STAFF ANALYSIS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING REVIEW OF ROCKETSHIP FUERZA COMMUNITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL PETITION

NOVEMBER 18, 2026, posted NOVEMBER 3, 2026

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Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School (RFZ) seeks approval of its Santa Clara County independent, direct funded, district appeal charter school renewal serving students in grades TK-5. RFZ was initially approved on appeal from Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD) in June 2014, for a five-year term to serve grades K-5. RFZ was renewed in 2019. RFZ's current term expires June 30, 2027, as its term was extended by operation of law by two years in 2021 and an additional year in 2023. RFZ has requested renewal for a term of five years from July 2027 through June 2032, due to its designation by the California Department of Education (CDE) as a school in the middle performing category. RFZ, located within the ARUSD boundaries, currently serves approximately 540 students.

PROCEDURAL STATUS

The Charter Schools Department of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (County Office of Education or SCCOE) received a renewal charter petition (Renewal Petition or Charter) from RFZ on September 3, 2026. RFZ is operated and governed by Rocketship Education doing business as (dba) Rocketship Public Schools (RPS).[1] *Education Code (EC)* Sections 47607 and 47607.2 determine the length of charter renewal based on a charter school's placement in the high, middle, or low performance categories established by *AB* 1505. Pursuant to criterion in *EC* Sections 47607(c) and 47607.2, RFZ is in the middle performing category, and the school qualifies for a five-year renewal term (see further analysis below). If the charter is renewed by the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE or County Board of Education[2]), the new term of the Charter would begin on July 1, 2026, and run through and including June 30, 2031. Renewals of district appeal charters are governed by the standards and criteria set forth in *EC* Sections 47605, 47607 and 47607.2.

On October 7, 2025, the SCCBOE held a public hearing on the RFZ Renewal Petition in accordance with the requirement to do so within 60 days of receipt of submission of the Renewal Petition. On October 9, 2026, SCCOE Staff conducted a renewal site visit and held renewal interviews with RFZ parents, students, staff, and representatives of RPS leadership as the charter management organization or network. On October 11, 2026, SCCOE Staff met with RPS Board members.

Pursuant to *EC* Sections 47607, 47607.2 and 47605, the County Board of Education has 90 days from receipt of the renewal application to act, which may be extended by an additional 30 days by mutual agreement. SCCBOE will hold the decision hearing November 18, 2026, to act on the RFZ request for renewal.

[1] Throughout this document, Rocketship Education dba Rocketship Public Schools may be referred to for purposes of convenience as "RPS," "CMO," or "Network," but the Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep charter school and Rocketship Public Schools may be referred to collectively, separately, or interchangeably as "RFZ" or "Charter School" or "school."

[2] Throughout this document, references to "SCCBOE" or the "County Board of Education" are specifically to the Santa Clara County Board of Education. However, for purposes of convenience, the Santa Clara County Board of Education, the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education may be collectively or separately referred to herein as "SCCOE."

In accordance with Board Policy 0420.4, SCCOE, RFZ, and RPS, developed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018 (2018 MOU). By its terms, this 2018 MOU "shall continue in full force and effect during the period of any renewal granted by the SCCBOE or during the pendency of an appeal of a denial of a renewal request unless and until such time as the Parties enter into a replacement MOU or specifically agree in writing that the MOU is terminated." The 2018 MOU governs the respective fiscal, operational, administrative responsibilities, legal relationships, and other matters not otherwise fully addressed or resolved by the terms of the current charter or the Renewal Petition, pending any further direction or recommendations by the SCCBOE, including SCCBOE's adoption of the SCCOE's recommendations and recommended findings and entry into a replacement or supplementing MOU and/or addendum. By its terms, the 2018 MOU is incorporated into the Renewal Petition by reference, therefore, is terms supplement the Renewal Petition submitted by RFZ and were considered as part of SCCOE's analysis of the Renewal Petition and informed this analysis, including the assessment of whether the Renewal Petition includes reasonably comprehensive descriptions of each of the required Charter elements, whether or not any specific provision of the 2018 MOU is referenced in this analysis, and is continues to bind the Parties unless and until revised or replaced by mutual agreement of the Parties, and if the parties enter into a new MOU and/or addendum, as recommended herein, provisions from the 2018 MOU may need to be incorporated therein or the 2018 MOU remains in effect.

SCCOE has provided RFZ an updated memorandum of understanding (2026 MOU) that is consistent with changes to law since entering into the 2018 MOU and reflects SCCOE's current best practices. RFZ has expressed its intent to enter an updated memorandum of understanding and has met with SCCOE to discuss the terms of the 2026 MOU. RFZ and RPS have confirmed their intent to execute the 2026 MOU, pending RPS Board approval, which should occur on December 9, 2026. SCCOE will continue to work with RFZ and RPS on finalizing the updated 2026 MOU or an addendum to the current 2018 MOU as necessary to reflect current law and best practices and recommends that this be a condition of any renewal of RFZ's Charter.

The complete Renewal Petition on which the SCCBOE is acting is attached to the agenda item in Board Docs and is also available for review at the following location: https://www.sccoe.org/supoffice/charter-schools-office/Documents/petitions_renewal/RFZ_Charter_Renewal_Petition.pdf

CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF A CHARTER PETITION

Effective July 1, 2020, the legal standards for determining whether a charter petition should be renewed were updated. *EC* Section 47607(b) specifies that charter renewals "are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed."

Pursuant to *EC* Section 47605, a renewal charter petition may be denied on the basis of written factual findings that support one or more of the following:

1. The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions required by statute.
4. The petition does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of all the required elements.
5. The petition does not contain a declaration of whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA).

There are additional bases on which material revision may be denied, which are not pertinent to the current Charter.

As an "additional criterion" for determining whether a charter should be renewed, the chartering authority is required to consider the charter school's performance on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard. For this purpose, charter schools are now divided into high, middle, and low performance categories, plus Dashboard Alternative Status Schools ("DASS"), based on their performance during the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision. The pertinent renewal standards and the available length of the renewal term are dependent on this categorization. (*EC* Section 47607 and 47607.2.)

The CDE annually creates a list of all charter schools and ranks their academic performance indicators from the California School Dashboard, specifying whether each school is in the high, middle, or low performing category, or is a DASS program school. This list was intended to relieve the burden on chartering authorities and provide a starting place for the renewal process. The CDE has designated RFZ as a "middle" performing charter school for purposes of this renewal request.

As defined in *EC* Section 47607.2, "middle" performing charter schools are any charter school not deemed as "high" or "low" performing and are eligible to be considered for a five-year renewal term.

In determining whether to renew a middle performing charter, the chartering authority is to consider the following:

(1) The schoolwide and subgroup performance on the state and local indicators on the Dashboard, giving greater weight to measurements of academic performance.
(2) The chartering authority shall provide greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance in determining whether to grant a charter renewal.
(3) In addition to the state and local indicators, the chartering authority shall consider clear and convincing evidence demonstrated by verified data showing either of the following:
    a. The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school.
    b. Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.

The chartering authority may deny a "middle" performing school on these bases only by making written factual findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the school:

i. Failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school;
ii. Closure of the school is in the best interest of pupils; AND
iii. If applicable, the decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance.

Also, a chartering authority may deny renewal of a charter school in any of the performance categories if it finds the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program due to any of the following:

a. Substantial fiscal factors,

b. Substantial governance factors, or

c. The charter school does not serve all pupils who wish to attend.

In such cases, the chartering authority must provide the charter school with at least 30 days' notice of the alleged violation(s) and provide the charter school with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation(s), including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school. Pursuant to *EC* Section 47607(e), the County Board of Education may then deny renewal on these bases only if it makes either of the following findings:

a. The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful

b. The violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable

DETERMINATION CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF RFZ

As stated above, CDE has designated RFZ as a school in the middle performance category for purposes of this renewal. In its Renewal Petition, RFZ states it meets the minimum required academic performance standards, and its academic performance supports Charter renewal. To assess its academic performance against the criteria for middle-performing charter schools, RFZ submitted its data from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ("CAASPP") as well as comparison data for the local district and local district schools RFZ students would otherwise have attended. RFZ states the data submitted on pages 9 through 25 of the Renewal Petition establishes RFZ as a school in the middle performing category, meeting the criteria for charter renewal. Staff have not reproduced all the information provided by RFZ in this Staff Analysis and Proposed Findings of Fact but incorporates it and the CAASPP data herein by this reference.

The SCCBOE requested from RFZ additional data and information in response to questions asked during the October 7, 2026, public hearing on the Charter renewal. On October 23, 2026, RFZ provided the information.

The data below represents key data provided by RFZ and/or available for consideration of RFZ's academic performance.

School Academics

California School Dashboard Data

In 2017, the State of California instituted the California School Dashboard (https://www.caschooldashboard.org/) to help parents and educators identify strengths and areas for improvement. The Dashboard reports how districts, schools (including charter and DASS schools), and student groups are performing across state and local measures. For state measures, performance is based on two factors: (1) current year results, or Status; and (2) whether results improved or declined from the prior year, or Change. Performance on state measures, using comparable statewide data, is represented by one of five colors with Red being the lowest and Blue being the highest (see Object 1 below). A performance level, or color is not provided on the Dashboard when a student group has fewer than 30 students. However, the Status and Change data will be displayed. Further, when a student group has fewer than 11 students, the group does not receive a performance level (color), and the group's Status and Change are not displayed to protect the anonymity of the students. This information is represented by using a grey color gauge with the words "No Performance Color."

Object 1: California Dashboard Performance Color Chart



The following data (Object 2, below) is based on 2024 and 2025 Dashboard data which shows the performance level colors, or the Status from 2024-25, and the Change, or the difference (growth or decline), from 2023-24. Additional data has been added for the 2026 dashboard (Object 2a, below) which was newly released on October 15, 2026, but not originally included in the data presented by RFZ's Renewal Petition.

Object 2: RFZ Performance on 2025 California School Dashboard

	2025 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD									
	ELA		Math		ELPI		Chronic Absenteeism		Suspension	
	DFS	Level	DFS	Level	Rate	Level	Rate	Level	Rate	Level
All Students	-17.2 DFS	ORANGE	-21.2 DFS	GREEN	23.7%	RED	24.8%	RED	0.2%	BLUE
Hispanic/Latino	-31.3 DFS	YELLOW	-34.6 DFS	YELLOW			27.0%	RED	0.2%	BLUE
English Learners (EL)	-46.7 DFS	ORANGE	-41.0 DFS	YELLOW	23.7%	RED	23.4%	ORANGE	0.3%	GREEN
Long-Term EL (LTEL)										
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	-91.2 DFS	ORANGE	-98.3 DFS	ORANGE			29.6%	RED	0%	BLUE
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED)	-36.5 DFS	ORANGE	-37.6 DFS	ORANGE			26.3%	RED	0.2%	BLUE

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://www.caschooldashboard.org

Object 2a: RFZ Performance on 2026 California School Dashboard

	2026 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DASHBOARD									
	ELA		Math		ELPI		Chronic Absenteeism		Suspension	
	DFS	Level	DFS	Level	Rate	Level	Rate	Level	Rate	Level
All Students	-16.3 DFS	ORANGE	-11.8 DFS	GREEN	56.7%	BLUE	16.9%	YELLOW	0%	BLUE
Hispanic/Latino	-33.9 DFS	ORANGE	-25.9 DFS	YELLOW			17.5%	YELLOW	0%	BLUE
English Learners (EL)	-43.2 DFS	YELLOW	-24.2 DFS	GREEN	56.7%	BLUE	14.8%	YELLOW	0%	BLUE
Long-Term EL (LTEL)	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	-101.0 DFS	RED	-94.9 DFS	YELLOW			16.9%	YELLOW	0%	BLUE
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED)	-33.4 DFS	YELLOW	-22.6 DFS	GREEN			20.1%	YELLOW	0%	BLUE

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://www.caschooldashboard.org

The data in Object 2a, above, was released by the CDE on October 15, 2026. Because the State outperformed RFZ on the 2025 Dashboard in at least one student group, namely the English Learner (EL) and Long-Term EL (LTEL) student groups on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI), RFZ's renewal performance category remains unchanged given the data on the new 2026 Dashboard data.

