

# OPPORTUNITY NETWORK OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH 2021-2022

Program Name: Ombudsman Northwest Accelerated Provider: Ombudsman Educational Services, Ltd.

#### 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. All SY2021-22 Operational Walkthroughs were conducted in-person and on-site.

A  $\checkmark$  indicates that the program met the contract requirement. A  $\checkmark$  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: October 26, 2021

Contract Term: FY 2018- FY 2022

**Program Type**: Accelerated (Grades 9-12)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

2111 Eastburn Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19138

Phone: 215-924-8950

Webpage: <a href="https://www.ombudsman.com/">https://www.ombudsman.com/</a>

#### **MISSION**

"Our mission is to provide personalized, evidence-based educational services for nontraditional learners in collaboration with families and school districts."

#### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Julita Byrd, Regional Director, Philadelphia

#### WALKTHROUGH REVIEW TEAM

Majeedah Scott, Director, Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Marcus De Vose, Assistant Director, Transition Services

Seth Morones, Strategy Analyst II, Opportunity Network

**Jazzmyn Mills**, Customer Support Liaison, Re-engagement Center

Nolita Petus, Special Education Case Manager

## OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH 2021-2022

OMBUDSMAN NORTHWEST ACCELERATED

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

20%

10%

0%

Black/African

#### **ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

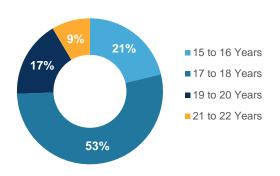
Enrollment as of November 2021

47

Contracted Maximum

90

## ENROLLMENT BY AGE



#### 

2%

White

2%

Hispanic/Latino

13%

7%

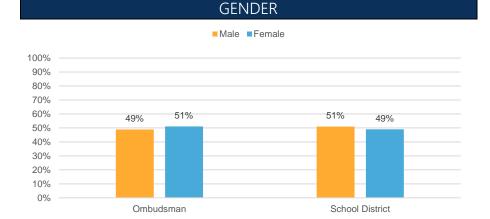
0%

Asian

6%

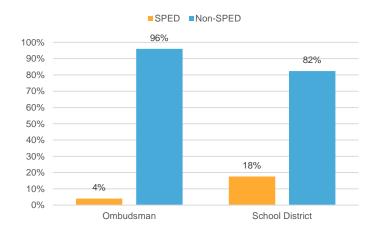
6%

Multiracial/Other

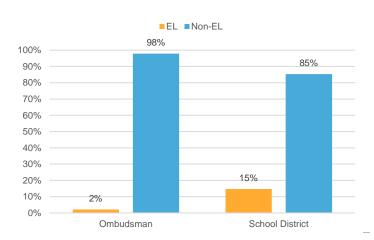


#### **DIVERSE LEARNERS**

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION



#### **ENGLISH LEARNERS**

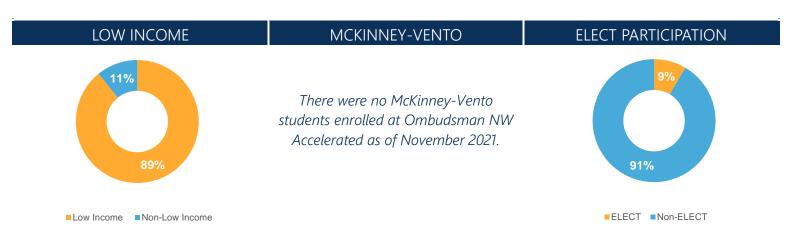


#### **PROGRAM DATA**

## **OPERATIONAL WALKTHROUGH 2021-2022**

OMBUDSMAN NORTHWEST ACCELERATED

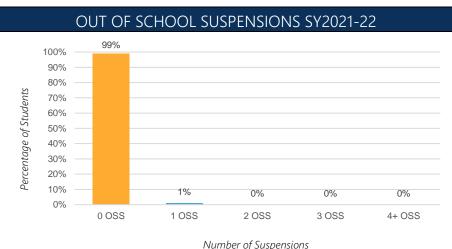
All data for attendance, student conduct, low income, McKinney-Vento, and Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) participation reflect enrollment as of November 2021 to more closely align with the student population on the date of the walkthrough.



