

OPPORTUNITY NETWORK OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH 2020-2021

Program Name: Liguori Academy Fortis

Provider: Liguori, Inc.

OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH OVERVIEW

Operational Walkthroughs for all Opportunity Network contract programs focused on the systems and structures that are required to deliver high quality instruction to students. Operational Walkthroughs assessed program performance across three domains: 1) Academic & School Climate Accountability; 2) Organizational Compliance; and 3) Accommodative & Financial Compliance. Taken together, the three domains encompass key operational expectations that are based on the program's contract with The School District of Philadelphia, as well as applicable federal, state and local laws.

Operational Walkthroughs are one part of the School District's three-part approach to the formal annual evaluation of all contracted Opportunity Network programs. In addition to Operational Walkthroughs, Instructional Walkthroughs and Alternative Education Progress Reports (AEPR) provide qualitative and quantitative data for program performance that inform decisions related to contract renewal, termination, and program expansion. This report summarizes the program's performance for each of the three domains reviewed during the Operational Walkthrough. In addition, this report provides ratings for select contract requirements indicating whether the program met those requirements or standards based on evidence reviewed during the Operational Walkthrough. Due to COVID-19 all Operational Walkthroughs were conducted virtually but areas of review remained unchanged.

A \checkmark indicates that the program met the contract requirement. A $\stackrel{\checkmark}{\triangleright}$ indicates that the program did not meet the contract requirement. The basis for the rating is provided in the Additional Notes section for each standard.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Walkthrough Date: December 4, 2020

Contract Term: FY 2018- FY 2022

Program Type: Accelerated (Grades 9-12)

CONTACT INFORMATION

1952 East Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134

Phone: 267-571-1952

Webpage: https://www.liquoriacademy.org/fortis-program/

MISSION

"To prepare our future leaders through individualized learning in a community that offers boundless opportunities."

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Michael Marrone, Chief Executive Officer and President

Gina Craig, Chief Academic Officer

Patrick Durkin, Director of Climate and Culture

Michael Phipps, Postsecondary Coordinator

WALKTHROUGH REVIEW TEAM

DawnLynne Kacer, Executive Director, Opportunity Network

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Seth Morones, Strategy Analyst II, Opportunity Network

Kia Woods, Special Education Case Manager

Sarah Karpovich, Special Education Case Manager

LIGUORI ACADEMY FORTIS

The School District of Philadelphia's official demographic information is reported on October 1st of each school year. The Opportunity Network's demographic information is reported here as of February 2021 to more closely align with the student population on the date of the walkthrough.

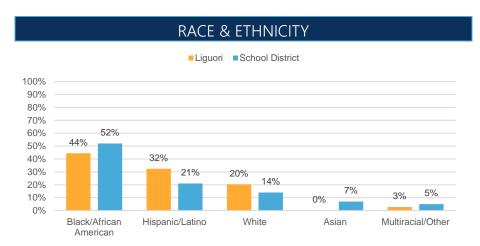
ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

