

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford

**To Be Proposed:**

March 1, 2023

**Resolved,** That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Elm City Montessori School from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027, subject to the Commissioner's March 1, 2023, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_, this first day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

**To:** State Board of Education  
**From:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education  
**Date:** March 1, 2023  
**Subject:** Renewal of State Charter: Elm City Montessori School, New Haven

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

In accordance with subsection (g) of Section (§) 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), charters may be renewed, upon application, in accordance with the provisions for the granting of new charters. The State Board of Education (SBE) may renew a charter for a period of up to five years. The SBE makes renewal decisions based on evidence of the following performance standards:

1. *School Performance:* Is the school a successful model resulting in strong student outcomes and a positive school climate?
2. *Stewardship, Governance, and Management:* Is the school financially and organizationally healthy and viable?
3. *Student Population:* Is the school promoting equity by effectively attracting, enrolling, and retaining students, particularly among targeted populations?
4. *Legal Compliance:* Is the school acting in compliance with applicable laws and regulations?

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the SBE carefully evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence, and longitudinal data aligned to the four performance standards outlined above when making charter renewal decisions. The charter performance framework drives the CSDE's charter school accountability systems and processes, including initial approval decisions, annual monitoring, and renewal determinations. From inception to renewal, charter schools must abide by the CSDE's charter school accountability procedures and performance framework. Charter monitoring takes place through annual reporting, meetings, correspondence, data submissions, and site visits, as appropriate. In accordance with C.G.S. § 10-66bb(g), a charter may be renewed upon application if the charter school has demonstrated satisfactory performance relative to the four performance standards.

## **History/Background**

Elm City Montessori School (Elm City Montessori) is a local charter school that opened in the fall of 2014. In its first year of operation Elm City Montessori served 70 students in Grades PK-K. In accordance with its charter, Elm City Montessori has expanded a grade each successive year reaching its full complement of Grades Pre-Kindergarten-8 in the 2022-23 school year serving 298 students. Elm City Montessori has a maximum approved student enrollment of 319 seats. CSDE latest available audited student enrollment data from 2021-22 reports 282 students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten-7 with 94.7 percent residing in New Haven (the host district), and the remaining 5.3 percent of students coming from seven area towns. Table 1 on page 12 of the attached Charter Renewal Report provides the audited 2021-22 student enrollment and demographic data. Forty-two point six percent of Elm City Montessori students qualify for free or reduced-price meals and 6.7 percent of the students receive special education services. The mission of Elm City Montessori is to “offer New Haven families a high-quality, public Montessori program for children between the ages of three and thirteen.”

## **Charter Renewal Process**

*Application for Renewal of Charter:* The CSDE accepted an application for the renewal of Elm City Montessori’s charter on September 9, 2022. The application detailed the charter school’s progress, operations, and achievement in relation to the CSDE’s charter school performance standards: (a) school performance; (b) stewardship, governance, and management; (c) student population; and (d) legal compliance. Elm City Montessori submitted data and evidence to substantiate the charter school’s written responses. A renewal team comprised of the CSDE staff with expertise in curriculum, assessments, special education, Multilingual learners/English learners (MLs/ELs), school management, finance, and school governance reviewed the renewal application and requested clarification and additional information where necessary.

Pursuant to Subsection (e) of Section (§) 10-66bb of the C.G.S. on receipt of Elm City Montessori School’s local charter school application, the New Haven Board of Education was required to: (1) Review the application; (2) hold a public hearing in the school district on such application; (3) survey teachers and parents in the school district to determine if there is sufficient interest in the establishment and operation of the local charter school; and (4) vote on a complete application not later than seventy-five days after the date of receipt of such application. The New Haven Board of Education completed requirements (1) through (4), culminating with a majority vote of 6:0 approving Elm City Montessori School’s renewal application on January 23, 2023. The New Haven Board of Education notified the CSDE of its approval of the renewal application via letter dated January 23, 2023 (see Attachment A).

*Renewal Site Visit:* On November 3, 2022, the CSDE renewal team conducted an onsite visit at Elm City Montessori. The purpose of the onsite visit was to observe Elm City Montessori programs, policies, practices, and procedures to assess their efficacy and fidelity to the school’s charter and aligned operating systems. Evidence was collected through the onsite visit observations, document reviews, interviews, and focus groups. The team spoke with board members, administrators, staff, students, parents, and community members. The team used this process to ensure that the school is functioning in compliance with the law and the school’s mission. The team verified the responses detailed in the renewal application regarding compliance with the law and the CSDE’s performance framework and accountability plan.