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

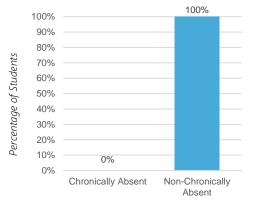
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act quarantees a free and appropriate public education for all children and youth experiencing homelessness.

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.



#### Number of Suspensions

#### **CHRONICALLY ABSENT SY2021-22**



Absent Status

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

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: ALL DOMAINS

#### 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 2021-2022 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)	5 / 5
School Climate Quality (Page 6)	5 / 6
TOTAL	10 / 11

#### DOMAIN 2: ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

The table below summarizes the number of standards by category that met expectations consistent with contract requirements during the 2021-2022 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)	4 / 4
Personnel (Page 11)	3 / 7
Governance & Enrollment (Page 12)	5 / 5
TOTAL	16 / 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 2021-2022 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)	5 / 5
Financial Compliance (Page 15)	3 / 4
TOTAL	8/9

# DOMAIN 1: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

### 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.	<b>✓</b>	More than 80% of students had STAR assessment scores (Reading 90%; Math 90%). 100% of eligible students took fall Keystone exams.
BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/CHARACTER EDUCATION:  Educational program offered includes behavior modification/character education.	<b>✓</b>	The program has established Student Ambassadors to support positive behavior among peers that is based on positive character traits espoused by the program. Students engage in daily reflective writing focused on character traits and maintaining a healthy climate within the program.

**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

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.	<b>✓</b>	The MTSS process includes data from progress reports that are generated from multiple online platforms to track student achievement. Students who are not making adequate progress are placed on academic probation with a learning plan that is revisited after 30 days. Teachers monitor daily progress and check in with students who are falling behind in real time. School staff meet weekly to discuss individual students and collectively develop intervention strategies to support struggling students. Evidence that CPT meetings occur weekly.
POST-SECONDARY READINESS:  Collects and uses data to track and monitor student post-secondary readiness.	<b>✓</b>	The program's counselor works with student one-on-one to develop post-secondary pathways and tracks post-secondary bridging activities using individual student plans.

# DOMAIN 1: ACADEMIC & SCHOOL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE BARRIERS:		
Collects and uses data to track and monitor school climate and identifies appropriate student supports to improve school climate outcomes.	<b>√</b>	

## **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.	<b>✓</b>	The program utilizes a progressive discipline approach that includes conferencing and peer advising. The program's handbook extensively discusses bullying/cyberbullying, and related consequences and reporting procedures.
STUDENT INCENTIVES: Employs developmentally appropriate individual or group based incentives (e.g. admission to school events, recognition awards, tangible rewards).	<b>✓</b>	The program provides students with recognition awards for good attendance, behavior and academic standing. The highest performing students are selected to become Student Ambassadors. The program raffles off gift cards weekly for students making adequate progress.
TAILORED SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS:  Develops and implements plan within 30 days of receiving student and adheres to personalized socio-emotional development plans.	<b>✓</b>	

# DOMAIN 1: 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

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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.	*	Lockdown drill was conducted but not recorded, as required, in the programs drill record by the deadline. The program's VIP and EOP were not completed in Previstar at the time of the walkthrough.
CODE of CONDUCT:  Adopts and provides to students a code of conduct aligned to School District's Code of Conduct.	<b>✓</b>	The program has adopted the SDP Code of Conduct.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
TRUANCY and DISCIPLINE REPORTING:		
Accurate and timely reporting of attendance, truancy and disciplinary incidents as required by contract.  Develops Student Attendance Improvement Plans (SAIP) and communicates with parents/guardians timely to prevent chronic absenteeism.	<b>✓</b>	

#### 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.	<b>✓</b>	Students have constant access to their academic progress and graduation plans in regularly updated binders.
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.	<b>✓</b>	Graduation plans consist of credit maps, high attendance strategies, senior project plans, and college, career and personal goals.

**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: Enrolls special education population no less than 15% and no greater than 20% of the program capacity.	*	2% of students enrolled at the time of the walkthrough had an IEP.
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.	×	0 of 1 IEP file reviewed had sufficient evidence of progress monitoring.     0 of 1 EL file reviewed included screener scores for the current school year.

