 2024 – 25. - Across the review period, all Rocketship PCS campuses demonstrated a need for significant improvement in ELA proficiency, math proficiency, and ELA growth on the state assessment, as well as in re-enrollment.					
Rocketship PCS Goal Attainment					
Campus	2020 – 21	2021 – 22	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25
Rocketship PCS – Infinity	NA		Met	Not Met	Met
Rocketship PCS – Legacy			Partially Met	Partially Met	Met
Rocketship PCS – Rise			Partially Met	Partially Met	Met

In June 2020,²⁸ Rocketship PCS adopted the PMF as its charter goals and agreed to the following review standard, paraphrased for readability:²⁹

Each campus must earn an average PMF score equal to or exceeding 45.0% for school years 2020 – 21, 2021 – 22, 2022 – 23, 2023 – 24, and 2024 – 25.

²⁸ See Rocketship PCS’s charter amendment, Appendix A4.

²⁹ For details, see the 2019 – 20 PMF Policy & Technical Guide here: <https://bit.ly/2D2lvqc>.

As previously noted, for this review period, DC PCSB assessed Rocketship PCS's goal attainment using SY 2022 – 23, SY 2023 – 24, and SY 2024 – 25 goal attainment pathways as outlined in DC PCSB's *Charter Goals Policy*.

Charter Goals Policy Pathways Overview

The *Charter Goals Policy* offers multiple pathways to demonstrate goal attainment and requires schools to meet one pathway in each school year. The following table summarizes the pathways applicable to Rocketship PCS.³⁰

Summary of Charter Goals Policy Goal Attainment Pathways	
Pathway	How to Meet the Pathway
SY 2022 – 23 and SY 2023 – 24	
A: Individually Negotiated Goals	NA ³¹
B: Transitional Goals ³²	Meet or exceed state performance (sector performance when state is unavailable) OR demonstrate improvement compared to the prior year.
C: Growth	SY 2022 – 23: Meet or exceed publisher growth criteria on a nationally normed growth assessment in ELA/reading and math compared to publisher performance rates OR demonstrate improvement compared to the prior year.
	SY 2023 – 24: Meet or exceed publisher growth criteria on a nationally normed growth assessment in ELA/reading and math compared to the publisher performance; OR for PK – 8: meet or exceed a Median Growth Percentile (MGP) of 50.0 on DC CAPE ELA and math.
D: OSSE Accountability	Earn 40.0% or higher on OSSE's DC School Report Card.
SY 2024 – 25	
A: Transitional Goals (ASPIRE-Aligned) ³³	Meet or exceed the comparative target.
B: ASPIRE	Earn Level 3 or higher on ASPIRE.
C: OSSE Accountability	Earn 40.0% or higher on OSSE's DC School Report Card.

³⁰ Pathway descriptions in the table below are paraphrased. For full pathway descriptions, see the *Charter Goals Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4cpui8l>.

³¹ Pathway A applies to LEAs with individually negotiated goals in their charter agreement.

³² Transitional goals measures include standard academic measures (to the extent available) and certain additional data by grade band, as specified in the *Charter Goals Policy*.

³³ ASPIRE-aligned transitional goals measures correspond to those included within the school's respective ASPIRE framework(s) and are calculated in accordance with the business rules in the ASPIRE Policy & Technical Guide. See the ASPIRE Policy & Technical Guide here: <https://bit.ly/4ILFli8>.

Summary of <i>Charter Goals Policy</i> Goal Attainment Pathways	
Pathway	How to Meet the Pathway
D: ASPIRE Improvement	For schools that earn Level 4 on ASPIRE, improve score from the prior year.