Object 3: 2024 and 2025 California School Dashboard Student Group Report for RFZ

	Suspension Rate		Chronic Absenteeism		English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Learner Progress	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
All	BLUE 0%	BLUE 0.2%	YELLOW 24.0%	RED 24.8%	YELLOW -17.7 DFS	ORANGE -17.2 DFS	YELLOW -26.6 DFS	GREEN -21.2 DFS	GREEN 51.6%	RED 23.7%
EL	BLUE 0%	GREEN 0.3%	YELLOW 24.8%	ORANGE 23.4%	YELLOW -36.9 DFS	ORANGE -46.7 DFS	YELLOW -44.7 DFS	YELLOW -41.0 DFS	GREEN 51.6%	RED 23.7%
LTELs										
SED	BLUE 0%	BLUE 0.2%	YELLOW 24.5%	RED 26.3%	YELLOW -32.1 DFS	ORANGE -36.5 DFS	YELLOW -38.4 DFS	ORANGE -37.6 DFS		
SWD	BLUE 0%	BLUE 0%	RED 24.2%	RED 29.6%	NPC -123.9 DFS	ORANGE -91.2 DFS	NPC -128.8 DFS	ORANGE -98.3 DFS		
Asian	BLUE 0%	BLUE 0%	GREEN 6.1%	ORANGE 9.5%	BLUE 93.3 DFS	NPC 58.3 DFS	BLUE 70.6 DFS	NPC 55.3 DFS		
Hispanic/ Latino	BLUE 0%	BLUE 0.2%	YELLOW 25.4%	RED 27.0%	YELLOW -47.2 DFS	YELLOW -31.3 DFS	YELLOW -50.7 DFS	YELLOW -34.6 DFS		
White	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		
African American	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		
Filipino	NPC 0%	NPC 0%	NPC 15.8%	NPC 5.6%	NPC 63.3 DFS	NPC	NPC 14.8 DFS	NPC		
Homeless	NPC 0%	BLUE 0%	NPC 33.3%	RED 41.2%	NPC	NPC 22.9 DFS	NPC	NPC -16.2 DFS		

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

Many areas of the RFZ Dashboard have no performance color ("NPC") due to the small size of the student group. Object 3, above, shows RFZ's status for both the 2024 and 2025 Dashboard indicators for all students and all numerically significant student groups.

Object 4, below, shows the Status and Change information from the 2024 and 2025 Dashboard indicators. For most of the Dashboard measures, the desired outcome is a high number or percent in the current year as well as an increase from the prior year. A distinguishing feature of the suspension and chronic absenteeism measures is the desired outcome for low suspension and chronic absenteeism rates, which means a low percent in the current year and a decline from the prior year rate. At RFZ, suspensions maintained and chronic absenteeism rates increased for all students and for most numerically significant student groups, except for a 1.3% decline chronic absenteeism for English Learners (ELs).

Object 4: 2024 and 2025 California School Dashboard Student Status and Change Report for RFZ

	Suspension Rate		Chronic Absenteeism		English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Learner Progress	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
All	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0.2%	Declined 5.7%	Increased 0.7%	Increased 26.1 pts	Maintained 0.6 pts	Increased 28.5 pts	Increased 5.4 pts	Increased 23.9%	Declined 27.9%
EL	Maintained 0%	Increased 0.3%	Declined 4.1%	Declined 1.3%	Increased 20.7 pts	Declined 9.8 pts	Increased 23.5 pts	Increased 3.7 pts	Increased 23.9%	Declined 27.9%
LTELs										
SED	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0.2%	Declined 5.7%	Increased 1.8%	Increased 22.4 pts	Declined 4.3 pts	Increased 27.7 pts	Maintained 0.7 pts		
SWD	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0%	Increased 2.4%	Increased 5.4%	Increased 29.4 pts	Increased 32.7 pts	Increased 43.5 pts	Increased 30.5 pts		
Asian	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0%	Declined 2.9%	Increased 3.5%	Increased 48.3 pts	Declined 35.0 pts	Increased 24.9 pts	Declined 15.3 pts		
Hispanic/ Latino	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0.2%	Declined 7.2%	Increased 1.6%	Increased 17.8 pts	Increased 16.1 pts	Increased 27.6 pts	Increased 16.1 pts		
White	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		
African American	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		
Filipino	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0%	Declined 12.8%	Declined 10.2%	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		
Homeless	Maintained 0%	Maintained 0%	Increased 1.5%	Increased 7.8%	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC		

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Suspension Rate and Chronic Absenteeism are reverse metrics, therefore increasing in score is not desired.
Data retrieved from Dashboard (https://caschooldashboard.org)

Objects 5, 6 and 6a, below, show data comparing the Dashboard indicators for all students and by student group for RFZ and the State on the 2024 (2023-24), 2025 (2024-25) and the 2026 (2025-26) Dashboards. On the 2024 (2023-24) Dashboard, RFZ outperforms the State in Suspension rate for All students and all numerically significant student groups; in ELA for EL and SEDs; in Math for All students, EL, SED, and Hispanic/Latino populations; and on the ELPI for all indicators (as indicated by the content data in Bold). On the 2025 (2024-25) Dashboard, RFZ outperforms the State in Suspension Rate for All students and all numerically significant student groups; in ELA with the EL and Hispanic/Latino groups; in Math for All students and all numerically significant student groups (as indicated by the content data in **Bold**). Notably, RFZ students outperform the State in multiple areas on both the 2024 and 2025 Dashboards in multiple indicators, causing RFZ to be in the middle performance category. When looking at the 2026 Dashboard, RFZ still remains in the middle performance category.

Object 5: 2024 California School Dashboard Student Group Data for RFZ and the State

	Suspension Rate		Chronic Absenteeism		English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Learner Progress	
	RFZ	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**
All	**BLUE 0%**	GREEN 3.2%	YELLOW 24.0%	YELLOW 18.6%	YELLOW -17.7 DFS	ORANGE -13.2 DFS	**YELLOW -26.6 DFS**	ORANGE -47.6 DFS	**GREEN 51.6%**	ORANGE 45.7%
EL	**BLUE 0%**	GREEN 3.4%	YELLOW 24.8%	YELLOW 20.1%	**YELLOW -36.9 DFS**	ORANGE -67.6 DFS	**YELLOW -44.7 DFS**	ORANGE -93.4 DFS		
LTELs	NPC	ORANGE 8.1%	NPC	YELLOW 23.9%	NPC	RED -109.6 DFS	NPC	RED -163.5 DFS	NPC	ORANGE 45.8%
SED	**BLUE 0%**	GREEN 4.0%	YELLOW 24.5%	YELLOW 23.4%	**YELLOW -32.1 DFS**	ORANGE -40.9 DFS	**YELLOW -38.4 DFS**	ORANGE -78.2 DFS		
SWD	**BLUE 0%**	YELLOW 5.4%	RED 24.2%	YELLOW 26.3%	NPC -123.9 DFS	RED -95.6 DFS	NPC -128.8 DFS	RED -124.3 DFS		
Hispanic/ Latino	**BLUE 0%**	GREEN 3.4%	YELLOW 25.4%	YELLOW 21.7%	YELLOW -47.2 DFS	ORANGE -39.3 DFS	**YELLOW -50.7 DFS**	ORANGE -79.2 DFS		

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

Object 6: 2025 California School Dashboard Student Group Data for RFZ and the State

	Suspension Rate		Chronic Absenteeism		English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Learner Progress	
	RFZ	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**
All	BLUE 0.2%	GREEN 2.9%	RED 24.8%	YELLOW 17.1%	ORANGE -17.2 DFS	YELLOW -8.1 DFS	**GREEN -21.2 DFS**	YELLOW -42.4 DFS	RED 23.7%	YELLOW 46.4%
EL	GREEN 0.3%	YELLOW 3.2%	ORANGE 23.4%	YELLOW 18.1%	**ORANGE -46.7 DFS**	YELLOW -59.9 DFS	**YELLOW -41.0 DFS**	YELLOW -86.1 DFS		
LTELs	NPC	YELLOW 7.0%	NPC	ORANGE 22.5%	NPC	ORANGE -104.5 DFS	NPC	ORANGE -158.9 DFS	NPC	GREEN 49.1%
SED	BLUE 0.2%	GREEN 3.6%	RED 26.3%	ORANGE 21.7%	ORANGE -36.5 DFS	YELLOW -35.3 DFS	**ORANGE -37.6 DFS**	YELLOW -72.9 DFS		
SWD	BLUE 0%	YELLOW 5.0%	RED 29.6%	ORANGE 24.9%	ORANGE -91.2 DFS	ORANGE -89.4 DFS	**ORANGE -98.3 DFS**	ORANGE -120.7 DFS		
Hispanic/ Latino	BLUE 0.2%	GREEN 3.0%	RED 27.0%	ORANGE 20.1%	**YELLOW -31.1 DFS**	YELLOW -33.7 DFS	**YELLOW -34.6 DFS**	YELLOW -73.6 DFS		

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

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Object 6a: 2026 California School Dashboard Student Group Data for RFZ and the State

	Suspension Rate		Chronic Absenteeism		English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Learner Progress	
	RFZ	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**	**RFZ**	**State**
All	**BLUE 0%**	YELLOW 2.7%	YELLOW 16.9%	YELLOW 16.1%	ORANGE -16.3 DFS	ORANGE -7.5 DFS	**GREEN -11.8 DFS**	YELLOW -38.9 DFS	**BLUE 56.7%**	YELLOW 47.4%
EL	**BLUE 0%**	YELLOW 3.1%	**YELLOW 14.8%**	YELLOW 17.2%	**YELLOW -43.2 DFS**	ORANGE -60.3 DFS	**GREEN -24.2 DFS**	YELLOW -83.0 DFS		
LTELs	NPC	YELLOW 6.1%	NPC	ORANGE 21.7%	NPC	RED -105.6 DFS	NPC	RED -159.6 DFS	NPC	YELLOW 54.1%
SED	**BLUE 0%**	YELLOW 3.4%	**YELLOW 20.1%**	ORANGE 20.7%	**YELLOW -33.4 DFS**	ORANGE -34.1 DFS	**GREEN -22.6 DFS**	YELLOW -69.2 DFS		
SWD	**BLUE 0%**	ORANGE 4.8%	**YELLOW 16.9%**	ORANGE 23.8%	RED -101.0 DFS	RED -89.3 DFS	**YELLOW -94.9 DFS**	RED -120.0 DFS		
Hispanic/ Latino	**BLUE 0%**	GREEN 2.7%	**YELLOW 17.5%**	YELLOW 18.8%	ORANGE -33.9 DFS	ORANGE -32.2 DFS	**YELLOW -25.9 DFS**	YELLOW -69.9 DFS		

**No performance color (NPC) given for groups of less than 30 students. Status rates are not given for groups of less than 11 students.*
Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

Object 7, below, shows the local indicators from the California Schools Dashboard. The local indicators are self-reported by each Local Education Area (LEA).

