

SOJOURNER
TRUTH
montessori
public charter school

2021-2022 Annual Report

1800 Perry St NE, Washington, D.C. 20018

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Board Chair during SY2021-2022: Wendy Pugh

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Annual Report Narrative

I. School Description

A. Mission Statement:

Truth's mission is to empower students to transform the world. Students at Truth will graduate ready for success in college, career, and life. They will serve as active agents in the construction of peace. They will know who they are, what they want, and where they are going. They can walk into any space, find their place, and make a powerful contribution. Truth will achieve this through a Montessori education that fosters student-led classrooms through appropriate environmental structure, enables students to engage in meaningful work with real world applications, and offers a close-knit community where students pursue justice and practice stewardship.

B. School Program:

1. Summary of curriculum design and instructional approach:

The Sojourner Truth School builds on the Montessori commitment to deep, personalized learning through carefully designed classroom environments and freedom within limits. We expand this time-tested model into secondary education by combining an emphasis on personalized learning with an understanding of the skills and tools that a diverse population of middle schoolers (and high schoolers in 2022-2023) need to be successful students, leaders, and citizens. Specifically, we meet adolescents' developmental need for authentic social interaction and meaningful work with real-life applications.

All aspects of Truth - from instructional model, to physical environment, to school culture - are anchored by our four core values: (1) Honor self development, (2) Pursue justice everywhere, (3) Design for positive impact, and (4) Challenge the mind, body, and spirit.

2. Parent involvement efforts

Truth has monthly Community Meetings, where all stakeholders are invited to meet with school leadership and various staff members to get the latest updates on school events, culture, academic achievement, and progress monitoring towards school-wide goals.

Truth also has an active Family Association which all guardians and parents are invited to join. The Family Association engages on topics including academic achievement, school development, the planning of social events, fundraising, and Montessori philosophy. (In addition, two members of Truth's Board of Trustees are parents.)

II. School Performance

A. Performance and Progress

1. The extent to which the school is meeting its mission

We are proud of our accomplishments and the progress made towards meeting our mission during SY2021-2022, which was just our second year of operation and our very first year of fully in-person learning. It was also our first year with a full 6th-8th grade middle school, and average RIT growth on the NWEA MAP test showed over a full year's growth for students in both math and reading. Achievement gaps in NWEA MAP reading were narrowed over the course of the year for at-risk students compared to their peers, EL students compared to their peers, students with disabilities compared to their peers, and students of color compared to their white peers. We expanded our on-campus farm, and we launched our student-run Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share program to distribute Truth-grown produce and fresh eggs from our chicken coop.

2. The extent to which the school is meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations in its charter

Truth has adopted the PMF as goals, and also has a teacher credentialing goal that, by year 5, 80% of core content teachers will either hold a secondary Montessori teaching credential or be enrolled in an AMI/AMS credentialing

program. During SY2021-2022, of our 8 core content teachers, 50% completed secondary Montessori programs and received their AMS or AMI diplomas. An additional 25% received Montessori coursework certificates through AMI, and the remaining 25% are scheduled for coursework in the upcoming year.

With respect to the PMF, Truth used the NWEA MAP assessment for BOY, MOY, and EOY testing and took the PARCC assessment in the spring. Truth's In-Seat Attendance rate was 84.25%, and Truth's Re-enrollment rate was 85%.

B. Unique Accomplishments

In SY2021-2022 Truth expanded to become a full middle school with grades 6-8, and continued plans to open its first high school class of 9th graders for SY2022-2023. Despite being in just its second year of operation, Truth was again overenrolled, launched a vibrant interscholastic sports program with multiple sports each season, has a very diverse student body, and expanded its active Family Association. In addition, Truth was proud to average more than a year's growth for students on NWEA MAP in both reading and math, and to shrink gaps in reading between every monitored subgroup.

C. List of Donors

The following donors and grantors contributed monetary or in-kind donations having a value equal to or exceeding \$500 during the 2021-2022 school year: New Schools Venture Fund, CityBridge Education Foundation, Education Forward D.C., Justin Lessek, Caroline Hill, Peter Lessek, Andrew Finn, Timothy Finn, Lee Grigsby, Megan Fowler, Cheryl Zandt, Carmen Rottenberg, Atalie Jacobs, Blanca Flores, Charlie Finn, Barbara Finn, Kenneth Knowles, and Tina O'Connell.

Data Report

Source	Data Point
GENERAL INFORMATION	
PCSB	LEA Name: The Sojourner Truth School PCS
PCSB	Campus Name: The Sojourner Truth School PCS
PCSB	Grades served: 6-8
PCSB	Overall Audited Enrollment: 154
STUDENT DATA POINTS	
School	Total number of instructional days: 182
PCSB	Suspension Rate: 6.5%
PCSB	Expulsion Rate: 0.00%
PCSB	Instructional Time Lost to Discipline: 0.04%
PCSB	In-Seat Attendance: 84.25%
PCSB	Average Daily Attendance: <i>(see audited enrollment, midyear withdrawals, midyear entries, and in-seat attendance)</i>
PCSB	Midyear Withdrawals: 4.5%
PCSB	Midyear Entries: 0.6%
PCSB	Promotion Rate: 99%
PCSB (SY19-20)	Graduation Rate: N/A
PCSB (SY19-20)	College Acceptance Rate: N/A
School (SY19-20)	College Admission Test Scores: N/A