Rocketship PCS's Goal Attainment

SY 2022 – 23 Goal Attainment

In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity met Pathway D by exceeding the target score of 40.0% on OSSE's DC School Report Card. Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise did not fully meet any pathway. Rocketship PCS – Legacy partially met Pathway C by exceeding the publisher growth criteria on its nationally normed growth assessment in ELA/reading. Rocketship PCS – Rise partially met Pathway B by exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

SY 2023 – 24 Goal Attainment

In SY 2023 – 24, Rocketship PCS – Infinity did not fully meet any goal attainment pathway. Furthermore, the campus failed to substantially or partially meet a pathway, which means that, on pathways with multiple measures, Rocketship PCS – Infinity failed to meet the criteria for a minimum of 50.0% of the measures on the pathway.³⁴ Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise both partially met Pathway B by meeting or exceeding state/sector performance or demonstrating improvement in five of seven transitional goals measures.

SY 2024 – 25 Goal Attainment

In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity met Pathway B by earning a Level 3 or better on ASPIRE. That same year, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise met Pathway D by improving their ASPIRE scores from the prior year.

See the following appendices for Rocketship PCS's additional academic performance data:

- Appendix F: Performance by school year and pathway
- Appendix G: Performance by student group in SY 2022 – 23 and SY 2023 – 24
- Appendix H: ASPIRE outcomes in SY 2024 – 25

³⁴ Per the *Charter Goals Policy*, DC PCSB staff also considered student group performance on transitional goals. DC PCSB staff primarily reviewed performance among economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and emerging multilingual learner student groups. DC PCSB staff found that none of these student groups at Rocketship PCS – Infinity fully met a *Charter Goals Policy* pathway in SY 2023 – 24.

Rocketship PCS Charter Goals Performance Summary

Strengths

In SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity exceeded the state assessment proficiency rates in both ELA and math. Additionally, in SY 2022 – 23, Rocketship PCS – Infinity and Rocketship PCS – Legacy exceeded publisher growth criteria in ELA on their nationally normed growth assessment, NWEA MAP. This suggests that students in grades 3 – 5 at these campuses grew faster than their nationwide peers in ELA performance during that year. While Rocketship PCS – Rise did not meet publisher growth criteria in SY 2022 – 23, the campus improved its growth outcome in ELA on NWEA MAP from SY 2021 – 22 to SY 2022 – 23. This indicates that Rocketship PCS – Rise students' pace of ELA growth increased, though it still lagged that of their nationwide peers.

In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity and Rocketship PCS – Legacy saw improved performance in math growth outcomes on the state assessment. Both campuses exceeded the state rate for growth-to-proficiency (GTP) on the state assessment, indicating that the average progress toward growth targets for students in grades 3 – 5 at these campuses exceeded that of their statewide peers. Rocketship PCS – Infinity and Rocketship PCS – Legacy also exceeded publisher criteria for median growth percentile (MGP) on the state assessment, indicating that students in grades 3 – 5 at these campuses grew faster than their statewide peers in math.

Additionally, in SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Infinity demonstrated an ACCESS growth rate that was equivalent to the state's performance of 100%. This suggests the campus supported its emerging multilingual learners in progressing toward English language proficiency.

Areas for Improvement

Overall, Rocketship PCS demonstrated a significant need for improvement in academic performance. All three campuses demonstrated declining and/or lagging performance on the state assessment in both ELA and math.

- Rocketship PCS – Infinity demonstrated 13-percentage point declines in proficiency in both ELA and math from SY 2022 – 23 to SY 2023 – 24. The campus's SY 2023 – 24 proficiency rates of 18.9% in ELA and 13.0% in math significantly lagged the state rates of 34.1% and 25.1%, respectively. While the campus demonstrated some improvement in its math proficiency rate in SY 2024 – 25, its ELA proficiency rate further declined to 12.4%. That year, Rocketship PCS – Infinity lagged the state proficiency rate by 13.6 percentage points in math and 20.3 percentage points in ELA.
- While Rocketship PCS – Legacy demonstrated improvement in its ELA proficiency rate from SY 2022 – 23 to SY 2023 – 24, its rate of 13.3% in SY 2023 – 24 significantly lagged the state rate of 34.1%. The campus's math proficiency rate declined over the same period, with only 6.6% of students demonstrating proficiency in SY 2023 – 24,

significantly lagging the state rate of 25.1%. In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Legacy demonstrated some improvement in math proficiency with a rate of 12.0%, but it still fell well below the state rate of 28.8%. The campus's ELA proficiency rate declined to 6.7% in the same year, lagging the state proficiency rate by 26 percentage points.