## **Review of Documents and Site Visit Findings**

The most recent available data and information contained in the Charter Renewal Report and the state student data (beginning on page 7) indicates Elm City Montessori's performance according to the four performance standards. The report highlights school strengths and areas of continued growth.

### **Areas of Strengths Include:**

- Elm City Montessori's 2021-22 English language arts (ELA) Performance Index-All Students of 67.4 has exceeded the host district and the state's 64.2 by 3.2 index points.
- A pre-pandemic 2018-19, post-pandemic 2021-22 Elm City Montessori to state comparison of the school's ELA Performance Index-All Students showed that Elm City Montessori's performance increased by 3.4 index points, going from an index of 64.0 in 2018-19 to an index of 67.4 in 2021-22, which outperforms the decline experienced by the state of 3.5 index points, going from an index of 67.7 points in 2018-19 to an index of 64.2 in 2021-22.
- Elm City Montessori's 2021-22 Mathematics Performance Index-All Students of 54.6 has exceeded the host district and is within 4.0 index points of the state's 58.6.
- A pre-pandemic 2018-19, post-pandemic 2021-22 Elm City Montessori to state comparison of the school's Mathematics Performance Index-All Students showed Elm City Montessori's performance increased by 1.4 index points, going from an index of 53.2 in 2018-19 to an index of 54.6 in 2021-22, which outperforms the decline experienced by the state of 4.5 index points, going from an index of 63.1 in 2018-19 to an index of 58.6 in 2021-22.
- Elm City Montessori's ELA Performance Index-High Needs Students of 57.0 exceeded the host district and the state's 54.2 by 2.8 index points.
- Elm City Montessori's Mathematics Performance Index-High Needs Students of 44.0 exceeded the host district and is within 3.7 index points of the state's 47.7.
- A review of the Elm City Montessori's chronic absenteeism of 8.9 percent in 2018-19, data suppressed ( $N \leq 5$ ) in 2019-20 and 12.4 percent in 2021-22 are below the host district and state.
- The school's suspension rates across the three reporting periods (2018-19, 2019-20 and 2021-22) are too low to report and have remained below the state and host district averages.
- Elm City Montessori's 2018-18, 2019-20 and 2021-2022 Discipline Tier Based on suspensions/expulsions data have remained at Tier 1, the highest designation achieved by districts with low suspension rates and low racial/ethnic disparities in discipline data compared to all other districts.

- The school demonstrates strong community support as evidenced by testimony provided by individuals at the public hearing and interviews with parents and students during the site visit.
- Elm City Montessori’s website and governing board documents demonstrate that the governing board meetings are open and accessible to the public.
- No significant findings, conditions, or internal weaknesses were uncovered in Elm City Montessori’s three most recent certified financial audits.
- A review of the school’s finances found it to be financially viable.
- Elm City Montessori complies with the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program and the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan (EESP).

**Areas of Continued Growth Include:**

- The Accountability Index score, (Table 2, page 12), is a good indicator of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life as schools earn points on a broad set of 12 indicators. Because Elm City Montessori has been growing its grades and students served during the reporting periods (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2021-22) shown in Table 2, page 12, it was not until the 2021-22 school year that Elm City Montessori reached a threshold of students and grades served necessary to provide a meaningful Accountability Index score data. Elm City Montessori’s 2021-22 Accountability Index score of 53.9 percent is below New Haven’s 60.9 percent by 7.0 percentage points and the state average of 69.7 percent by 15.8 percentage points.
- The school’s 2021-22 ELA Academic Growth-All Students of 45.1 percent is below the host district and the state.
- The school’s 2021-22 Mathematics Academic Growth-All Students of 46.5 percent is below the host district and the state.
- Elm City Montessori’s 2021-22 ELA Academic Growth-High Needs Students of 44.4 percent is below the host district and the state.
- The school’s 2021-22 Mathematics Academic Growth-High Needs Students of 42.1 percent is below the host district and the state.
- A review of Elm City Montessori’s 2021-22 Next Generation Accountability, Gap Indicators on page 7, showed outlier gaps between ELA and Math Performance Index rates of Non-High Needs and High Need students.
- A review of Elm City Montessori’s state certified staff file and the school’s employee roster determined five staff are not properly certified. The school has issued a plan to attain certification for the staff by end of this school year.