Object 7: Local Indicators from the California Dashboard for RFZ for 2024, 2025 and 2026

Indicator	2024 Status	2025 Status	2026 Status
Implementation of Academic Standards	Met	Met	Met
Access to a Broad Course of Study	Met	Met	Met
Basics: Teacher Credentials, Instructional Materials, Facilities	Met	Met	Met
Parent and Family Engagement	Met	Met	Met
Local Climate Survey	Met	Met	Met

Data from Dashboard (https://www.caschooldashboard.org/) N/A = Data not available

Under the Local Indicator data for priority area 1, Basics: Teacher Credentials, Instructional Materials, Facilities, the Dashboard provides a report on the status of teacher credentials at a school with a comparison to the State Average. The 2024 Dashboard displays data from 2023 and the 2025 Dashboard shows 2024. In both years, RFZ was below the State average for teacher credentialing.

Object 8: Local Indictor: Teacher Credentialing from the California Dashboard for RFZ for 2024 and 2025

Dashboard Year	FTE	% of Teaching FTE in the Clear Credential Category	Out-of-Field	Ineffective	Incomplete	Statewide % of Teaching FTE in Clear Category
2024	18.0	33.3%	0%	22.2%	0%	83.2%
2025	17.5	37.1%	0%	34.3%	0%	82.5%

Data from Dashboard (https://www.caschooldashboard.org/) N/A = Data not available

CAASPP Data

The tables below reflect the CAASPP data (https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/) verified by SCCOE staff while determining RFZ's schoolwide student performance and progress relative to the district and schools with the largest student populations enrolled at RFZ. The tables below constitute the most recent academic data available for review.

Object 9: Percentage of ALL STUDENTS At or Above Standard on CAASPP in ELA and Math at RFZ, ARUSD, and Statewide for 2023-24

2023-24 CAASPP (ELA)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	44.34%	25.62%	42.80%
4	38.88%	25.19%	43.90%
5	52.18%	30.33%	47.37%
All	43.80%	27.88%	47.04%

2023-24 CAASPP (Math)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	48.59%	30.82%	45.63%
4	31.11%	24.15%	41.20%
5	39.13%	17.23%	35.02%
All	40.33%	20.39%	35.54%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Object 9a: Percentage of ALL STUDENTS At or Above Standard on CAASPP in ELA and Math at RFZ, ARUSD, and Statewide for 2024-25

2024-25 CAASPP (ELA)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	36.56%	23.51%	44.21%
4	48.14%	28.49%	45.70%
5	38.46%	27.76%	48.80%
All	42.09%	28.59%	48.82%

2024-25 CAASPP (Math)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	50.53%	29.24%	46.30%
4	39.82%	26.49%	42.25%
5	17.95%	16.58%	36.03%
All	40.49%	20.66%	37.30%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Object 9b: Percentage of ALL STUDENTS At or Above Standard on CAASPP in ELA and Math at RFZ, ARUSD, and Statewide for 2025-26

2025-26 CAASPP (ELA)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	36.15%	24.88%	44.09%
4	45.36%	27.48%	45.76%
5	44.26%	33.91%	49.16%
All	41.91%	30.61%	49.26%

2025-26 CAASPP (Math)			
Grade	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**State**
3	39.76%	27.65%	46.98%
4	48.45%	25.07%	42.44%
5	37.70%	22.22%	36.68%
All	42.74%	22.31%	38.35%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Objects 9, 9a and 9b, above, reflect the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 CAASPP results in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math for RFZ, ARUSD, and the State. In both ELA and Math, RFZ outperforms ARUSD (as referenced by green) and outperforms the State for Math in most grades (red coloring indicates the entity outperformed RFZ). It should be noted that both ARUSD and the State include scores for grades not served by RFZ for All students.

Object 10: Five-Year Trend of the Percentage for ALL STUDENTS At or Above Standard on CAASPP ELA and Math at RFZ, ARUSD, and Statewide

Five-Year Trend CAASPP (ELA)					
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
RFZ	37.76%	38.71%	43.80%	42.09%	41.91%
ARUSD	28.13%	25.92%	27.88%	28.59%	30.61%
State	47.06%	46.66%	47.04%	48.82%	49.26%

Five-Year Trend CAASPP (Math)					
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
RFZ	30.67%	31.58%	40.33%	40.49%	42.74%
ARUSD	18.85%	20.05%	20.39%	20.66%	22.31%
State	33.38%	34.62%	35.54%	37.30%	38.35%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Object 10, above, reflects schoolwide student achievement in ELA and Math across the last five years of CAASPP for RFZ, ARUSD, and the State. In looking at the trends, RFZ scores show increases from 2021-22 through 2023-24, but decrease in 2024-25 and 2025-26 for ELA. In Math, RFZ scores show stead increases across the charter term. However, when compared to the State and ARUSD scores, in ELA the State exceeds RFZ for the five comparable years, but in Math, the State surpassed RFZ only in 2021-22 and 2022-23, then RFZ outperforms both ARUSD and the State.

Object 11: Five-Year Trend of the Percentage of Numerically Significant Student Groups At or Above Standard on CAASPP in ELA and Math for RFZ

ELA					
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
ALL	37.76%	38.71%	43.80%	42.09%	41.91%
SWD	3.85%	0.00%	13.79%	18.18%	16.67%
Hispanic/ Latino	30.00%	29.90%	33.52%	37.69%	34.17%
SED	32.98%	34.83%	38.80%	35.95%	36.22%
EL	20.67%	18.18%	23.25%	18.85%	22.55%

Math					
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
ALL	30.67%	31.58%	40.33%	40.49%	42.74%
SWD	7.41%	0.00%	17.24%	15.15%	16.66%
Hispanic/ Latino	21.80%	21.24%	29.57%	34.83%	37.19%
SED	27.81%	27.00%	35.87%	33.89%	41.09%
EL	14.00%	11.26%	21.54%	21.77%	30.07%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Object 11, above, reflects the CAASPP results for numerically significant student groups at RFZ over the last five years. In both ELA and Math, the data shows mixed results in the percentages of all students and all numerically significant student groups performing at or above standard over the five years.

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Object 12: Comparison of the Percentage of Students At or Above Standard on 2025 CAASPP ELA Results for RFZ, ARUSD, State, and Schools Near RFZ

2024-25 CAASPP (ELA)						
Group	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**Aptitud**	**LUCHA**	**Lyndale**	**State**
ALL	42.09%	28.59%	24.47%	29.83%	22.69%	48.82%
SED	35.95%	23.77%	23.30%	23.40%	20.84%	38.23%
Hispanic/ Latino	37.69%	22.92%	20.32%	29.13%	18.18%	38.84%
EL	18.85%	4.57%	5.89%	2.78%	6.56%	10.41%
SWD	18.18%	6.09%	5.00%	5.56%	8.34%	16.95%

** Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default*

Object 12a: Comparison of the Percentage of Students At or Above Standard on 2026 CAASPP ELA Results for RFZ, ARUSD, State, and Schools Near RFZ

2025-26 CAASPP (ELA)						
Group	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**Aptitud**	**LUCHA**	**Lyndale**	**State**
ALL	41.91%	30.61%	26.20%	27.55%	20.26%	49.26%
SED	36.22%	26.80%	24.17%	8.33%	7.14%	38.87%
Hispanic/ Latino	34.17%	25.07%	19.68%	25.00%	18.90%	39.60%
EL	22.55%	6.53%	10.00%	2.22%	7.14%	10.44%
SWD	16.67%	7.58%	5.88%	8.33%	7.14%	16.90%

Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default

Object 13: Comparison of the Percentage of Students At or Above Standard on 2025 CAASPP Math Results for RFZ, ARUSD, State, and Schools Near RFZ

2024-25 CAASPP (Math)						
Group	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**Aptitud**	**LUCHA**	**Lyndale**	**State**
ALL	40.49%	20.66%	22.38%	17.79%	13.49%	37.30%
SED	33.89%	16.05%	20.88%	15.30%	13.59%	26.19%
Hispanic/ Latino	34.83%	14.73%	16.66%	14.95%	10.38%	25.74%
EL	21.77%	6.08%	8.09%	0.00%	5.88%	11.01%
SWD	15.15%	5.31%	5.00%	11.11%	4.17%	13.10%

** Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default*

Object 13a: Comparison of the Percentage of Students At or Above Standard on 2026 CAASPP Math Results for RFZ, ARUSD, State, and Schools Near RFZ

2025-26 CAASPP (Math)						
Group	**RFZ**	**ARUSD**	**Aptitud**	**LUCHA**	**Lyndale**	**State**
ALL	42.74%	22.13%	24.89%	24.49%	15.79%	38.35%
SED	41.09%	18.46%	23.22%	16.67%	7.14%	27.40%
Hispanic/Latino	37.19%	16.00%	18.61%	22.82%	12.70%	26.95%
EL	30.07%	6.50%	5.83%	6.67%	6.02%	11.69%
SWD	16.66%	5.39%	5.88%	16.67%	7.14%	13.24%

** Data retrieved from: https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/Default*

Objects 12, 12a, 13, and 13a, above, reflect the 2024-25 and 2025-26 CAASPP data as compared to the State, ARUSD and the schools RFZ students would otherwise have attended as well as schools in proximity to RFZ: Aptitud, LUCHA, and Lyndale. Overall, RFZ's ELA and Math scores outperform the comparison schools and the district in both 2024-25 and 2025-26 for all students and the numerically significant student groups (see the green highlights for schools and student groups which are outperformed by RFZ). RFZ is outperformed in ELA for 2025-26 and 2024-25 (see the light red highlights) by the State for all students and several student groups, but RFZ outperforms the State for Math for both years.

ELPI/ELPAC Data

Objects 14 and 14a, below (from https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/), reflects the 2024-25 and 2025-26 English Learner Proficiency Indicator (ELPI) data as evidenced on English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC) data. This is compared across RFZ, the State, ARUSD, and the schools that RFZ students otherwise would have attended: Aptitud, LUCHA, and Lyndale. See the green highlights for entities outperformed by RFZ and the light red highlights for entities that outperform RFZ.