- Rocketship PCS – Rise maintained a 5.0% proficiency rate in math across the review period, significantly lagging the state rates of 21.5% in SY 2022–23, 25.1% in SY 2023 – 24, and 28.8% in SY 2024–25. The campus also demonstrated ELA proficiency rates below 10.0% across the review period, significantly below the state rates of 30.1% in SY 2022–23, 34.1% in SY 2023–24, and 32.7% in SY 2024 – 25.

In addition to low proficiency rates, none the campuses met the MGP for ELA or math on the state assessment in SY 2023 – 24, indicating students grew slower than their statewide peers in both subjects. Similarly, all three campuses significantly lagged publisher criteria on NWEA MAP in both ELA and math that year. This suggests that students at Rocketship PCS grew more slowly than their nationwide peers in both subjects. In SY 2024 – 25, all three campuses continued to fall below the publisher target of 50.0 for MGP on the state assessment in ELA, indicating that students in grades 3 – 5 at Rocketship PCS grew more slowly than their statewide peers in ELA. Further, Rocketship PCS – Legacy lagged the state GTP rate for the state assessment in ELA, and Rocketship PCS – Rise lagged in ELA and math, indicating that the average progress toward growth targets for students in grades 3 – 5 at these campuses lagged that of their statewide peers.

Notably, in SY 2023 – 24, Rocketship PCS – Legacy received the fourth-lowest summative score in the District—13.3%—on OSSE's accountability system, the DC School Report Card. The summative score reflects multiple aspects of school performance, including academic growth and achievement, college and career readiness, and school environment.

Aside from academics, all three campuses demonstrated declining re-enrollment rates across the review period, lagging or significantly lagging the state rate in SY 2023 – 24 and SY 2024 – 25.

SECTION TWO: COMPLIANCE WITH CHARTER AND APPLICABLE LAWS

Key Findings

- Rocketship PCS did not commit a material violation of the law or its charter.
- Rocketship PCS received a “Building (Needs Intervention)” designation in FFY 2021 and FFY 2023 on its SEPR. OSSE required the school to create a Continuous Improvement Plan in and will continue to monitor its implementation through SY 2025 – 26.

Compliance with Special Education Law

Charter schools must comply with all federal and local special education laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)³⁵ and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.³⁶ OSSE monitors charter schools’ special education performance through an annual review of compliance and student progress measures. DC PCSB also monitors special education performance through its *Special Education Audit and Monitoring Policy* and by tracking state and due process complaints about services for SWD.³⁷

OSSE’s Findings

Through FFY 2020, OSSE published its special education oversight findings in annual determination reports.^{38, 39} In FFY 2021, OSSE introduced its SEPR, which includes more measures and separate scores for compliance and student progress. Overall scores reflect the percentage of points earned from applicable measures, according to the scale below.⁴⁰ OSSE requires corrective action for LEAs that receive Strengthening (Needs Assistance) or lower for two or more consecutive years.

- 81.0% – 100%: Leading (Meets Requirements)⁴¹
- 61.0% – 80.9%: Strengthening (Needs Assistance)
- 41.0% – 60.9%: Building (Needs Intervention)
- 0.0% – 40.9%: Emerging (Needs Substantial Intervention)

³⁵ 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 *et seq.* See 20 U.S.C. § 1413(a)(5).

³⁶ 29 U.S.C. § 794.

³⁷ See the *Special Education Audit and Monitoring Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/49U9wfR>.