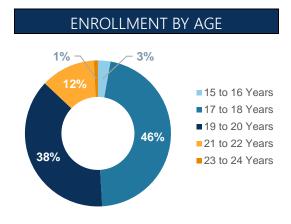
Enrollment as of February 2021

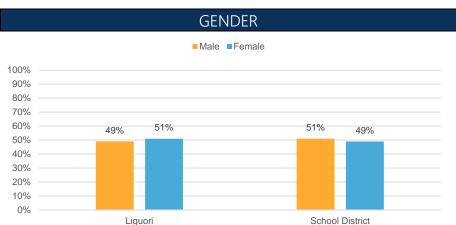
108 SY 2019-2020: 124

Contracted Maximum

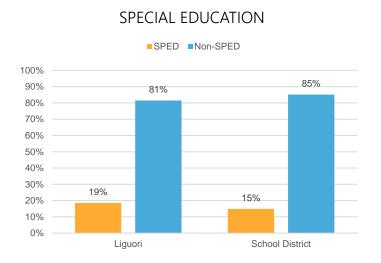
125



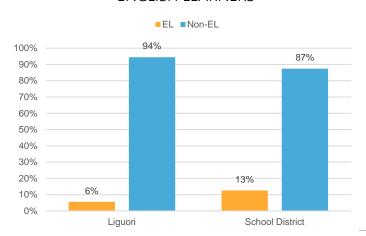




DIVERSE LEARNERS

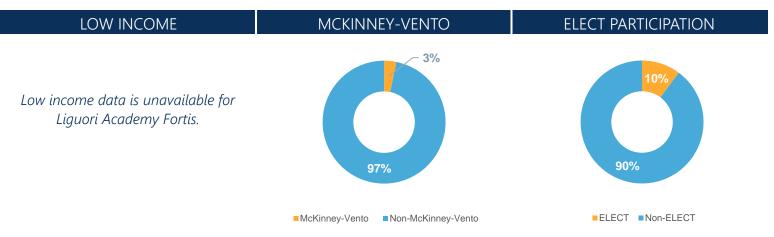


ENGLISH LEARNERS



LIGUORI ACADEMY FORTIS

All data for attendance, student conduct, low income, McKinney-Vento, and Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) participation reflect enrollment as of February 2021 to more closely align with the student population on the date of the walkthrough.



Low income status is calculated by the number of students directly certified as receiving public assistance.

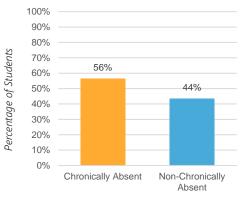
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The Philadelphia ELECT program is a comprehensive network of education, health, and support services designed to assist pregnant and parenting teens in completing their education and becoming selfsufficient.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS SY2020-21

There were no suspensions at Liguori Academy Fortis as of February 2021 school year to date.

CHRONICALLY ABSENT SY2020-21



Absent Status

Students are considered chronically absent if they accrue 10 or more unexcused absences within a 45-day period.

DOMAIN 1: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2020-2021 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Academic and School Climate Accountability domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	requirements met
Academic Quality (Page 5)	4/5
School Climate Quality (Page 6)	5 / 6
TOTAL	9 / 11

DOMAIN 2: ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2020-2021 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Organizational Compliance domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	requirements met
Student Progress Monitoring & Reporting (Page 8)	4 / 8
Record Keeping & Communication (Page 10)	3 / 4
Personnel (Page 11)	2/7
Governance & Enrollment (Page 12)	3 / 5
TOTAL	12 / 24

DOMAIN 3: ACCOMMODATIVE & FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2020-2021 Operational Walkthrough. Information regarding how standards in the Accommodative & Financial Compliance domain are measured can be found in the performance framework for Opportunity Network contract programs.

CATEGORY	requirements met
Accommodative Quality (Page 14)	2/3
Financial Compliance (Page 15)	3 / 4
TOTAL	5 / 7

CATEGORY I:ACADEMIC QUALITY

STANDARD: CURRICULAR QUALITY – Evidence of systems and structures to ensure quality curriculum and instruction offered by contractor

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
BASELINE and REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS: Offers baseline (pre-test) and required assessments (Basic Assessment in Reading & Math, PA PSSA/Keystone Exams, P/SATs) for academic progress monitoring.	*	Less than 80% of eligible students had SY 2020-2021 pre-assessment scores for the Basic Assessment in Reading & Math (reading 48%; math 44%). However, program does have detailed tracking and monitoring system in place for assessments.
BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/CHARACTER EDUCATION: Educational program offered includes behavior modification/character education.	✓	During Advisory the program uses an online socio-emotional curriculum, EVERFI, which provides lessons in socio-emotional learning (SEL) covering topics such as empathy, leadership, conflict resolution, self-awareness, and resilience. The program uses "In The Zone" sessions to support students with emotional regulation during daily check-ins with the Dean.

STANDARD: STUDENT PERFORMANCE – Evidence of systems and structures to ensure expected student progress in the program as defined in the AEPR and consistent with contract expectations

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CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Collects and uses data to track and monitor student progress to evaluate academic achievement and make appropriate instructional shifts and/or differentiate instruction.	✓	The program documents student academic progress during regular Advisor-student check-in meetings. Credit accumulation and academic interventions are documented and monitored.
POST-SECONDARY READINESS: Collects and uses data to track and monitor student post-secondary readiness.	✓	The program's post-secondary counselor tracks post-secondary activities at the student-level and program-level. Students have a post-secondary transition plan that includes completion of required PA Future Ready Career Portfolio activities in Naviance.
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE BARRIERS: Collects and uses data to track and monitor school climate and identifies appropriate student supports to improve school climate outcomes.	✓	