Object 14: 2025 Comparison of EL Progress Measured by ELPAC

	RFZ	**ARUSD**	**Aptitud**	**LUCHA**	**Lyndale**	**State**
Increased one or more ELPI levels	*23.7%*	*40.2%*	*41.1%*	*39.3%*	*21.9%*	*45.2%*
Maintained level 4	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*1.3%*
Total % making progress	*37.7%*	*40.0%*	*43.6%*	*46.4%*	*47.9%*	*46.4%*
Performance Level	*RED*	*ORANGE*	*ORANGE*	*RED*	*RED*	*YELLOW*
Number of Students	*228*	*2,342*	*163*	*84*	*96*	*777,537*

Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

Object 14a: 2026 Comparison of EL Progress Measured by ELPAC

	RFZ	ARUSD	Aptitud	LUCHA	Lyndale	State
Increased one or more ELPI levels	*56.7%*	*42.2%*	*31.3%*	*39.2%*	*63.8%*	*46.8%*
Maintained level 4	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*0.9%*
Total % making progress	*56.7%*	*42.2%*	*31.3%*	*39.2%*	*63.8%*	*47.4%*
Performance Level	*BLUE*	*YELLOW*	*RED*	*ORANGE*	*BLUE*	*YELLOW*
Number of Students	*231*	*2,194*	*182*	*79*	*130*	*748,916*

Data retrieved from: https://caschooldashboard.org

Verified Data

Per EC 47607.2(b), schools in the middle performance category are to provide additional sources of verified data to provide clear and convincing evidence to support renewal, including that the school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school. The verified data comes from a list of valid and reliable assessments and measures adopted by the State Board of Education. RFZ provided data from the CAASPP and the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments to show academic growth by its students. Guidance from NWEA states schools and other educational partners can use the Conditional Growth Index (CGI) to measure the growth of groups of students, and average CGI scores within the -0.2 and 0.2 range are considered to have met growth targets for one year. Per the data, Object 15, below, RFZ students meet the one year growth for every year in school.

Object 15: Average NWEA CGI for RFZ across Charter Term

ELA					
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
All Students	0.59	0.47	0.52	0.54	0.73
Math					
All Students	0.03	0.04	0.13	0.76	1.50

Renewal Site Visit

On October 9, CSD staff conducted a Renewal Site Visit to the RFZ campus. CSD staff visited classrooms, met with site and network leadership, and conducted focus group interviews with educational partners such as current students, parents, and teachers. CSD staff also met with Rocketship Board members on October 13 and conducted a fiscal review meeting on October 22. During the visit, CSD staff observed instructional practices and routines consistent with the academic model outlined in the petition.

Finances

RFZ is operated by Rocketship Education, Inc. (RSED). RSED, doing business as (dba) Rocketship Public Schools (RPS), is a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in 2006. RSED and its affiliated school operators currently operate twenty-two (22) charter schools across California (13), Tennessee (3), Wisconsin (3), and Washington, D.C. (3).

The audited consolidated financial statements of Rocketship Education, Inc. and its affiliates (RSEA) include RSED and its schools, Rocketship Education Wisconsin Inc., Rocketship Education D.C. Public School Inc., Launchpad Company (LDC), and its wholly owned LLC's. Rocketship Support Network (RSN), a division of RSED, provides

centralized management, administrative support, and organizational planning. LDC, incorporated in 2009, is a 509 (a) (3) nonprofit public benefit corporation and is a supporting organization of RSED. LDC provides school facilities and development services that are consistent with RSED's educational mission. Although Rocketship's audited financial statements include these related entities, the historical financial summary presented below in Object 16A reflects RFZ-specific financial activity. The annual audit summary presented in Object 16B reflects audit findings for Rocketship Public Schools as a consolidated organization.

Object 16A below presents RFZ's historical financial performance from FY 2018–19 through FY 2025–26. Information through FY 2024–25 is based on audited financial statements, while FY 2025–26 reflects unaudited actuals. During this period, revenues increased from approximately $8.62 million to $12.93 million, representing growth of approximately 50%. Expenses increased from approximately $7.87 million to $11.70 million, an increase of approximately 49%. RFZ reported operating surpluses in all eight years, ranging from approximately $564,000 to $1.73 million annually.

Consistent annual surpluses strengthened RFZ's financial position. As of June 30, 2025, RFZ reported audited net assets of approximately $8.42 million, representing 78% of annual expenses. FY 2025–26 unaudited actuals reflect a surplus of approximately $1.23 million and ending net assets of $9.65 million, equivalent to 82% of annual expenses. Reported fund balance percentages remained above SCCOE's 4% MOU reserve benchmark throughout the historical period. Accumulated net assets provide a financial cushion against future operating deficits or unexpected costs; however, they do not necessarily represent cash available for immediate expenditure. RFZ's liquidity is evaluated separately in the cash flow section.

Object 16A: RFZ Historical Financial Summary

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
[A]	Total Revenues	8,621,125	8,802,563	9,404,345	9,972,242	12,213,028	12,950,838	11,872,181	12,926,989
[B]	Total Expenses	7,872,828	8,238,543	7,862,551	9,295,366	10,486,892	11,252,038	10,864,758	11,700,958
[C] =[A - B]	Net Income (Loss)	748,297	564,020	1,541,794	676,876	1,726,136	1,698,800	1,007,423	1,226,030
[D]	Transfer								
[E]	Beginning Fund Balance	457,628	1,205,925	1,769,945	3,311,739	3,988,615	5,714,751	7,413,551	8,420,974
[F]	Adjustment to Beg. Fund Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	
[G] = [(E+F)+(C+D)]	Total Net Assets, End of Year	$ 1,205,925	$ 1,769,945	$ 3,311,739	$ 3,988,615	$ 5,714,751	$ 7,413,551	$ 8,420,974	$ 9,647,004
[H] = [G/B]	Fund Balance %	15%	21%	42%	43%	54%	66%	78%	82%

1. Source of Data: Audited Financial Reports for FY 2018-19 - 2024-25. FY 2025-26 data is based on Unaudited Actuals
Row[C] is a change in net assets

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Object 16B: Rocketship Public Schools (RPS) Summary of Annual Audit Reports

Rocketship Public Schools: Summary of Annual Audit Reports				
Fiscal Year	Auditing Firm	Opinion	Findings	Description
FY2022-23	Clifton Larson Allen LLP	Unmodified	Yes	1. TK class enrollment and adult-to-pupil ratio for Rocketship: Delta Prep, Alma, Mateo Sheedy, and Spark 2. Missing Immunization: for Rocketship: Sí Se Puede, Los Sueños, Discovery Prep – 1 student
FY2023-24	Clifton Larson Allen LLP	Unmodified	Yes	1. TK class enrollment and Rocketship: Si Se Puede 2. Unduplicated Pupil Counts- 1 student inaccurately reported (sample of 12 students) for Rocketship: Rising Stars 3. Attendance for Rocketship Alma- over-reported 1 instructional day on annual attendance report
FY 2024-25	Clifton Larson Allen LLP	Unmodified	No	None
FY 2025-26	Report pending; due January 31, 2027			

As reflected above in Object 16B, RSEA's consolidated audits received unmodified opinions for each completed fiscal year presented. The FY 2022–23 and FY 2023–24 audits identified compliance findings involving other Rocketship schools; none of the findings summarized above were attributed to RFZ. The FY 2024–25 audit reported no findings. The FY 2025–26 audit remains pending and is due by January 31, 2027.

RFZ has consistently submitted fiscal reports required by law and SCCOE in a timely manner. Based on the historical financial information reviewed, Charter Schools Department fiscal staff is not aware of any significant financial concerns regarding RFZ at this time.

Demographic Data

In accordance with Education Code Section 47607(d)(1)(B) and (C), SCCOE requested, received from CDE, and reviewed aggregate data reflecting pupil enrollment patterns and test score patterns at RFZ, as well as other demographic data from CDE through the CDE website.

In Objects 17 and 18, a comparison of the average Distance from Standard (DFS) academic assessment scores is made between students who left RFZ and the students remaining at RFZ. Object 17 reviews the average DFS for students who left after Census Day, and Object 18 reviews the data for the students who left RFZ at the end of the year and did not return but could have for the following school year. This does not include students who would age out of the school. Based on the aggregate data from CDE, students who leave RFZ are not students who appear to have been counseled out based on lower academic performance, as the average DFS in academic

assessments for students leaving RFZ or not returning to RFZ are higher than or comparable to the students remaining at RFZ. Further, the student enrollment numbers for the students who left RFZ are for all grades, whereas the number of students tested only includes grades 3-5, as those are the grade levels tested at RFZ. Further, there was no Dashboard data in 2020-21 or 2021-22 due to the cancelation of statewide testing because of COVID-19.

Object 17: Comparison of Average DFS for Students Who Left RFZ After Census Day and RFZ DFS

Academic Year	Subject	Enrolled Beginning of Year but Not Enrolled Conclusion	Cumulative Enrollment	Percent Enrolled Beginning Not Enrolled Conclusion	Number of Students Tested who left RFZ	DFS Average for Students who left RFZ	DFS Average for Students Remaining at RFZ
2019-20	**ELA**	75	648	11.57	54	11.69	null
2019-20	**Math**	75	648	11.57	55	45.65	null
2022-23	**ELA**	89	587	15.16	49	-47.33	-43.8
2022-23	**Math**	89	587	15.16	49	-41.10	-55.1
2023-24	**ELA**	101	576	17.53	53	-50.38	-17.7
2023-24	**Math**	101	576	17.53	53	-47.66	-26.6
2024-25	**ELA**	80	571	14.01	47	-14.19	-17.2
2024-25	**Math**	80	571	14.01	47	-1.30	-21.2

Object 18: Comparison of Average DFS for Students Attended RFZ for at Least 90 days and Did Not Return the Following Year and RFZ DFS

Academic Year	Subject	Enrolled for 90 days in Prior Year but Not on Census Day of Current Year	Prior Year Cumulative Enrollment	Percent Enrolled for 90 days Prior Year but Not on Census Day	Number of Students Tested who left RFZ	DFS Average for Students who left RFZ	DFS Average for Students Remaining at RFZ
2019-20	**ELA**	120	673	17.83	63	14.35	null
2019-20	**Math**	120	673	17.83	63	25.33	null
2022-23	**ELA**	102	607	16.8	56	-18.25	-43.8
2022-23	**Math**	102	607	16.8	56	-33.36	-55.1
2023-24	**ELA**	108	587	18.4	67	-33.45	-17.7
2023-24	**Math**	108	587	18.4	67	-43.79	-26.6
2024-25	**ELA**	119	576	20.66	63	-34.71	-17.2
2024-25	**Math**	119	576	20.66	63	-30.33	-21.2

REVIEW OF THE CHARTER PETITION

SCCOE CSD Staff reviewed the renewal Petition using the criteria established in California Education Code Sections 47605(c), 47607, and 47607.2, consistent with County Board Policy 0420.4 (c) and found the following:

1. Sound Education Program

The Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Renewal Petition presented a research based educational program that substantially meets all the required elements of a sound educational program. As one of the 10 Rocketship schools in Santa Clara County, it benefits from a charter management (CMO or Rocketship Public Schools or RPS) wide structured systematic and congruent educational program. RFZ, along with the other schools in this portfolio, operates under three foundational pillars (1) Teachers and Leaders elevating and celebrating success, (2) Rocketeer students with personalized learning and growth, and (3) Rocketeers parents being leaders in home, school and community. Instruction is provided through a blended learning model using standards aligned curriculum (Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards), delivered through a block schedule with 90 minutes of independent learning (learning lab).