³⁸ FFY refers to the one-year period that OSSE uses to monitor and report on special education compliance. Each FFY begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following calendar year. For example, FFY 2021 refers to July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

³⁹ See OSSE’s Glossary of Special Education Compliance Terms, Appendix I.

⁴⁰ For a full list of measures, see pages 8 – 11 of OSSE’s SEPR Technical Guide here: bit.ly/49Z5Jxt. OSSE evaluates each LEA on the collection of measures applicable to the LEA. For example, the Secondary Transition measure only applies to LEAs that serve students aged 16 and older.

⁴¹ In this list, SEPR score language comes first, with IDEA annual determination language in parentheses. OSSE is in the process of phasing out IDEA annual determination language. See Appendix J for more detail about how LEA performance aligns with each IDEA annual determination, SEPR score level, and OSSE’s enforcement actions.

The table below shows Rocketship PCS's special education performance during the review period.

Rocketship PCS's Special Education Performance ⁴²				
FFY	Overall Score	Compliance	Student Progress	SEPR Level (Annual Determination)
2020	88.4%	NA	NA	Meets Requirements
2021	50.75%	75.0%	40.4%	Building (Needs Intervention)
2022	60.4%	83.3%	44.0%	Strengthening (Needs Assistance)
2023	57.3%	64.3%	53.6%	Building (Needs Intervention)

Rocketship PCS received a “Building (Needs Intervention)” designation in FFY 2021, and FFY 2023. In FFY 2022, Rocketship PCS received a “Strengthening (Needs Assistance)” designation. As a result, OSSE required the school to participate in technical assistance. OSSE will also prohibit the school from reducing its Maintenance of Effort to ensure special education funding.⁴³ Additionally, OSSE required the school to create a Continuous Improvement Plan which will be monitored through SY 2025 – 26. Rocketship PCS staff will be required to participate in training to support improved special education compliance.

DC PCSB's Special Education Audit and Monitoring Policy

In SY 2020 – 21, DC PCSB staff conducted a desk audit of Rocketship PCS – Infinity because a single special education level of need (Level 1) comprised 75.0% or more of the total population of SWD. DC PCSB also found the population of enrolled students identified as receiving special education services was less than 8.5% of the total student enrollment (pursuant to the target established in *D.L. v. The District of Columbia*). In SY 2024 – 25, DC PCSB staff conducted a desk audit of Rocketship PCS – Legacy for disproportionate rate out of school suspension (OSS) of SWD compared to their non-disabled peers.

School Year	Audit Criteria	Audit Findings	Corrective Actions
2020 – 21	SWD less than 8.5% of enrollment, No SWD level 3 or 4, Level 1 SWD more than 75%	- The school administered universal screeners to all students several times per year and conducted weekly progress monitoring. - The school provided families with incentives and support for special	DC PCSB recommended the school develop a plan to serve students across the full

⁴² See the SEPRs for Rocketship PCS, Appendices K1 – K3.

⁴³ Maintenance of Effort is part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and requires LEAs to maintain consistent state and local funding for special education annually. OSSE monitors compliance, with exceptions for specific changes like reduced enrollment. This ensures stable services for students with disabilities.

School Year	Audit Criteria	Audit Findings	Corrective Actions
		education evaluations during the COVID-19 crisis.	continuum of special education services.
2024 – 25	OSS rate of SWD	- The SWD OSS rate was five times higher than the OSS rate for non-disabled students. - The school had challenges filling mid-year staffing vacancies and hiring support roles. - The school did not offer behavioral support training to staff aligned with the discipline policy framework. - One recorded suspension violated the Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act.⁴⁴	DC PCSB requested the school review the Act to inform the discipline policy and submit a professional development schedule which includes training on climate and culture for all staff for SY 2025 – 26.

In SY 2020 – 21, Rocketship PCS – Infinity met the standard to close the audit. DC PCSB staff continues to monitor this standard; Rocketship PCS has not been audited for this criterion in subsequent years.