DOMAIN I: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

CATEGORY 2: SCHOOL CLIMATE QUALITY

STANDARD: DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor efforts to effectively manage student behavior and employ positive behavior intervention & supports system

effectively manage student behavior and employ positive behavior intervention & supports system		
CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE and POSITIVE CLIMATE PRACTICES: Employs restorative justice practices (e.g. facilitated mediation, reflective writing, peer court/advising). Evidence of policies and practices to combat bullying including cyber bullying.	✓	The program's student handbook outlines bullying and related consequences. Restorative justice practices are evident and include behavior reflections, peace agreements, restorative conferences and self-regulation sessions with the Dean.
STUDENT INCENTIVES: Employs developmentally appropriate individual or group based incentives (e.g. admission to school events, recognition awards, tangible rewards).	✓	Individual and group-based incentives for positive behavior as a part of the program-wide positive behavior support plan. Individual incentives include class/teacher recognition, Student of the Month, internships, posters for Graduates, and Merit Cards. Group-based incentives include virtual field trips and rewards for participation in workshops for WorkForce Development, ELECT program offerings, Post-Secondary Planning and Socio-Emotional Learning.
TAILORED SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: Develops and implements plan within 30 days of receiving student and adheres to personalized socio-emotional development plans.	✓	

DOMAIN I: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

STANDARD: ATTENDANCE & DISCIPLINE REPORTING – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor efforts to track, monitor and report student attendance and behavior, including compliance with Safe Schools Act

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
DRILLS and SAFETY REPORTING: Conducts and reports appropriate school safety drills, designates rally and shelter-in-place locations, and reports school safety incidents as required.	✓	No school safety drills conducted as a result of remote learning. The program completed the required Vital Information Packet and Emergency Operations Plans in Previstar.
CODE of CONDUCT: Adopts and provides to students a code of conduct aligned to School District's Code of Conduct.	×	The program's Code of Conduct is not aligned to that of the School District. Consequences for some behaviors exceed those allowable by the School District (e.g., the School District does not permit cheating to be an expulsion-level behavior).
TRUANCY and DISCIPLINE REPORTING: Accurate and timely reporting of attendance, truancy and disciplinary incidents as required by contract. Develops Student Attendance Improvement Plans and communicates with parents/guardians timely to prevent chronic absenteeism.	✓	Evidence of SAIPs in the SIS for students with 6 or more unexcused absences. The program maintains attendance and behavior reporting in real-time with no errors.

CATEGORY I: STUDENT PROGRESS MONITORING & REPORTING

STANDARD: STUDENT LEVEL PLANS – Evidence that contractor creates, maintains and effectively implements student-level plans for learning, behavior and post-secondary and communicates student progress to student and family for all students

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLANS (AEDY Transition & Continuation only): Creation (upon enrollment of student) of a Personalized Learning Plan that includes a Transition Plan for student to return to School District.	Not applicable	
PERIODIC ACADEMIC and BEHAVIOR REPORTING: Provides timely reporting of student academic progress (on quarterly or semester basis to students, parents and/or guardians) including information for coursework attempted/completed, level of achievement and progress, behavior and attendance.	✓	
GRADUATION AND POST-SECONDARY PLANS: Creation and maintenance of plan for progress towards graduation (including credits needed) and a student-specific post-secondary plan aligned to student interests.	✓	Plans include expected graduation date, mapping of courses, credit review, and tracking tool for completion of Naviance/PA Future Ready activities.

STANDARD: DIVERSE LEARNER POPULATION – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor policies to appropriately identify, support and monitor instruction for special education students and English Learners (ELs)

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
ENROLLMENT of SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS:		At the time of the walkthrough, 19% of the
Enrolls special education population no less than 15% and no greater than 20% of the program capacity.	√	contracted maximum number of students had an IEP.

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DOMAIN 2:ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
BASELINE MEASURES: Provides baseline measures for both special education and EL students against which to monitor growth. Monitors progress toward IEP goals and communicates this progress routinely to parents/guardians.	*	6 of 10 Special Education files reviewed had baseline measures and sufficient evidence of progress monitoring. 0 of 5 eligible English Learner (EL) files reviewed included baseline measures and evidence of sufficient progress monitoring.
IEP IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION & REVIEW: Identifies, evaluates, reviews and implements IEPs timely and with fidelity, in accordance with applicable laws.	*	0 of 10 Special Education files reviewed included the required Digital Services Tracker.
ANNUAL IEP UPDATES: Ensures IEPs are updated on an annual basis according to federal and state directives including December 1 Child Count compliance. Includes Transition Services in IEPs for students 14 years or older. Documents participation of all required IEP team members.	*	19 of 20 IEPs were in compliance for December 1 Child Count (95% compliance rate).
IEP MEETINGS: Assumes lead role for scheduling, convening, and completion of IEP meetings as well as all special education related paperwork. Collaborates with the School District as necessary and appropriate to support students.	✓	
EL IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION & REVIEW: Identifies potential ELs using the Home Language Survey, evaluates students using screener, and assesses ELs annually using ACCESS exam to provide all required services for success of EL students.	×	10 of 10 enrollment files reviewed included a completed Home Language Survey. 0 of 6 EL files reviewed included WIDA screener and ACCESS testing.