**Conclusion**

Elm City Montessori School is providing its students, families, and community with a viable public school choice option, achieving its mission, and making strides in closing Connecticut’s achievement gap. The school’s suspension rates were below the host district and state averages and have remained so over the three years reported (2018-19, 2019-20 and 2021-22). Elm City Montessori’s Tier 1 Discipline designation is representative of a school that equitably implements clear and consistent behavioral policies and procedures across the students it serves. The school’s chronic absenteeism rates have remained low over the three years reported (2018-19, 2019-20 and 2021-22). Compared to the statewide decline in student achievement proficiency rates (ELA and Mathematics Performance Index-All Students) during the pandemic, Elm City Montessori’s proficiency rates increased. Elm City Montessori’s 2021-22 ELA Performance Index-All Students and High Needs Students exceeded the host district and state, and its 2021-22 Mathematics Performance Index-All Students and High Needs Students were

above the host district and near the state rates. The school's 2021-22 Academic Growth, Average Growth Target Achieved (ELA and Math-All Students and High Needs Students) were below the host district and state. Outlier gaps exist between ELA and Math Performance Index of Non-High Needs and High Need students.

### **Charter Renewal Recommendation**

Acknowledging that Elm City Montessori's performance indicators are not without weakness, the CSDE recommends that the SBE renew the school's charter for a period of four years, subject to the following conditions:

1. By April 3, 2023, Elm City Montessori shall submit a corrective action plan acceptable to the Commissioner. The corrective action plan must include strategies and action steps to improve student academic achievement. Additionally, Elm City Montessori must utilize the CSDE Acceleration Cycle as a framework for developing and implementing an improvement plan to address learning acceleration, learning recovery, and student enrichment because of the pandemic. The school must convene a team to develop and monitor the implementation of a plan that intentionally addresses unfinished learning while focusing on the teaching of prioritized, essential content, and maintaining a high level of rigor for all learners. Elm City Montessori shall submit to the CSDE, on a bi-monthly basis, beginning October 2023, a report monitoring its year-to-date progress of improving student academic achievement. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the CSDE's Turnaround Office. Elm City Montessori shall implement the corrective actions within thirty days following the Commissioner's acceptance of the plan.

The CSDE will notify Elm City Montessori School of action taken by the SBE following its meeting on March 1, 2023. The school will be advised of relevant technical assistance opportunities designed to improve its educational program. The CSDE will conduct follow-up visits to ensure Elm City Montessori School is addressing the issues raised in this memorandum.

Prepared by: Robert E. Kelly, Charter School Program Manager  
Turnaround Office

Reviewed by: Irene E. Parisi, M.Ed.  
Chief Academic Officer

## CHARTER RENEWAL REPORT | 2022

Charter School Information		
Charter School Name:	Elm City Montessori School	
School Director/ Principal:	Eliza Halsey	
School Board Chairperson:	Michael Van Leesten	
Location (City/Town):	New Haven	
Rating Key		
<b>Meets</b>	The school demonstrates effective policies and practices, resulting in positive outcomes.	
<b>Pending Action</b>	The school requires minor modifications to its policies and/or practices. The school is taking satisfactory measures to remedy and address these issues in a timely manner.	
<b>Does Not Meet</b>	The school falls below performance expectations with significant concerns noted, which require immediate attention and intervention.	
Standard 1: School Performance Indicators	Points/Max	% Points Earned
Accountability Index:	431.4/800	53.9
Notes and Evidence:		
<p>Elm City Montessori School's (Elm City Montessori) 2021-22 Accountability Index of 53.9 percent is 15.8 percentage points below the state's Accountability Index score of 69.7 percent. Schools that meet <b>Standard 1:</b> are schools earning an accountability index from 85 to 100 (<b>Category 1</b>), schools earning an accountability index score from 70 to 84.9 percent (<b>Category 2</b>), and schools earning an accountability index score of 69.9 percent or lower and have not been identified as a Turnaround or Focus School (<b>Category 3</b>). Elm City Montessori's Accountability Index score of 53.9 percent places its performance in Category 3, <b>which earns a does not meet for Standard 1.</b> Elm City Montessori's 2021-22 Next Generation Accountability Report is shown in detail on the next page.</p>		