RFZ provides instruction through a blended learning model. Students rotate between four distinct content blocks: Humanities, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), Learning Lab, and Enrichment. This block schedule allows teachers to specialize in specific content areas, increasing instructional quality through collaboration and focus. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and integrates social-emotional learning alongside academic content. Teachers lead a combination of whole-group, small-group, and individualized instruction to ensure students receive targeted support based on their academic needs.

Each Rocketship school has four core values (respect, responsibility, persistence, and empathy), with a fifth value selected by the school itself. RFZ has added “Ganas” for their school. The Online Learning Program (OLP) is individualized and adaptive, providing students with on-demand insight into their performance and progress. The OLP also yields classroom and school wide data which helps drive instruction and small-group placement.

Students Performing Below Grade Level:

RFZ serves a significant portion of students who enter the school performing below grade level and are considered "at promise students." The school’s educational program is designed with personalized learning pathways that address the unique needs of these students. The instructional model uses real-time data from assessments to guide interventions and instructional adjustments. Teachers and ILSs provide targeted small-group instruction and differentiated learning activities to address gaps in foundational skills. Data from assessments such as Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and bi-monthly standards-based tests help inform these interventions, ensuring students receive the support they need to progress toward grade-level mastery.

To ensure students performing below grade level are consistently monitored, RFZ employs a tiered approach to instruction. Through the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, at-risk students receive tiered interventions, starting with core classroom instruction and progressing to more intensive support if needed. This model includes not only academic tutoring but also enrichment opportunities to build confidence and engagement in learning. Personalized learning platforms also play a role in helping students reinforce foundational skills through adaptive, individualized lessons, further allowing them to bridge learning gaps. The school emphasizes proactive intervention to prevent further academic delays, striving to move students toward grade-level proficiency through structured remediation.

Special Education:

RFZ has 10.4% of its students identified as eligible for special education services. All these students are eligible under the mild-moderate range, as follows:

Object 19: 2026-27 Types of Disabilities Served by RFZ (numbers and/or percentages)

Type of Disability	Disability 1	Disability 2
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	09 (14.5%)	-
Speech or Language Impairment (SLI) only	28 (45.2%)	-
Autism	17 (27.4%)	-
Hard of Hearing (H/H)	-	-
Other Health Impairment (OHI)	08 (12.9%)	01
SLI with a secondary disability	-	26

Data provided by RFZ

The students are fully integrated into the general education environment and are supported by full-time credentialed special education teachers, with services provided within small group push-in or pull-out programs. RFZ also employs or contracts with itinerant staff such as speech therapists, occupational therapists, and behavioral therapists to provide necessary related services as indicated in students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

IEP teams at RFZ include special education teachers, general education teachers, parents, RPS representatives (if necessary), SELPA representatives (if necessary), and other relevant professionals. These teams work with parents and guardians to ensure their participation, providing interpreters and alternative meeting methods, as necessary. IEPs are reviewed annually to assess their effectiveness and are reassessed every three years as part of a comprehensive reevaluation. RFZ ensures all accommodations, modifications, and services outlined in the IEPs are implemented by qualified personnel and progress is communicated to parents.

RFZ is part of the El Dorado Charter Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA), and special education staff are provided with professional development and support from the SELPA, and its Charter Management Organization (CMO) administration. SCCOE staff contacted El Dorado SELPA, which stated that RFZ is in good standing and all reports are submitted timely.

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Object 20: 2025-26 Special Education Enrollment by Program Setting for RFZ and Comparison Schools and District and State

	RFZ	ARUSD	Aptitud	LUCHA	Lyndale	State
Special Education Enrollment	63	1,084	74	33	64	883,862
Regular Class 80% or More of the Day	81.0%	49.4%	45.9%	69.7%	60.9%	60.9%
Regular Class 40-79% of the Day	12.7%	16.3%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%	14.0%
Regular Class 39% or Less of the Day	3.2%	22.8%	39.2%	0.0%	0.0%	16.5%
Separate School & Other Settings	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Preschool Setting	3.2%	10.7%	6.8%	30.3%	39.1%	6.1%
Missing/Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Data gathered from Dataquest: https://data1.cde.ca.gov

English Learners (EL):

RFZ integrates English Language Development (ELD) standards into its instructional program, ensuring both integrated and designated support for English Learners (ELs). The school uses data-driven strategies to monitor the progress of ELs, employing assessments like the state-mandated English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC) and ongoing classroom evaluations. This helps identify specific linguistic gaps, allowing teachers to design targeted interventions and adjust instruction to meet individual language development needs. Teachers employ explicit vocabulary instruction and ensure that ELs engage with content through scaffolded academic language strategies.

Additionally, RFZ supports English Learners by integrating ELD with content learning, particularly in literacy and STEM subjects. Teachers are trained to differentiate instruction by incorporating strategies such as visual support, modeling language use, and fostering collaborative learning environments where ELs practice academic discussions. ELs are also exposed to diverse reading materials that build both language proficiency and content knowledge, contributing to their holistic academic development.

Designated instruction is a protected time during the school day when teachers use English Language Development (ELD) standards to help English Learners (ELs) develop the language skills necessary for academic success. This instruction is integrated with content learning and focuses on developing discourse practices, grammar, and vocabulary. Teachers group students based on their language development stage (expanding, emerging, bridging) to target specific needs and accelerate their progress in English. There is a strong emphasis on oral language development, alongside reading and writing tasks. For example, teachers may guide students through analyzing language in texts, learning academic vocabulary, and engaging in discussions or debates to reinforce language comprehension and use.

Educational Leadership

The principal and the assistant principals are the educational and instructional leaders at RFZ, in addition to being responsible for teacher supervision, evaluation, and providing input and approval of each faculty and staff member's Goals. Per the description of required qualifications for the position, the RFZ principal

and assistant principal positions require a "valid teaching credential in CA or ability to transfer credentialing to CA (Teaching credential must have English as a Second Language endorsement)".

The Charter Schools Department Staff concluded the RFZ Renewal Petition provides sufficient information to substantiate the required elements for a sound educational program.

2. Ability to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition

Staff found facts demonstrating that the Petitioners are likely to successfully implement the program only if RFZ resolves the other identified concerns and conditions through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto, as described more fully throughout this Staff Analysis and Findings of Fact.

3. Affirmation of each of the conditions required by statute

SCCOE Staff found the Petition contains the required affirmations.

4. Reasonably comprehensive description of the required elements

For the description of each element to be considered "reasonably comprehensive," it is not enough for the Renewal Petition to include a description, but, rather, the description should be acceptable to SCCOE and be consistent with and not contrary to SCCOE's standards and expectations for charter schools under its oversight. SCCOE's indication that the description of an element is "reasonably comprehensive" should not be interpreted to mean SCCOE does not believe additional or different terms relating to an element would need to be agreed to by the Petitioner through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto. Further, while SCCOE may make recommendations for remediation in an area or specify issues or terms that have been or will need to be clarified or resolved through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto, this does not mean other areas may not need additional correction to be included in that MOU and/or in an addendum thereto. Further, the staff's determination of an element as reasonably comprehensive may be premised on noted issues being remediated through that MOU and addendum process.

The Charter Schools Department Staff found, as detailed below, that additional specificity and requirements governing RFZ's educational program, governance, and operations, including its compliance with the required charter elements, will need to be addressed through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto. It is necessary to CSD Staff's determination that the description of an element is reasonably comprehensive that the parties enter into the MOU and/or an addendum thereto to address current requirements and best practices (including those updated/addressed by the 2026 MOU). That expectation informs and should be interpreted as applicable to the analysis of whether the Renewal Petition includes a reasonably comprehensive description of each element and the analysis and recommendations regarding the MOU and/or an addendum thereto informing, supplementing, and or being required in order for the description of each element to be reasonably comprehensive.

In preparing the Renewal Petition, RFZ appears to have overlooked some updates. For example, failing to fully update the petition to designate the County as the authorizer. This Staff Analysis will not detail each of these omissions and concerns, but SCCOE Staff recommend that the SCCBOE, as a condition of renewal, require RFZ to address these corrections, oversights, and omissions.

A. Element One: *Description of the Educational Program/Plan for Student Academic Achievement*

The above discussion of whether the educational program is sound is incorporated herein by this reference.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe that this section of the Petition includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

B. Element Two: *Measurable Student Outcomes*

RFZ's student outcomes are tied to both state and school-specific priorities, with a focus on academic achievement, student safety, attendance, and campus climate. Key outcomes include meeting or exceeding CAASPP standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, and science, as well as goals for student growth in reading and English Language proficiency. These outcomes align with the Eight State Priorities required by California's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), ensuring that the school addresses core areas like academic achievement, student engagement, and school climate. Some outcomes, such as CAASPP performance and growth metrics in reading, are associated with specific years and must be updated annually to reflect new targets.

RFZ's Renewal Petition affirms that these outcomes cover a broad range of student skills, from academic performance to social-emotional well-being. In the Renewal Petition, RFZ commits to continually updating its goals and performance expectations to reflect the evolving needs of students and state requirements.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

C. Element Three: *Method by Which Pupil Progress in Meeting Outcomes will be Measured*

To measure the student outcomes listed in Element B, RFZ utilizes several standardized assessments. These include the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, and the California Standards Test for Science for fifth graders. English Learners are assessed annually through the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Additionally, RFZ administers the DIBELS assessments three times per year for K-5 students to measure literacy development, and the NWEA MAP interim assessments are used three times annually to track student progress in both reading and math.

In addition to these standardized tools, RFZ uses various internal assessments developed by Rocketship Public Schools. These include formative assessments for daily learning, such as teacher observations, lesson exit tickets, and writing checklists. The school also implements unit-based assessments in core subjects like mathematics and science to evaluate student understanding and progress. Interim assessments are used throughout the year to gauge students' mastery of content and prepare them for end-of-year summative evaluations.

Assessment data is integral to driving instruction at RFZ. Teachers frequently analyze individual and class-level performance to identify patterns, areas of strength, and students in need of additional support. Data dashboards help streamline this process by providing real-time insights, allowing teachers and school leaders to make informed decisions that enhance student

achievement. This data is shared with educational partners, including parents, through progress reports and conferences, and with chartering authority and other relevant entities through formal reports.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

D. Element Four: *Governance Structure*

The RFZ charter school is operated and governed by Rocketship Education doing business as Rocketship Public Schools (RPS), a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) California nonprofit public benefit corporation. The RFZ Renewal Petition states the RPS Board will consist of at least three (3) members and no more than twenty-five (25), including parent members. The Charter recognizes the chartering authorities' rights to appoint a representative to the Board. The RFZ Renewal Petition shows that RSED/RPS currently has twenty-one (21) seats on its Board. RFZ provided the board member names and qualifications as required. The description of the Governance Structure is also specifically supplemented by several provisions of the 2018 MOU and the 2026 MOU.

The Renewal Petition specifies RFZ shall comply with the Brown Act, the Political Reform Act of 1974, and Government Code Section 1090 et seq., and provide annual training on these topics. No interested persons may serve on the board.