CATEGORY 2: RECORD KEEPING & COMMUNICATION

STANDARD: COMMUNICATIONS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT – Evidence that contractor timely and accurately reports information to the School District either directly or via provided systems consistent with contract requirements and written updates from the School District

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPLOAD:		
Provides student enrollment, attendance, behavior and coursework information to School District (via SIS) within contractually outlined period.	√	
ARCHIVE OF HISTORICAL RECORDS:	,	
Maintains an archive of all historical student academic and behavioral records.	√	

STANDARD: COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES – Evidence that contractor communicates timely and accurately with students, parents/guardians and families regarding student performance and progress in a manner accessible to all; protects student record information

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
SECURE PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION: Secures personally identifiable information, does not request or require prohibited information at time of enrollment (e.g. SSNs), and ensures that if student is 18+ years of age, student provides consent to release records.	*	2 of 10 enrollment files reviewed included personally identifiable information (e.g., court dispositions, child welfare information, parenting status). Recommend that this information be maintained in confidential counselor files.
ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES: Contractor ensures that it communicates with all stakeholders as appropriate to maintain levels of engagement including reporting of student academic progress, information regarding program events (e.g. back to school nights) and student expectations (e.g. orientation and handbook) in a manner that is accessible to all.	✓	Evidence of regular communication with parents to discuss student progress. The program publishes a weekly newsletter that is sent to parents to keep them informed of program-wide events, services and expectations.

CATEGORY 3: PERSONNEL

STANDARD: BACKGROUND CHECKS, LICENSES & EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION – Evidence of contractor compliance with relevant contract, state and federal educator personnel requirements

compliance with relevant contract, state and lederal educator personnel requirements		
CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	ADDITIONAL NOTES
EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS: Provides evidence of all relevant employee background checks and clearances. Checks and clearances are valid, timely and up to date as appropriate.	×	FBI Background Check: 3 of 3 new employees reviewed had a valid check on file. PA Child Abuse Clearance: 3 of 3 new employees reviewed had a valid clearance on file. PA Criminal History Check: 3 of 3 new employees reviewed had a valid check on file. Act 168 documentation: 0 of 3 eligible employees reviewed had documentation on file.
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS: Provides PA certificated teachers in all core instructional areas.	×	No PA certified teacher for social studies/history.
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS (ADMINISTRATOR): Provides at least one PA certificated administrator per site.	×	On the day of the walkthrough there was a lapse in certification, which was addressed by the program within 72 hours.
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF: Provides sufficiently trained and certified/licensed professional staff for student support services including special education and ELs.	×	No PA certified ESOL teacher.

STANDARD: PERSONNEL RATIO & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Evidence of contractor adherence to contractual Personnel Ratios, contractually or statutorily required trainings, and relevant staff professional development

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
PERSONNEL RATIOS: Provides staffing to meet contractual student to teacher ratios and ensures student to support staff ratio is within contractual limits.	✓	
OBLIGATORY TRAININGS: Provides all employees with Act 71, Act 126, and other obligatory PDE professional trainings and monitors timely completion and updates as required.	×	Act 71: 3 of 3 new employees reviewed had a completion certificate on file. Act 126: 3 of 3 new employees reviewed had a completion certificate on file for the required 3-hour training.
ENGAGEMENT IN DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRACTOR MEETINGS: Ensures that teachers and administrators engage in School District professional development opportunities and monthly contractor meetings.	✓	

CATEGORY 4: GOVERNANCE & ENROLLMENT

STANDARD: PROGRAM GOVERNANCE – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor activities to support compliance with contractual expectations for program governance

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Engages community and non-profit providers to provide a diverse and relevant range of non-academic student services and support.	✓	Program formed numerous partnerships with local businesses and non-profits to provide career exposure and internship opportunities for students. Program consistently engages potential donors to provide financial and inkind contributions.
COMMUNITY ELICITATION: Has active school or community advisory board or process by which the school community can provide input and feedback to the contractor regarding the program. Encourages parent/guardian participation in the District-wide annual survey.	*	7% of parents participated in the 2019-2020 District-wide parent survey (minimum of 10% required).