In SY 2024 – 25, Rocketship PCS – Legacy met the standard to close the audit. The school chose to implement DC PCSB staff recommendations including several trainings on school culture, behavior and safety plans, and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) aligned to its discipline policy for all staff. DC PCSB did not require further information and will continue to monitor discipline data for disproportionate OSS of SWD.

State and Due Process Complaints

Rocketship PCS received one due process complaint during the review period.

⁴⁴ D.C. Law 22-157. For details, see: <https://bit.ly/4oYwJFE>.

Complaint	Hearing Officer Determination (HOD) Findings	Corrective Actions
A parent alleged four issues: • Denial of FAPE for failing to propose an appropriate IEP. • Failing to evaluate the student in all areas of a suspected disability. • Failing to conduct a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). • Denying the right to participate in an IEP process two years prior to filing the complaint.	• The HOD found the LEA responsible for one of the four claims. • The HOD determined that evidence provided showed the student's speech concerns, and the LEA denied the student FAPE by failing to conduct a speech and language evaluation prior to an IEP meeting in SY 2023 – 24. • The HOD dismissed claims regarding the development of an appropriate IEP on all accounts. • The HOD dismissed claims of failure to conduct an FBA and write a BIP.	OSSE required the school to pay for tutoring services by a special education teacher and speech-language pathology services by a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Rocketship PCS completed all required actions, and the case was closed timely.

Compliance with EML Law

Charter schools are legally required to provide equitable services to EMLs. To monitor compliance with this obligation, DC PCSB implements its *Emerging Multilingual Learner Audit and Monitoring Policy* and reports LEAs' results on the ACCESS for English Language Learners 2.0 (ACCESS) assessment.

DC PCSB's Emerging Multilingual Learner Audit and Monitoring Policy⁴⁵

Rocketship PCS did not require any DC PCSB enforcement actions or interventions pursuant to this policy during the review period.

⁴⁵ See the *Emerging Multilingual Learner Audit and Monitoring Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4c2XP86>.

ACCESS Assessment Results

ACCESS is DC's annual English proficiency assessment for grades K – 12. It measures EMLs' English language development in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. EMLs must take the ACCESS assessment annually until they score 4.5 or higher, indicating proficiency.

During the review period, Rocketship PCS – Legacy and Rocketship PCS – Rise had fewer than 10 EMLs take the ACCESS assessment.⁴⁶ Rocketship PCS – Infinity's ACCESS growth performance, which can be found in Appendix L, lagged state performance during SY 2022 – 23 and SY 2023 – 24. In SY 2024 – 25, its ACCESS growth performance was equivalent to the state's performance.

Compliance with Other Applicable Laws and Requirements

The SRA contains a non-exhaustive list of laws and other requirements applicable to charter schools, which DC PCSB monitors in its annual compliance reviews.⁴⁷ During the review period, Rocketship PCS was compliant with all applicable laws and requirements as captured in DC PCSB's compliance reviews.

In addition, charter schools must use a competitive bidding process for procurement contracts valued at \$25,000 or more, and must submit certain contract information to DC PCSB within three days of awarding a contract.⁴⁸ To monitor compliance with this obligation, DC PCSB implements its *Procurement Contract Submission and Conflict of Interest Policy*.⁴⁹ DC PCSB has no major concerns about the LEA's compliance with procurement contract submission requirements.

Charter schools must be open to all otherwise eligible students who are DC residents and wish to enroll.⁵⁰ To monitor compliance with this obligation, DC PCSB implements its *Open Enrollment Policy*.⁵¹ Rocketship PCS was compliant with open enrollment laws throughout the review period.

⁴⁶ DC PCSB does not report values when the n-size is less than 10.

⁴⁷ See Rocketship PCS's Compliance Review Reports, Appendices M1 – M5.

⁴⁸ See D.C. Code § 38-1802.04(c)(1).

⁴⁹ See DC PCSB's *Procurement Contract Submission and Conflict of Interest Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4bNG2jK>.

⁵⁰ See D.C. Code § 38-1802.06(a) and § 2-1402.41(1).