# Next Generation Accountability, 2021-22 – Elm City Montessori School (Grades: PK-8)

## School Category: 3

Indicator	Index/Rate	Target	Points Earned	Max Points	% Points Earned	State % Points Earned
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	67.4	75	44.9	50	89.9	85.6
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	57.0	75	38.0	50	76.0	72.3
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	54.6	75	36.4	50	72.8	78.2
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	44.0	75	29.3	50	58.7	63.6
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	62.6	75	41.7	50	83.5	81.9
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	.	75	.	.	.	68.4
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	45.1%	100%	45.1	100	45.1	60.4
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	44.4%	100%	44.4	100	44.4	56.2
2c. Math Academic Growth - All Students	46.5%	100%	46.5	100	46.5	65.2
2d. Math Academic Growth - High Needs Students	42.1%	100%	42.1	100	42.1	59.1
2e. Progress Toward English Proficiency - Literacy	.	100%	.	.	.	64.9
2f. Progress Toward English Proficiency - Oral	.	100%	.	.	.	57.4
4a. Chronic Absenteeism - All Students	12.4%	<=5%	35.1	50	70.2	25.1
4b. Chronic Absenteeism - High Needs Students	20.7%	<=5%	18.7	50	37.4	0.0
5. Preparation for CCR - Percent Taking Courses	.	75%	.	.	.	100.0
6. Preparation for CCR - Percent Passing Exams	.	75%	.	.	.	58.0
7. On-track to High School Graduation	.	94%	.	.	.	87.9
8. 4-year Graduation: All Students (2021 Cohort)	.	94%	.	.	.	95.3
9. 6-year Graduation: High Needs Students (2019 Cohort)	.	94%	.	.	.	90.6
10. Postsecondary Entrance (Graduating Class 2021)	.	75%	.	.	.	88.2
11. Physical Fitness (estimated participation rate = 78.6%)	27.3%	75%	9.1	50	18.2	61.1
12. Arts Access	.	60%	.	.	.	87.4
<b>Accountability Index</b>	.	.	431.4	800	53.9	69.7

## Gap Indicators

Indicator	Non-High Needs Rate	High Needs Rate	Size of Gap	State Gap Mean +1 Standard Deviation	Is Gap an Outlier?
ELA Performance Index Gap	75.0	57.0	18.0	16.6	Y
Math Performance Index Gap	62.7	44.0	18.7	18.5	Y
Science Performance Index Gap	.	.	.	17.9	
Graduation Rate Gap (2019 Cohort)	.	.	.	.	

If the Non-High Needs Rate exceeds the ultimate target (75 for Performance Index and 94% for Graduation Rate), the ultimate target is used for gap calculations. If the size of the gap exceeds the state mean gap plus one standard deviation, the gap is an outlier.

## Assessment Participation Rates

Indicator	Participation Rate (%)
ELA - All Students	100.0
ELA - High Needs Students	100.0
Math - All Students	100.0
Math - High Needs Students	100.0
Science - All Students	100.0
Science - High Needs Students	.

Minimum participation standard is 95%.