TEACHER/ADMIN DATA POINTS	
School	Teacher Attrition Rate: 21.7%
School	Number of Teachers: 23
School	Teacher Salary 1. Average: \$69,864 2. Range - Minimum: \$56,506 Maximum: \$85,000
School	Executive Compensation Salaries (including bonuses) of the five most highly compensated individuals in the organization, if over \$100,000): \$117,875 (executive director), \$112,750 (principal)

Appendices

a. Staff roster for 2020-2021

- Ana Yanez, English as a Second Language Teacher
- Andre Zarate, Humanities Teacher
- Chellie Colbert, Special Education Teacher
- Christine Contreras-Slaughter, STEM Teacher
- Daejah Merrill, Instructional Aide
- Denise Edwards, Principal
- Ellen Wei, Instructional Aide
- Gabriella Abbondanza, Humanities Teacher
- Jessica Gonzalez, Special Education Coordinator
- Johari Malik, STEM Teacher
- Johnelle Green, Counselor
- Joseph Waller, Physical Education Teacher

Justin Lessek, Executive Director
Justin Pittman, Special Education Teacher
LaBront Makle, Special Education Teacher
Malik Wheeler, Operations Manager
Missy LeDoux, Special Education Teacher
Neda Movahed, Enterprise Coordinator
Rashita Connelly, Art Teacher
Rodger Perkins, Humanities Teacher
Ryan Abel, Director of Operations
Rory Hatchel, Humanities Teacher
Sasha Barnaby, Special Education Teacher
Shaka Greene, STEM Teacher
Shanmuka Gadiraju, STEM Teacher
Sharon Green, Office Manager
Simonica Mendes, Special Education Teacher
Tevin Whitlock, Special Education Teacher
Thomas McRae, Counselor
Tyecia Powell, Wellness Coordinator
Yanerca Marte, Spanish Teacher

AGGREGATE DATA: 100% of Truth PCS student-facing staff during SY21-22 held a bachelor's degree, and 39% of Truth PCS student-facing staff held a Master's degree or higher.

b. Board roster for 2020-2021

Sarah Navarro, Board Chair and D.C. resident
Wendy Pugh, Board Vice-Chair and D.C. resident

Atalie Jacobs, Chair of Governance Committee

Jonathan O'Connell, Board Secretary and D.C. resident

John Kenchelian, Board Treasurer and D.C. resident

Donice Leak, Truth parent and D.C. resident

Laura Masimini, Truth parent and D.C. resident

Caroline Hill, D.C. resident

Richard Pohlman, D.C. resident

Emily Hedin, D.C. resident

Kiva Zytnick, D.C. resident

c. Unaudited Year 2020-21 Financial Statement

See next page...

Balance Sheet

The Sojourner Truth

As of June 30, 2022

Balance Sheet		6/30/22
Assets		Year End
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash		1,197,778
Accounts Receivable		210,439
Other Current Assets		32,218
Intercompany Transfers		0
Total Current Assets		1,440,434
Noncurrent Assets		
Facilities, Net		177,599
Operating Fixed Assets, Net		103,968
Total Noncurrent Assets		281,567
Total Assets		1,722,001
Liabilities and Equity		Year End
Liabilities and Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		202,009
Other Current Liabilities		83,041
Accrued Salaries and Benefits		199,516
Total Current Liabilities		484,566
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets		950,449
Net Income		284,333
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		2,653
Total Equity		1,237,435
Total Liabilities and Equity		1,722,001

Income Statement

The Sojourner Truth

July 2021 through June 2022

Income Statement	
Revenue	
State and Local Revenue	3,327,219
Federal Revenue	783,516
Private Grants and Donations	413,026
Earned Fees	3,292
Total Revenue	4,527,053
Expenses	
Salaries	2,382,254
Benefits and Taxes	545,601
Contracted Staff	71,157
Staff-Related Costs	15,588
Rent	416,003
Occupancy Service	29,263
Direct Student Expense	421,955
Office & Business Expense	308,719
Contingency	0
Total Expenses	4,190,539
Operating Income	336,514
Extraordinary Expenses	
Depreciation and Amortization	52,182
Total Extraordinary Expenses	52,182
Net Income	284,333

d. Approved 2021-22 Budget

See next page...

SY22-23 Budget

Sojourner Truth

July 2022 through June 2023

		SY22-23
Revenue		
	State and Local Revenue	5,091,293
	Federal Revenue	536,953
	Private Grants and Donations	159,500
	Earned Fees	-
	Revenue Total	5,787,746
Expenses		
	Salaries	2,970,401
	Benefits and Taxes	731,341
	Contracted Staff	89,893
	Staff-Related Costs	36,148
	Rent	468,500
	Occupancy Service	105,390
	Direct Student Expense	468,643
	Office & Business Expense	411,063
	Contingency	81,392
	Expenses Total	5,362,770
NET ORDINARY INCOME		424,975
Extraordinary Expenses		
	Depreciation and Amortization	287,215
	Extraordinary Expenses Total	287,215
TOTAL EXPENSES		5,649,985
NET INCOME		137,760
Cash Flow Adjustments		
	Add Depreciation	287,215
	Operating Fixed Assets	(76,500)
	Other Operating Activities	161,680
	Per-Pupil Adjustments	-
	Facilities Project Adjustments	(410,318)
	Cash Flow Adjustments Total	(37,923)
CHANGE IN CASH		99,838
	Starting Cash Balance	908,054
	Change In Cash	99,838
ENDING CASH BALANCE		1,007,891