⁵¹ See DC PCSB's *Open Enrollment Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/4ojwJ2S>.

SECTION THREE: FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY^{52, 53}

Key Findings

- Rocketship PCS 1) has not engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to GAAP, 2) has not engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and 3) is economically viable.⁵⁴
- Continued monitoring of the LEA's enrollment trend and budget adherence is warranted at this time.

Adherence to GAAP and Fiscal Management

Based on a review of independent audit reports and financial reports submitted to DC PCSB by the LEA during the review period, DC PCSB has no evidence to indicate that Rocketship PCS has either engaged in a pattern of nonadherence to GAAP or has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement.

The unmodified audit reports for FY 2021 through FY 2024 state that Rocketship PCS's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the LEA's financial position and changes in net assets and cash flows, in accordance with GAAP.

Economic Viability

DC PCSB determined Rocketship PCS is economically viable as of the date of this report based on a holistic evaluation of key financial indicators (KFIs) for economic viability, enrollment trends, audited and unaudited financial statements, and budget as described below.

KFIs for Economic Viability

KFIs are metrics that DC PCSB uses to assess LEAs' financial performance and overall financial health.⁵⁵ Meeting or exceeding a KFI's target indicates strong performance on that KFI. The floor is the minimum acceptable threshold. Falling below the floor on one or more

⁵² The information in this section is current as of October 10, 2025. Any significant additional information regarding the LEA's adherence to GAAP, fiscal management, and economic viability received by DC PCSB between the date of this report and the date of the DC PCSB's Board vote on the school's charter review will be disclosed in a Subsequent Financial Update Memo, which will not be part of this report. Additionally, the latest information regarding financial oversight escalations, such as inclusion on the Financial Monitoring List, issuance of Citations of Fiscal Concern, or placement on a financial corrective action plan (FCAP), may be found on DC PCSB's website: <https://bit.ly/40Ijdvo>.

⁵³ See Financial Definitions and Examples in Appendix N.

⁵⁴ DC PCSB assessed the LEA's financial condition holistically by examining financial reports and information, including but not limited to: the audited financial statements from FY 2021 through FY 2024; the unaudited financial statements for FY 2025; the annual budget for FY 2026; and DC PCSB's Financial Analysis Report (FAR) of Rocketship PCS from FY 2021 through FY 2024 and supporting information. See Rocketship PCS's FAR Reports, Appendices O1 – O3.

⁵⁵ For more details about DC PCSB's KFIs, see yearly FAR Technical Guides on DC PCSB's website: <https://bit.ly/44Yb0FR>.

KFIs—or falling below the target while exhibiting a declining trend—may signal financial risk and a need for corrective action.

Key for KFIs	
Blue	At or above the target; the KFI is within a healthy range.
Yellow	Below the target but above the floor; further declines could result in concerns.
Red	Below the floor; the KFI fell below the threshold DC PCSB considers sound.

KFIs for Economic Viability							
KFI	FY 2021 Audited	FY 2022 Audited	FY 2023 Audited	FY 2024 Audited	FY 2025 Unaudited	FY 2026 Budgeted	FY 2025 Floor, Target
Days of Cash on Hand	82	48	53	65	74	83	30, 45
Current Ratio	4.0	2.6	1.2	2.9	3.3	NA	0.9, 1.0
Cash Flow from Operations Margin	5%	-5%	2%	3%	0%	0%	-2%, 0%
Primary Reserve Ratio	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0, 0.2
Annual Enrollment, % Change	1,524, NA	1,553, 2%	1,493, -4%	1,376, -8%	1,197, -13%	1,150, -4%	-10%, 0%

Enrollment Trends

Because LEAs receive per student funding, maintaining expenses commensurate with revenue from enrollment is key to financial sustainability. The LEA's enrollment has been declining since FY 2023 and cumulatively declined by 327 students (21%) from FY 2021 to FY 2025. Rocketship PCS – Rise and Rocketship PCS – Legacy experienced enrollment declines of 339 students (49%) and 149 students (22%), respectively. These declines were only partially offset by an increase of 161 students (101%) at Rocketship PCS – Infinity, which reached full grade expansion in FY 2024. According to Rocketship PCS, this is due to changes in the surrounding neighborhoods causing an overall decline in available students.