Standard 2: Stewardship, Governance and Management Indicators:	Rating
2.1. Fiscal Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.2. Financial Reporting and Compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.3. Financial Viability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.4. Governance and Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.5. School Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
<b>Notes and Evidence:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator 2.1:</b> The CSDE site visit staff reviewed Elm City Montessori’s last three certified financial audits and uncovered no significant findings, conditions, or internal control weakness. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 2.2:</b> The CSDE site visit staff reviewed Elm City Montessori’s last three certified financial audits, Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual (APPM), Board Policies and Procedures Manual (BPPM), and budgets, and interviewed the school executive director, principal, business office manager, and governing board members. Staff from the CSDE’s Office of Internal Audit determined the APPM and BPPM contained the standard sections of such documents. However, the APPM required some amendments including thresholds and signatories of checks, segregation of cash deposit duties and inventory list and reporting. Further, a review of school policy determined that, while the school does not allow salary advances or employee loans, the policy was not formally documented in the APPM and Employee Handbook. To address the concerns, the school and its Governing Board drafted and approved new APPM and Employee Handbook policies at its January 12, 2023, meeting. The reviewers determined that Elm City Montessori completed on-time submission of certified audits and annual budgets. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 2.3:</b> Staff from the CSDE’s Office of Internal Audit reviewed Elm City Montessori’s latest certified financial audit and determined its debt to asset ratio (total liabilities/total assets), total margin (net income/total revenue), current asset ratio (current assets/current liabilities), and debt service coverage ratio (net income + depreciation + interest expense)/(principal + interest payments) met or exceeded the ranges recommended by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), signifying overall financial health. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 2.4:</b> A review of Elm City Montessori’s school policies regarding conflict of interest and nepotism were found to comply with the CSDE administrative oversight guidelines. Elm City Montessori’s policies and procedures regarding background checks of staff and board members, open board meetings, and board membership and membership training were reviewed and found to comply with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. This finding is supported by a review of school policies and procedures, background checks, board training records, and the school’s website. A review of Elm City Montessori’s bylaws found them to comply with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. A review of Governing Board minutes determined that voting results need to be clearly stated. The Governing Board has instituted these changes beginning with the January 12, 2023, meeting and each meeting thereafter. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 2.5:</b> As evidenced during the site visit, Elm City Montessori has safe and well-maintained school facilities to support teaching and learning. The facility has been approved by the New Haven Fire Marshal and Building Department. The school has proof of property insurance. </li> </ul>	

Standard 3: Student Population Indicators	Rating
3.1. Recruitment and Enrollment Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.2. Waitlist and Enrollment Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.3. Demographic Representation	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.4. Family and Community Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.5. School Culture and Climate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
<b>Notes and Evidence:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator 3.1:</b> The latest CSDE audited student enrollment data from 2021-22 reports 282 students in Grades PK-7 with 94.7 percent residing in New Haven (the host district) and the remaining 5.3 percent residing in seven surrounding towns. A review of the school’s student enrollment policy, and interviews with school staff, board members, and parents determined all students are admitted through a blind lottery. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 3.2:</b> A review of Elm City Montessori’s waiting list information (Table 5, page 13) determined that the school maintains a waiting list of families beyond the available number of seats. In 2022-23, 516 students were on the waiting list. The waiting list has included more than 515 students each year for the past three years reported (2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23). </li> <li> <b>Indicator 3.3:</b> A review of Elm City Montessori’s latest audited Public School Information System (PSIS) data from 2021-22, reported 42.6 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The percentage of special education students is 6.7 percent. Elm City Montessori’s Multilingual learners/English learners (MLs/Els) population is 2.8 percent. To better reflect the demographics of the surrounding community, the school must seek to enroll more students who are MLs/Els. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 3.4:</b> Elm City Montessori demonstrates strong community support, as evidenced by parent interviews conducted by the CSDE renewal team on the day of the site visit. The parent focus group described various communication methods between the school and families including texts, phone calls, emails, and written communication including, when necessary, translations in second languages. Currently, parents report receiving regular updates from the school that detail student academics and behavior. Parents expressed support for what they perceive is a good educational model that prepares their children for high school and beyond. Parents indicated they were satisfied with the school’s commitment to serving students with diverse needs. Per Connecticut General Statute, Elm City Montessori presented its charter application to the New Haven Board of Education (NHBOE) on September 9, 2022. The New Haven Board of Education held a public hearing regarding the renewal of Elm City Montessori’s charter on January 23, 2023, to determine if there was sufficient interest in the school’s request to continue operation. Following the public hearing, at its January 23, 2023, board meeting, the New Haven Board of Education voted by a majority vote of 6:0, to approve the application for renewal of the Elm City Montessori School’s charter. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 3.5:</b> School culture and climate policies reviewed by the CSDE’s site visit staff were clear and concise. Classroom observations revealed consistent implementation of their behavior management model. Elm City Montessori’s chronic absenteeism rate in 2019-20 was data suppressed because the N&lt;=5, thus below the host district and the state. In 2021-22, during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school’s rate of 12.4 percent was below the host district’s 58.1 percent and the state’s 23.7 percent. Elm City Montessori’s 2018-19 and 2019-20 student suspension data was suppressed, indicating that the rate was below the host district and the state, and in 2021-22, the student suspension data was zero, below the host district and the state averages. </li> </ul>	