The Renewal Petition states the Board will comply with all federal, state, and local laws applicable to independent public charter schools and has adopted a Conflict of Interest (COI) Code (included in the appendix section) that has been approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The COI Code was approved on January 12, 2025.

In accordance with the Political Reform Act and the Conflict of Interest (COI) Code, all directors and senior RSED/RPS and RFZ staff are required to file a "Form 700" annually disclosing specified interests. During the charter term, SCCOE staff have reviewed the Forms 700 filed on behalf of RSED/RPS reporters and found that directors or staff have identified reportable interests as required.

RFZ has both a School Site Council and an English Learner Advisory Committee that encourage parents to advocate and participate in their children's education.

The Bylaws provide that written notice of any proposed revisions to the RSED/RPS Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws shall be submitted to the County Superintendent at least three weeks prior to the RSED/RPS Board's consideration of the revision(s). If the County Superintendent or designee considers the proposed revision(s) to be a material revision to RSED/RPS's governance structure or a charter authorized by the County Board, such revision(s) may not be adopted unless and until the revision(s) is first approved through the material revision process.

RSED/RPS adopted revised Bylaws at its June 11, 2026, meeting to update issues regarding STRS in compliance with law. RSED/RPS has proposed and SCCOE has agreed to revised language for the RSED/RPS Bylaws which address previously raised issues. These changes will be approved at the next RSED/RPS Board Meeting on December 9, 2026.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description only if the RSED/RPS Bylaws are approved with the revised language agreed upon when the 2026 MOU is executed on December 9, 2026, after RPS Board Approval.

E. Element Five: *Employee Qualifications*

The Renewal Petition states it recruits qualified personnel for all administrative, instructional, instructional support, and non-instructional support capacities. The Renewal Petition further asserts the staff recruited believe in the instructional philosophy outlined in its vision statement. In accordance with Education Code 47605(c)(5)(e), RFZ shall be nonsectarian in its employment practices and all other operations. RFZ shall not discriminate against any individual (employee or student) on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).

RFZ and RPS continue to work with SCCOE Human Resources to make sure that the teaching staff meet all the legal requirements for them to perform as teachers with all the appropriate credentials and permits. As part of the annual review process, SCCOE Staff have determined that all RFZ Staff meet the current credentialing requirements.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

F. Element Six: *Health and Safety*

The Renewal Petition specifies that RFZ maintains and regularly reviews and updates Board-approved policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. RFZ provided an overview of Health and Safety Policies and Procedures and the process for employee fingerprinting and background checks. All staff are expected to comply with Ed. Code 47605(c)(5)(f), Education Code Sections 44237, 44691 and 47606.3, and all other legal requirements, and RFZ states it is committed to providing a safe, compliant working environment. RFZ submitted its 2026-27 Comprehensive School Safety Plan and declared that RFZ will review and update the plan by March 1 of every year and that the plan shall include the required safety topics. The Renewal Petition specifies that its Employee Handbook, School Safety Plan, and Student/Parent Handbook are all reviewed, updated, and presented to the RPS Board annually for approval to ensure ongoing compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. RFZ has updated its description of health and safety policies and procedures to address changes and new requirements of law that have gone into effect since its Charter was last renewed. The 2026 MOU also includes a variety of health and safety and related compliance commitments that RFZ must affirm it will meet per the MOU and/or an addendum thereto.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section, including the supplementation provided by the MOU and/or an addendum thereto, includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

G. Element Seven: *Racial, Ethnic, English Learner, and Special Education Balance*

On July 1, 2020, AB 1505 took effect, updating Element G to require schools to provide a reasonably comprehensive description of how the school will achieve a balance of racial and ethnic pupils, special education pupils, and English learner pupils, including redesignated fluent English proficient pupils, reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the district to which the RFZ charter was initially submitted, which, as previously established, is ARUSD. RFZ's Renewal Petition has been updated consistently with these revised requirements.

Object 21, below, demonstrates that RFZ's student demographic distribution is largely reflective of the surrounding Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD) and the schools that RFZ students would otherwise have attended: Aptitud, LUCHA, and Lyndale. The Hispanic or Latino population at RFZ is 85.2%, higher than the 79.1% at ARUSD, and the Asian population is lower at RFZ (7.5%) compared to ARUSD (12.1%), but these differences are similar to the schools RFZ students would have otherwise attended. Also, RFZ is specifically serving a traditionally underserved population, which correlates with the intent of the Charter School Act.

Object 22, below, highlights differences in student group populations between RFZ, ARUSD, and the schools RFZ students would otherwise have attended. The student group comparisons show that RFZ is similar to ARUSD and the comparison schools with minor variations across the various student groups.

Object 21: Comparison of 2025-26 Demographic Data Among RFZ, ARUSD, and Schools RFZ Students Would Otherwise Have Attended

	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Filipino	White	African American	Two or More Races
RFZ	85.2%	7.5%	2.7%	1.1%	1.5%	0.9%
ARUSD	79.1%	12.1%	4.2%	1.5%	0.7%	1.8%
Aptitud	83.3%	6.9%	5.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%
LUCHA	90.4%	4.8%	1.9%	1.9%	0.0%	0.5%
Lyndale	85.6%	5.4%	4.4%	0.3%	0.7%	3.0%

Data gathered from Dataquest: https://data1.cde.ca.gov

Object 22: Comparison of 2025-26 Student Group Data Among RFZ, ARUSD, and Schools RFZ Students Would Otherwise Have Attended

	Total Number of Students	SED	EL	SWD
RFZ	547	77.9%	54.5%	11.5%
ARUSD	8,119	76.2%	40.7%	14.8%
Aptitud	462	82.7%	53.2%	16.0%
LUCHA	209	85.6%	50.7%	11.5%
Lyndale	298	82.6%	53.7%	15.1%

Data gathered from Dataquest: https://data1.cde.ca.gov

RFZ's recruitment plan outlines broad strategies to attract a student population reflective of ARUSD. The plan includes both outreach and admissions practices designed to ensure diversity

in racial, ethnic, and special student populations. Recruitment materials are printed in multiple languages to accommodate the linguistic diversity of the community, and partnerships are formed with local organizations that serve diverse populations. A key focus of RFZ's recruitment is on person-to-person engagement, including holding focus groups with parents and community organizations, distributing promotional materials, conducting community events at various times, cultivating relationships with local community members, and employing staff from the local area to lead recruitment efforts.

Object 23: RFZ Demographic Data from 2017-18 to 2025-26

	Total Number of Students	Hispanic or Latino %	Asian %	Filipino %	White %	African American %	Two or More Races %
2017-18	614	81.1%	12.7%	2.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%
2018-19	628	79.0%	0.5%	1.6%	1.8%	0.5%	0.6%
2019-20	623	80.1%	12.5%	1.3%	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%
2020-21	631	77.3%	15.1%	2.7%	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%
2021-22	578	77.9%	14.7%	4.3%	1.4%	0.5%	1.2%
2022-23	560	78.8%	13.8%	3.8%	1.6%	0.7%	1.4%
2023-24	540	80.0%	12.0%	3.5%	1.9%	0.9%	1.5%
2024-25	506	85.0%	7.9%	3.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.0%
2025-26	547	85.2%	7.5%	2.7%	1.1%	1.5%	0.9%

Data gathered from Dataquest: https://data1.cde.ca.gov

Object 23, above, shows that RFZ's racial and ethnic demographic composition has remained relatively stable from 2017-18 to 2025-26, particularly for the Hispanic or Latino population, which consistently represents most students. The Hispanic or Latino percentage has ranged from 77.3% to 85.2%, with the most recent year (2025-26) showing 85.2%. The other demographic groups vary from year-to-year as various families move in and out of the school.

Object 24: RFZ Student Group Data from 2017-18 to 2025-26

	Total Number of Students	Percentage of SED	Percentage of EL	Percentage of SWD
2017-18	614	82.4%	57.0%	6.2%
2018-19	628	80.1%	47.8%	7.2%
2019-20	623	81.9%	62.0%	7.5%
2020-21	631	76.7%	61.2%	6.8%
2021-22	578	71.8%	64.9%	7.6%
2022-23	560	78.4%	63.8%	6.6%
2023-24	540	79.1%	61.1%	9.1%
2024-25	506	77.7%	59.3%	10.1%
2025-26	547	77.9%	54.5%	11.5%

Data gathered from Dataquest: https://data1.cde.ca.gov

Object 24, above, relative stability across the student groups at RFZ. The EL population at RFZ has fluctuated over the years with a range of 47.8% to 64.9%; currently EL is 54.5%. The percentage of SWD has grown over the years with a range of 6.1% to 11.5%, currently SWD is 11.5%. The percentage of SED students fluctuated, staying between 76.7% and 81.9%, with a

current level of 77.9%. These data points reflect a consistently high-need student population, particularly in terms of SED and EL students, which comports with the intent and purposes of the Charter Schools Act.

The Charter specifies that RFZ will "analyze the success and/or weakness of its outreach initiatives" and "utilize the data from the programmatic audit to make any necessary revisions to the outreach initiatives in order to correct student population imbalances." Consistent with SCCOE's best practices and expectations for charter schools, RFZ should be required to commit to conducting this analysis and update process at least annually taking account of the results of the most recent open enrollment process.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description only if RFZ commits through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto to the ongoing work, review, and updates to its plan as described above.

H. Element Eight: *Admissions Policies and Procedures*

RFZ says it has articulated student admission policies and procedures. The school is nonsectarian, tuition free, and does not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of protected characteristics.

With the changes to the Charter Schools Act since RFZ's most recent renewal, the actual policies and procedures for admission – including how RFZ implements the admission preferences, conducts the admission public random drawing (lottery) procedures, adds students to the waitlist, and offers them admission from the waitlist – must also be included in the Renewal Petition. RFZ has updated the Renewal Petition to include these items, though there are a few clarifications needed, as described below.

The Renewal Petition requests County Board approval of revised and additional admission preferences in cases in which there are more applicants than spaces at a particular grade level. RFZ is seeking approval of the following preferences in the following order:

1. Siblings of students currently admitted to or attending RFZ
2. Children of employees of RFZ (not to exceed 10% of total enrollment)
3. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals
4. Residents of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
5. Other California residents

The previously approved preferences that are currently in effect are:

a. Siblings of currently enrolled Rocketship Fuerza students
b. Children of staff, teachers and founders of Rocketship Fuerza (not to exceed 10% of total enrollment)
c. Residents of the Alum Rock Union District
d. Other California Residents

Admission to the school is not determined by the place of residence of pupils or parents, except in the case of public random drawing, as allowed by law.

RFZ has not specified its reason(s) for seeking the revised preferences. Whether to approve any or all the requested preferences, other than the preference for residents of ARUSD, is within the

discretion of the SCCBOE, per *EC* Section 47605(e)(2)(B). If the County Board does not approve all the preferences, RFZ will be required to revise this provision of the Charter and its admission policies and procedures accordingly.

The preference for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM) increases enrollment opportunities for historically underserved students, so CSD staff recommend approval of this preference.