# **DOMAIN 2:**ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS	RATING	additional notes
IEP IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION & REVIEW: Identifies, evaluates, reviews and implements IEPs timely and with fidelity, in accordance with applicable laws.	×	O of 1 IEP file reviewed captured student attendance. Reminded the program that onsite IEP files must be complete and include all parent/guardian communications (invitations, notifications, signatures, etc.).
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.	<b>√</b>	2 of 2 IEPs were in compliance for December 1 Child Count (100% 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.	<b>✓</b>	
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.	×	0 of 1 EL file reviewed included parental notification letter and support log. 7 of 7 enrollment files reviewed included a completed Home Language Survey.

# **DOMAIN 2:**ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

#### 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.	<b>√</b>	
ARCHIVE OF HISTORICAL RECORDS:		
Maintains an archive of all historical student academic and behavioral records.	<b>√</b>	

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.	<b>✓</b>	0 of 6 enrollment files reviewed contained personally identifiable information. Signed FERPA forms on file for students 18 years of age and older.
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.	<b>✓</b>	Call logs indicate that the program contacts parents/guardians regularly via telephone to communicate concerns and celebrate student progress.

#### **CATEGORY 3: PERSONNEL**

**STANDARD: BACKGROUND CHECKS, LICENSES & EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION** – Evidence of contractor compliance with relevant contract, state and federal 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: 5 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid check on file.  PA Child Abuse Clearance: 5 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid clearance on file.  PA Criminal History Check: 5 of 5 employees reviewed had a valid check on file.  Act 168 documentation: 2 of 3 eligible employees reviewed had documentation on file.  3 existing employees reviewed and all had up to date background checks and clearances.
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:  Provides PA certificated teachers in all core instructional areas.	×	As of the date of the walkthrough, no certified math and science teachers on staff at the time of the walkthrough.
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS (ADMINISTRATOR): Provides at least one PA certificated administrator per site.	<b>✓</b>	
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF:  Provides sufficiently trained and certified/licensed professional staff for student support services including special education and ELs.	×	No ESOL teacher on staff at the time of the walkthrough.

**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.	<b>√</b>	
OBLIGATORY TRAININGS:		Act 71: 4 of 5 employees reviewed had a
Provides all employees with Act 71, Act 126, and other obligatory PDE professional trainings and monitors timely completion and updates as required.	×	completion certificate on file.  Act 126: 2 of 5 employees reviewed had a completion certificate on file for the required 3-hour training. 2 of the 4 existing employees had Act 126 training prior to the addition of the human trafficking module and their training requires updating
ENGAGEMENT IN DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRACTOR MEETINGS:		
Ensures that teachers and administrators engage in School District professional development opportunities and monthly contractor meetings.	<b>√</b>	

#### **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:		Partnerships with JROTC, ELECT, and GEMMA
Engages community and non-profit providers to provide a diverse and relevant range of non-academic student services and support.	<b>√</b>	services for mental/behavioral health.
COMMUNITY ELICITATION:		53.2% parent participation on the 2020-2021
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.	<b>✓</b>	district-wide survey (minimum of 10% required).

# **DOMAIN 2:**ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE

OMBUDSMAN NORTHWEST ACCELERATED

**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.	<b>✓</b>	
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.	<b>✓</b>	7 of 7 enrollment files reviewed contained 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.	<b>✓</b>	

### 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.	<b>✓</b>	The program is housed in a privately-owned facility.
FACILITY MAINTENANCE:  For privately-owned facilities, contractor maintains regular upkeep of facility including structure, student 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.	<b>✓</b>	

**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.	<b>✓</b>	
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.	<b>√</b>	

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.	<b>✓</b>	Program has taken good strides to be inclusive and incorporate this as part of their school uniform.

#### **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.	<b>√</b>	
PROOF OF INSURANCE:		At the time of the walkthrough, the program's
Provides Proof of Insurance related to: (1) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability, (2) General Liability Insurance, (4) Professional Liability Insurance, (5) Educator Logal	×	insurance documentation was not approved by the Office of Risk Management due to lack of Additional Insured Endorsement.
(4) Professional Liability Insurance, (5) Educator Legal Liability Insurance, (6) Excess/Umbrella Liability, and (7) Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance.		

**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.	<b>√</b>	

### 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.	<b>✓</b>	