Standard 4: Legal Compliance Indicators	Rating
4.1. Open Meetings/Information Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.2. Students with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.3. English Learners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.4. Rights of Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.5. Teacher/Staff Credentials, TEAM and EESP	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.6. Employee Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
<b>Notes and Evidence:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator 4.1:</b> The school’s website and governing board documents demonstrated that the governing board meetings are open and accessible to the public. The governing board’s meeting schedule for the year and meeting agendas are posted on the school’s website. Education records and testing data are kept in locked file cabinets in a secure room. </li> <li> <b>Indicator 4.2:</b> A review of Elm City Montessori’s latest audited 2021-22 PSIS data reports indicated the percentage of special education students at the school is 6.7 percent. All special education identified students reside in New Haven. To meet the needs of identified students, New Haven Public Schools (NHPS) provides Elm City Montessori with two full-time certified special education teachers, a full-time social worker, and two full-time social emotional learning teachers. NHPS provides required related services in accordance with the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) including school psychologist, speech-language pathologist (SLP), occupational and physical therapy. The related service providers keep logs of the services they provide, and the NHPS Supervisor of Special Education maintains a separate log of related services provided. Any missed related services are made-up. All the IEPs reviewed noted that students receive specialized instruction as push-in and pull-out services, in accordance with the student’s IEP. </li> </ul> <p>The general education teachers make an intentional effort to attend all the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for the students they serve. As a result, they are familiar with the IEPs for the students in their classrooms throughout the school year. After the PPT meetings, the special education teachers collaborate with the general education teachers about implementing accommodations and modifications in the context of the Montessori classroom. The Montessori curriculum includes small group, differentiated instruction, as well as multi-sensory learning. The school has in place a system that allows general education teachers full access to student IEPs. The NHPS Supervisor of Special Education schedules and holds all the PPT meetings. A special education teacher and general education teacher from Elm City Montessori attends the PPT meetings. Parents are also invited. NHPS completes and finalizes the IEP and forwards them to Elm City Montessori and parent.</p> <p>Student education files are kept in locked file cabinets in a secure room. All files reviewed were found to be well-organized and maintained. The files were found to not have required individual sign-in access sheets. The school has corrected this and now meets the requirement.</p>	

- Indicator 4.3:** A review of Elm City Montessori’s latest audited 2021-22 PSIS data reports indicated that the percentage of students identified as MLs/ELs at the school is 2.8 percent. Through an analysis of the renewal materials and meeting with stakeholder groups, it became evident that Elm City Montessori is committed to ensuring the success of MLs/ELs at the school. Elm City Montessori has a small population of MLs/ELs but a larger population of multilingual families. Elm City Montessori works hard to ensure that families are engaged and informed through regular communication and information in a language that they understand if they need language support. The school is committed to providing training to teachers to enable them to integrate ML/EL supports in the core curriculum as well as to providing language access through robust translation and interpretation services. Some years, the school has applied for the Title III grant funds for which it is eligible, while in other years, the school has not applied. Elm City Montessori is encouraged to apply for its Title III funds annually. The school is commended for taking actions that meaningfully support MLs/ELs and their families.
- Indicator 4.4:** Elm City Montessori student rights policies and procedures include admissions, handling of student information, due process protections, and state nondiscrimination laws. Interviews with parents and staff at the school supported the proper implementation and use of the policies.
- Indicator 4.5:** Staff from the CSDE, Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification reviewed the state certified staff file and the school’s employee roster. A review of Elm City Montessori’s staff file determines 77.3 percent, or 17 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are in certification compliance, with 22.7 percent, or 5 FTE staff not in certification compliance. School administration and staff are working with the CSDE, Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification and the NHPS to ensure that staff members, who are not in compliance, fully comply with teacher certification requirements, and are properly entered into the state certified staff file by the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Elm City Montessori complies with the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program and the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan (EESP).

- Indicator 4.6:** A review of legal actions brought against Elm City Montessori determined that no government agency alleged the violation of any law by the school or undertaken any investigation of any violation of law by the school.