RFZ currently has as its first preference siblings of students who are currently enrolled at RFZ. The Charter School is seeking to expand that preference to include not only students who are currently enrolled, but students whose siblings are admitted during the lottery. In other words, as currently authorized by SCCBOE, if a student who is attending RFZ in 2024-25 has a sibling apply during the open enrollment process for admission for 2025-26, that student would be eligible for a sibling preference. As proposed in the Renewal Petition, that preference would continue to apply, but, additionally, if two siblings who do not attend RFZ in 2024-25 both apply for admission for 2025-26, immediately upon one of those siblings receiving a place through the lottery, the other sibling would automatically be entitled to an admission preference even though neither of the siblings are current RFZ students. The Renewal Petition does not, however, explain the specifics of how the admitted sibling preference would be implemented in practice, particularly if a sibling is drawn in the lottery after their sibling in a lower grade was placed on the waitlist rather than offered admission.

CSD staff recognizes the benefits of allowing families to enroll all their children at the same school, so recommends that the SCCBOE approve the addition of the preference for siblings of students who are admitted to RFZ.

The Renewal Petition specifies, "applications received after the application deadline will be held in abeyance for a subsequent lottery, if needed." Clarification is needed regarding what occurs if a student applies after the open enrollment period when there is an open space(s) at the requested grade level.

The Charter Schools Department Staff recommends that the SCCBOE approve the preferences as proposed by RFZ. The Charter Schools Department Staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description only if, through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto, the public random drawing procedures are clarified, as described above.

I. Element Nine: *Student Suspension/Expulsion Procedures*

RFZ's Renewal Petition includes its comprehensive suspension and expulsion policies and procedures that have generally been updated to reflect current law, in the Student/Parent Handbook attached as Appendix 24 to the Renewal Petition, which is attached and fully incorporated by reference into the Renewal Petition. As such, these are the causes for suspension and expulsion and the procedures to be followed by RFZ and may not be substantively revised, except to comport with requirements of law or to track revisions to the causes and procedures applicable to non-charter California public schools, without a determination from the County Superintendent or designee whether the proposed revision(s) is a material revision to the Renewal Petition.

These policies and procedures are generally consistent with SCCOE's usual practices and with the changes to this portion of the Charter Schools Act.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

J. Element Ten: *Employee Retirement System*

The RFZ Renewal Petition states all certificated employees of RFZ shall participate in the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), and all other employees will participate in the federal social security system. The Renewal Petition also states that all full-time employees at RFZ will be offered a 403(b) program with a 5% match from Rocketship Public Schools. Rocketship's Human Resources team, in conjunction with the principal at RFZ, ensures that appropriate arrangements for each employee have been made available.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

K. Element Eleven: *Public School Attendance Alternatives*

ARUSD resident students who choose not to attend RFZ may attend other ARUSD schools or pursue an intra- or inter-district transfer in accordance with existing district enrollment and transfer policies. Parents and guardians of each student enrolled in RFZ will be informed their students have no right to admission to a particular school of any local education agency as a consequence of enrollment in RFZ, except to the extent such a right is extended by the local education agency.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

L. Element Twelve: *Description of the Rights of An Employee of the County Superintendent of Schools, Upon Leaving the Employment of the County Superintendent of Schools, to be Employed by the Charter School*

The RFZ Renewal Petition addresses the return rights of employees of the "County" in accordance with applicable law. However, SCCOE employees are employees of the "Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools." This will need to be clarified in the MOU and/or addendum thereto.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description, but it must be updated through the MOU and/or addendum thereto to reflect the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools as the employer of personnel at SCCOE.

M. Element Thirteen: *Dispute Resolution*

The Renewal Petition includes the dispute resolution language from the Rocketship Si Se Puede 2024 MOU, which is reasonably comprehensive, with the provisions covering violations of the Charter, an MOU with SCCOE, or law, a problem related to the operation of RFZ or the SCCOE's oversight obligations, or any dispute arising between SCCOE and the Charter. This dispute resolution language has been updated as part of the 2026 MOU provided to RFZ.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description, though recommends it be required to be fine-tuned through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto be consistent with the SCCOE's most current dispute resolution language.

N. Element Fourteen: *Closure Protocol*

RFZ outlines a process to be used if the charter school closes and CSD staff notes and appreciates that RFZ incorporated directly into the Renewal Petition the closure protocol language from the 2024 Si Se Puede MOU.

The Charter Schools Department Staff believe this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description, though recommends it be required to be fine-tuned through the MOU and/or an addendum thereto be consistent with the SCCOE's most current closure protocol best practices.

Required Supplemental Information

CSD Staff reviewed the RFZ renewal petition, which includes the budget narrative, projected budget, and cash flow for Fiscal Years (FY) 2026-27 through 2031-32. CSD Staff also reviewed supplemental documents and information presented at the public hearing to assess and clarify RFZ's financial position. Supplemental materials reviewed include, but are not limited to, financial audits, monthly financial statements, state-required financial reports, annual visit documents, and the Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team (FCMAT) Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Calculator. Staff used the FCMAT calculator to independently recalculate the LCFF Revenue sources reported in the Renewal Petition.

Enrollment & Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

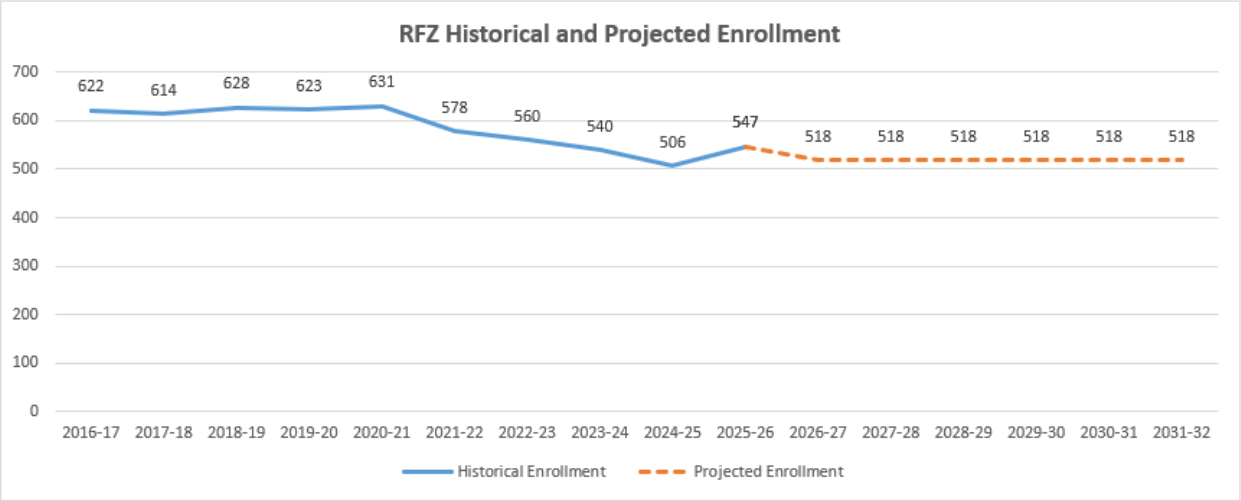
Objects 25A and 25B, below, represent RFZ's historical and projected enrollment and Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Historical enrollment decreased from 628 students in FY 2018–19 to 547 students in FY 2025–26, representing a cumulative decline of approximately 13%. Enrollment reached a high of 631 students in FY 2020–21, then declined over four consecutive years to 506 students in FY 2024–25. In FY 2025–26, enrollment increased by 41 students, or approximately 8%, partially reversing the prior declines.

Object 25A: RFZ Historical and Projected Enrollment and ADA

		Historical Data								Enrollment Projection					
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
	GradeTK	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	35	44	40	40	40	40	40	40
	Grade K	153	147	126	115	120	77	74	83	84	84	84	84	84	84
	Grade 1	115	115	121	98	89	84	78	86	84	84	84	84	84	84
	Grade 2	111	115	115	107	97	98	81	84	84	84	84	84	84	84
	Grade 3	114	104	115	104	98	102	95	89	84	84	84	84	84	84
	Grade 4	89	109	105	112	103	92	105	99	84	84	84	84	84	84
	Grade 5	46	33	49	42	53	47	38	62	58	58	58	58	58	58
A.	Actual Enrollment	628	623	631	578	560	540	506	547						
B.	Projected Enrollment									518	518	518	518	518	518
C.	Incr/(Decr) in Enrollment[2]		-5	8	-53	-18	-20	-34	41	-29	0	0	0	0	0
D.	Percentage change in Enrollment[3]		-1%	1%	-8%	-3%	-4%	-6%	8%	-5%	0	0	0	0	0
E.	ADA	601.28	594.64	594.64	510.13	502.37	501.79	472.94	508.21	496	496	496	496	496	496
F.	ADA %[4]	96%	95%	94%	88%	90%	93%	93%	93%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%

[1] Historical enrollment data is based on Census Day enrollment and historical ADA is based on P2 ADA.
FY 2026-27 enrollment is based on adopted budget. FY 2027-28 through FY 2031-32 is based on Renewal Petition Projections.
[2] Current Year Enrollment minus Prior Year Enrollment
[3] Row C/Prior Year Enrollment
[4] Row E/Row A or Row B

Object 25B: RFZ Historical and Projected Enrollment



RFZ's ADA generally followed its enrollment trend, decreasing from 601.28 in FY 2018–19 to 472.94 in FY 2024–25, before increasing to 508.21 in FY 2025–26. The school's ADA rate ranged from approximately 88% to 96% during the historical period. After declining to 88% in FY 2021–22, the ADA rate improved to approximately 93% in FY 2023–24 and remained at that level through FY 2025–26.

For FY 2026–27, RFZ's Adopted Budget assumes enrollment of 518 students and ADA of 496.24, representing an ADA rate of approximately 96%. The renewal petition maintains these projections annually from FY 2027–28 through FY 2031–32. However, FY 2026–27 Census Day enrollment reflects 511 students, seven fewer than budgeted, including 59 TK students, compared with the projected 40. The larger incoming TK cohort may support future enrollment as students advance through grades, provided they remain at RFZ; however, total enrollment is currently slightly below the budget assumption.

The petition's enrollment model assumes 40 students in TK, 84 students in each of Grades K–4, and 58 students in Grade 5. As stated in the budget narrative and reflected in object 25C below, Rocketship schools experience higher attrition when entering Grade 5 because some students transition to middle-school charters that begin at that grade level. RFZ's historical Grade 5 enrollment was approximately 41% to 63% below the preceding year's Grade 4 enrollment. The renewal-term model assumes a smaller reduction of approximately 31%, making projected Grade 5 enrollment dependent on improved retention and/or recruitment of additional students.

Object 25C: RFZ Historical and Projected Enrollment Change between 4th and 5th Grade

		Historical Data								Enrollment Projection					
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
[A]	Grade 4 Enrollment	89	109	105	112	103	92	105	99	84	84	84	84	84	84
[B]	Grade 5 Enrollment	46	33	49	42	53	47	38	62	58	58	58	58	58	58
[C]	4th Grade to 5th Grade Enrollment Incr/Decr [1]		(56.00)	(60.00)	(63.00)	(59.00)	(56.00)	(54.00)	(43.00)	(41.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)
[D]	4th Grade to 5th Grade Enrollment Incr/Decr (%)[2]		-63%	-55%	-60%	-53%	-54%	-59%	-41%	-41%	-31%	-31%	-31%	-31%	-31%

[1]Current Year Grade 5 Enrollment minus Prior Year Grade 4 Enrollment

[2]Row C/Prior Year Grade 4 Enrollment

The projected ADA rate of approximately 96%, which the budget narrative indicates includes attendance recovery, exceeds approximately 93% reported in the three most recent historical years. Accordingly, achieving projected funded ADA will depend on improved attendance and the anticipated contribution from attendance recovery.