Financial Statements

Audited Financial Statements for FY 2021 through FY 2024

Rocketship PCS remained economically viable from FY 2021 through FY 2024. However, the LEA exhibited a consistently below-floor primary reserve ratio and a declining enrollment trend.

The consistently below-floor primary reserve ratio was due to \$2.9M in accrued Rocketship Education (RSED) management organization fees, start-up fees, and other costs during the LEA's early operations. Concerns about the LEA's sustainability due to continued net deficits are partially mitigated by:

- RSED, a financially healthy organization per its FY 2024 audited financial statements, supports the LEA with its management fee deferral if collecting the fee would jeopardize the LEA's ability to meet its lease obligations.
- The LEA's liabilities (aside from accounts payable and accrued expenses) are owed solely to related parties. From FY 2021 through FY 2024, these debts consisted of rent-related obligations to its landlord and the RSED loan for deferred fees. These liabilities were deemed payable only from surplus cash and carried no defined repayment plan.
- From FY 2021 to FY 2024, the LEA's net deficit improved by \$0.5M (17%), decreasing from -\$2.7M at the start of FY 2021 to -\$2.3M at the end of FY 2024.

In FY 2024, Rocketship PCS experienced a \$1.4M (3%) decline in operating revenues, driven by the -8% change in enrollment. However, the LEA reduced its operating expenses by the same amount and percentage, which lowered its net deficit by \$0.7M and contributed to generating \$1.3M in positive cash flow from operations. From FY 2021 through FY 2024, cash flow from operations margin dropped below target only once, which was in FY 2022 primarily because of the return to in-classroom learning.

The LEA's current ratio and working capital experienced temporary dips from fiscal year-end (FYE) 2022 to FYE 2023, falling from 2.6 to 1.2 and from 6.5M to \$2.4M, respectively. These dips were due to an overly conservative classification of short-term lease liabilities. For FYE 2024, the LEA's new auditor agreed with a reclassification that correctly moved a portion of these liabilities to long-term. This reclassification, which did not impact total lease liabilities at FYE 2023, helped these metrics rebound significantly to 2.9 and \$7.6M at FYE 2024.

Unaudited Financial Statements and Actual-Budget Variances for FY 2025

Rocketship PCS did not demonstrate concerning trends in its FY 2025 KFI's. The primary reserve ratio improved from below the floor at FYE 2024 to the floor at FYE 2025. This was possible through RSED's forgiveness of \$2.4M in long-term liabilities outstanding at FYE 2024 approved at the June 2025 RSED Board meeting. Additionally, while enrollment

declined 13% from FY 2024 to FY 2025, and operating revenues decreased by \$2.3M (-5%), the LEA reduced its operating expenses by \$2.9M (-7%). This favorably reduced the LEA's net deficit by \$1.3M from \$2.3M at FYE 2024 to \$1.0M at FYE 2025.

Budgeted Financial Statements for FY 2026

Rocketship PCS's FY 2026 budgeted KFI's did not exhibit deteriorating trends. Although the LEA's FY 2026 budget reflects a 4% enrollment decline from FY 2025, its primary reserve ratio is budgeted to remain at the floor due to a \$2.1M (5%) operating expenses reduction to partially offset its \$3.3M (-8%) operating revenues reduction. It is essential that the LEA continues reversing its declining enrollment trend in future years to ensure that its campuses remain economically sustainable. Given the continued enrollment declines, DC PCSB will revisit the analysis of the LEA's FY 2026 budget when considering final FY 2026 enrollment data and summarize any salient financial impacts in the Subsequent Financial Update Memo.