Prepared by:	Reviewed by:
<p style="text-align: center;">Robert Kelly Charter School Program Manager</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Irene Parisi Chief Academic Officer</p>

**ELM CITY MONTESSORI SCHOOL TABLES**

<b>Table 1: 2021-22 Student Enrollment and Demographic Information</b>	
Grades served:	PK-7
Total enrollment:	282
Percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals:	42.6
Percentage of students with disabilities:	6.7
Percentage of students identified as English Learners:	2.8
Percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students:	N/A
Percentage of Asian students:	2.1
Percentage of Black or African American students:	31.6
Percentage of Hispanic or Latino students:	27.7
Percentage of Two or More Races:	7.5
Percentage of White students:	31.2

\*N<=5. Data suppressed to ensure student data privacy.

<b>Table 2: School Performance: All Students</b>									
*Data are suppressed to ensure confidentiality.									
Indicator	2017-18			2018-19			2021-22		
	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State
<b>Accountability Index</b>	74.7	65.0	74.9	80.3	64.7	74.2	53.9	60.9	69.7
<b>ELA-All Students</b>									
<b>Performance Index</b> (Target 75)	*	57.8	67.6	64.0	57.8	67.7	67.4	51.3	64.2
<b>Academic Growth</b> Average Percentage of Target Achieved (Target 100%)	N/A	58.3	60.7	*	55.2	59.9	45.1	58.7	60.4
<b>Math-All Students</b>									
<b>Performance Index</b> (Target 75)	*	50.3	62.7	53.2	50.6	63.1	54.6	42.0	58.6
<b>Academic Growth</b> Average Percentage of Target Achieved (Target 100%)	N/A	53.6	61.9	*	53.6	62.5	46.5	59.7	65.2

In 2019-20, Connecticut received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) to be exempt from administering state academic assessments and holding schools and districts accountable using the Next Generation Accountability System.

In 2020-21, Connecticut secured a waiver from the USDOE to be exempted from implementing the Next Generation Accountability System for schools and districts; and while districts made their best effort to assess as many students as possible, there was not a requirement to test at least 95 percent of students as in past years. Additionally, school learning models changed throughout the school year and students were remote to varying degrees due to factors beyond educator control. Also, some students tested remotely, which was a new construct. As such, 2020-21 testing data is not being used as part of this analysis.

Table 3: School Performance-High Needs Students				*Data are suppressed to ensure confidentiality.					
	2017-18			2018-19			2021-22		
Indicator	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State
<b>ELA-High Needs Students</b>									
<b>Performance Index (Target 75)</b>	*	54.2	57.5	*	54.9	58.1	57.0	48.2	54.2
<b>Academic Growth Average Percentage of Target Achieved (Target 100%)</b>	N/A	56.0	55.6	*	53.6	55.1	44.4	57.1	56.2
<b>Math-High Needs Students</b>									
<b>Performance Index (Target 75)</b>	*	46.9	52.0	*	47.8	52.7	44.0	39.0	47.7
<b>Academic Growth Average Percentage of Target Achieved (Target 100%)</b>	N/A	52.2	55.4	*	52.4	55.2	42.1	58.8	59.1

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Table 4: School Culture and Climate				*Data are suppressed to ensure confidentiality					
	2018-2019			2019-2020 <sup>1</sup>			2021-2022		
Indicator	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State	School	Host District	State
<b>Chronic Absenteeism Rate (%)</b>	8.9	19.3	10.4	*	21.1	12.2	12.4	58.1	23.7
<b>Suspension Rate (%)</b>	*	7.3	6.7	*	4.6	4.9	0	6.1	6.5
<b>Discipline Tier</b>	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	1

Table 5: Student Waitlist and Mobility Information					
Performance Metric:			2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Waitlist number:			705	534	516
Number of enrolled students who left during the school year:			24	16	10
Number of students who did not re-enroll the next year and had not completed the highest grade at the school:			15	35	11

<sup>1</sup> In the 2019-20 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person classes were cancelled in mid-March; all districts switched to fully remote instruction for the remainder of the school year.

*Yesenia Rivera*  
President  
New Haven Board of Education



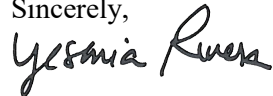
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January 23, 2023

Robert Kelly  
Turnaround Office  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
450 Columbus Boulevard  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mr. Kelly,

At the January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting of the New Haven Board of Education, the Board voted 6-0 in favor of renewing the charter for Elm City Montessori School.

Sincerely,  
  
Yesenia Rivera  
Board President