DOMAIN 2:ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

STANDARD: STUDENT ENROLLMENT – Evidence of systems, structures and contractor practices to meet contractual and statutory requirements for student enrollment and eliminate barriers to entry

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
TIMELY ENROLLMENT: Contractor does not create barriers to enrollment and enrolls students referred and/or who apply timely. Enrollment and/or student files contain information as required by PDE for enrollment. Program has procedures in place to confirm eligibility of students prior to enrollment.	✓	
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Contractor does not serve students from other LEAs without written consent of School District. Contractor confirms residency of student prior to or at time of enrollment.	×	No evidence that the program serves students from other LEAs, however, only 7 of 10 enrollment files reviewed had valid proof of residency.
RE-ENGAGEMENT CENTER REFERRALS: Contractor has reserved 50% of seats for School District's Engagement Center (REC) and/or partners with the REC to receive referrals.	✓	

CATEGORY I:ACCOMMODATIVE QUALITY

STANDARD: FACILITIES – Evidence of contractor compliance with established facility guidelines, contractual/statutory requirements and lease terms (if in School District-owned properties)

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL REGULATIONS: Complies with all federal and state regulations regarding access to individuals with (physical or		
otherwise) disabilities. The program is housed in a non-sectarian facility. If in a privately-owned facility, contractor is compliant with any local requirements for facility condition including lead and water testing.	√	
FACILITY MAINTENANCE: For privately-owned facilities, contractor maintains regular upkeep of facility including structure, student		Not able to be observed due to virtual walkthrough.
and staff related spaces as well as outside grounds. For School District-owned facilities, contactor fulfills the obligations of their lease agreement regarding maintenance and reports facility condition issues timely.	Not applicable	

STANDARD: SCHOOL CALENDAR, TRANSPORTATION AND UNIFORMS – Evidence that contractor operates a program that meets the minimum number of days of instruction as required by the contract and makes the program accessible to all eligible students

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	ADDITIONAL NOTES
CALENDAR: Maintains an academic calendar that minimally has at least as many instructional days as that of the School District. Submits operational calendars timely and appropriately notifies the School District departments of any changes in the calendar.	✓	
TRANSPORTATION: Maintains accurate student information to allow the School District to appropriately manage transportation services for students. No corrective action initiated regarding required student transpass usage reports.	Not applicable	Transportation services suspended due to remote learning.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
UNIFORMS: Establishes a clear dress code for students inclusive of expectations regarding school uniform. Provides uniforms to students upon request due to financial need. Does not have policies or practices that create barriers to instruction based on dress code or school uniform.	×	Student Handbook stated that certain color hair dyes and visible tattoos were not permitted. Program removed these statements and published a revised Student Handbook after the walkthrough.

CATEGORY 2: FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

STANDARD: PROCUREMENT OF OPERATING CERTIFICATES – Contractor provides School District with relevant operating licenses and certificates; maintains current insurance consistent with contract requirements

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
TAX LIABILITIES: Provides School District with Certificate of Tax	✓	
Clearance absolving any city tax liabilities.		
PROOF OF INSURANCE: Provides Proof of Insurance related to: (1) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability, (2) General Liability Insurance, (3) Automobile Liability Insurance, (4) Professional Liability Insurance, (5) Educator Legal Liability Insurance, (6) Excess/Umbrella Liability, and (7) Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance.	*	The program's insurance policy did not include the required Additional Insured Endorsement documentation at the time of the walkthrough. The required documentation was received after the walkthrough.

STANDARD: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING – Evidence the contractor adheres to standards of financial management including with monitoring and reporting of revenues and expenses, invoicing to the School District and ability of contractor to maintain financial viability

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: Provides detailed information upon request regarding program annual budgets, as well as actual expenses and revenues. Upon request, provides independent third-party financial audit timely; audit does not indicate any material weakness or going concerns.	✓	No concerns highlighted in an independent audit of the organizations FY 2020 financial statements.

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DOMAIN 3: ACCOMMODATIVE & FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
MONTHLY INVOICING:		
Submits monthly invoices timely with complete and accurate student-level information. Information provided can generally be validated against the School District's SIS.	√	