Overall, SCCOE staff find RFZ's enrollment projections appear reasonable relative to its recent historical enrollment, although current Census Day enrollment is slightly below the budgeted level. Sustaining the projections will depend on retaining incoming cohorts, maintaining anticipated Grade 5 enrollment, and achieving projected funded ADA. Staff recommends continued monitoring of these assumptions and corresponding adjustments to revenue and expenditure projections if actual results fall below expectations.

Revenues & Expenses

Object 26, below, presents RFZ's multiyear projections for the current and the five-year renewal term, FY 2026-27 through FY 2031–32. RFZ projects a surplus of approximately $867,000 in FY 2026–27, followed by annual surpluses ranging from approximately $300,000 to $505,000 during the proposed renewal term. These projections depend on achieving the enrollment and attendance assumptions discussed in the enrollment and ADA section above.

As a result of positive operating surpluses projected annually, ending net assets are expected to increase from approximately $10.51 million in FY 2026–27 to $12.42 million in FY 2031–32. Projected ending net assets represent approximately 87% to 96% of annual expenses, remaining substantially above the 4% minimum reserve benchmark established in the MOU with SCCOE.

Object 26: RFZ Renewal Petition Multi-Year Projection Summary

		2026-27*	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
[A]	Total Revenues	12,755,727	12,725,152	12,903,242	12,839,529	13,121,575	13,404,148
[B]	Total Expenses	11,889,209	12,410,229	12,603,348	12,484,094	12,687,983	12,898,722
[C] = [A - B]	Net Income (Loss)	866,518	314,923	299,894	355,435	433,593	505,426
[D]	Beginning Fund Balance	9,647,004	10,513,523	10,828,446	11,128,339	11,483,774	11,917,367
[E]	Adj. to Beg. Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
[F] = [(D+E) + C]	Total Net Assets, End of Year	$ 10,513,523	$ 10,828,446	$ 11,128,339	$ 11,483,774	$ 11,917,367	$ 12,422,793
[G] = [F/B]	Reserve Percentage	88%	87%	88%	92%	94%	96%

1. Source of Data for *FY 2026-27 adopted budget; 2027-28 through FY 2031-32 Renewal Petition projections.

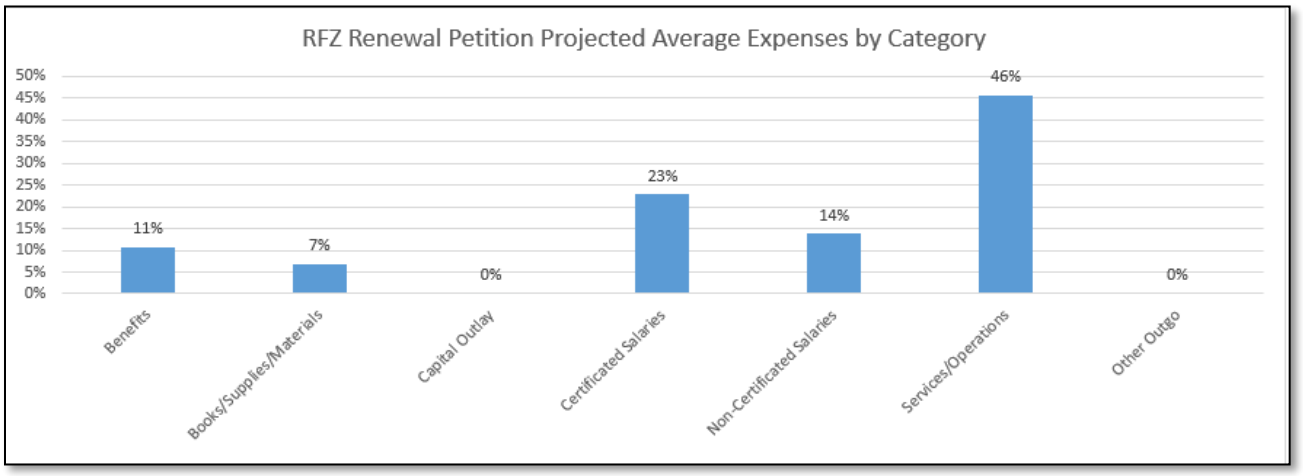
Total revenues are projected to increase from approximately $12.76 million in FY 2026–27 to $13.40 million in FY 2031–32, representing approximately a 5% increase. LCFF sources represent approximately 68% of projected revenues, Other state revenues approximately 26%, and federal revenues approximately 6%, with no material reliance on donations or fundraising. Achieving projected enrollment and funded ADA remains important to maintaining balanced operations.

Total expenses are projected to increase from approximately $11.89 million in FY 2026–27 to $12.90 million in FY 2031–32, representing approximately an 8% increase. The budget narrative

incorporates approximately 2% annual salary increases and a reduction of four noninstructional positions beginning in FY 2029–30.

As reflected in the expense distribution below, personnel costs account for approximately 48% of projected expenses, consisting of 23% for certificated salaries, 14% for noncertificated salaries, and 11% for benefits. Services and operations represent approximately 46%, while books, supplies, and materials account for approximately 7%.
Major operating costs include network support fees of approximately $1.80 million to $1.90 million annually, calculated at 15% of applicable revenues, and annual facility lease expenses of approximately $1.13 million. Projected SB 740 facilities assistance of $709,000 offsets approximately 63% of lease expenses, leaving a net annual lease cost of approximately $422,000.

Object 27: RFZ Renewal Petition Average Expenses by Category



Overall, RFZ's multi-year projections indicate positive annual operating results and continued growth in accumulated net assets. Although projected surpluses are lower than recent historical results, substantial accumulated reserves provide flexibility to absorb unfavorable variances. Staff recommends continued monitoring of enrollment and funded ADA, grant revenues, planned staffing changes, and major operating costs, with adjustments to expenditures if actual revenues fall below projections.

The SCCOE Staff finds that the multi-year budget projections presented in the Charter Renewal Petition include a reasonably comprehensive description of anticipated revenue and expenses and satisfactorily demonstrate RFZ's ability to meet its financial obligations.

Cash Flow

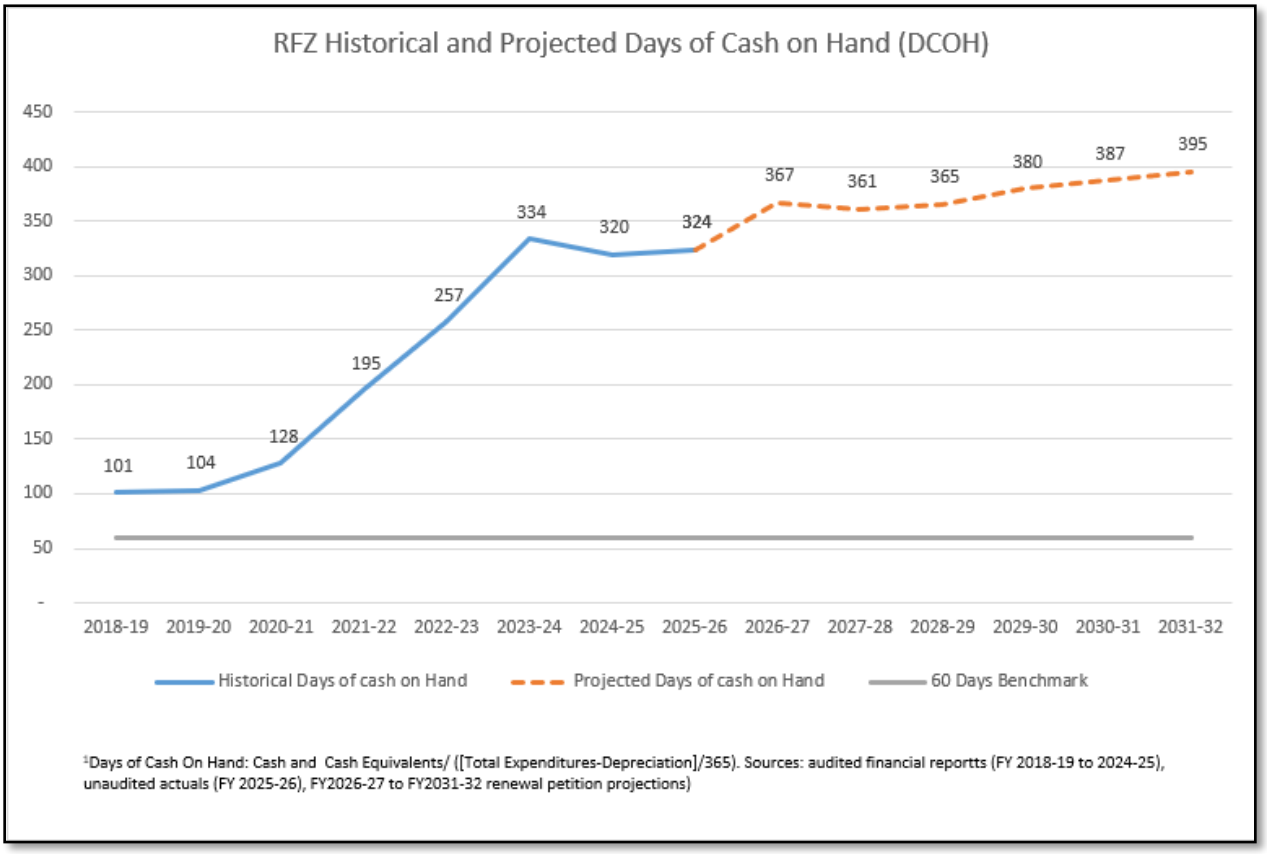
RFZ's adopted budget and charter renewal petition includes cash flow projections for FY 2026–27 through FY 2031–32. Object 28 below presents historical and projected year-end Days of Cash on Hand (DCOH). Projected DCOH ranges from 361 to 395 days, remaining substantially above SCCOE's 60-day benchmark throughout the projection period.

Historically, RFZ maintained DCOH above the benchmark in all years reviewed. DCOH increased from 101 days in FY 2018–19 to a high of 334 days in FY 2023–24, before decreasing to 320 days in FY 2024–25 and increasing slightly to 324 days in FY 2025–26, based on unaudited actuals. This trend reflects a substantial strengthening of the RFZ's year-end liquidity.

As shown in Object 29, year-end cash increased from approximately $2.18 million in FY 2018–19 to $10.34 million in FY 2025–26. Cash is projected to increase further to approximately $11.94 million in FY 2026–27 and $13.96 million by FY 2031–32. Cash exceeds ending net assets in most historical years, and throughout the projection period. This difference does not, by itself, indicate a financial concern: cash is one component of total assets, while net assets reflect total assets less total liabilities. Accordingly, the amount available for ongoing operations should be assessed alongside outstanding obligations and any applicable restrictions.

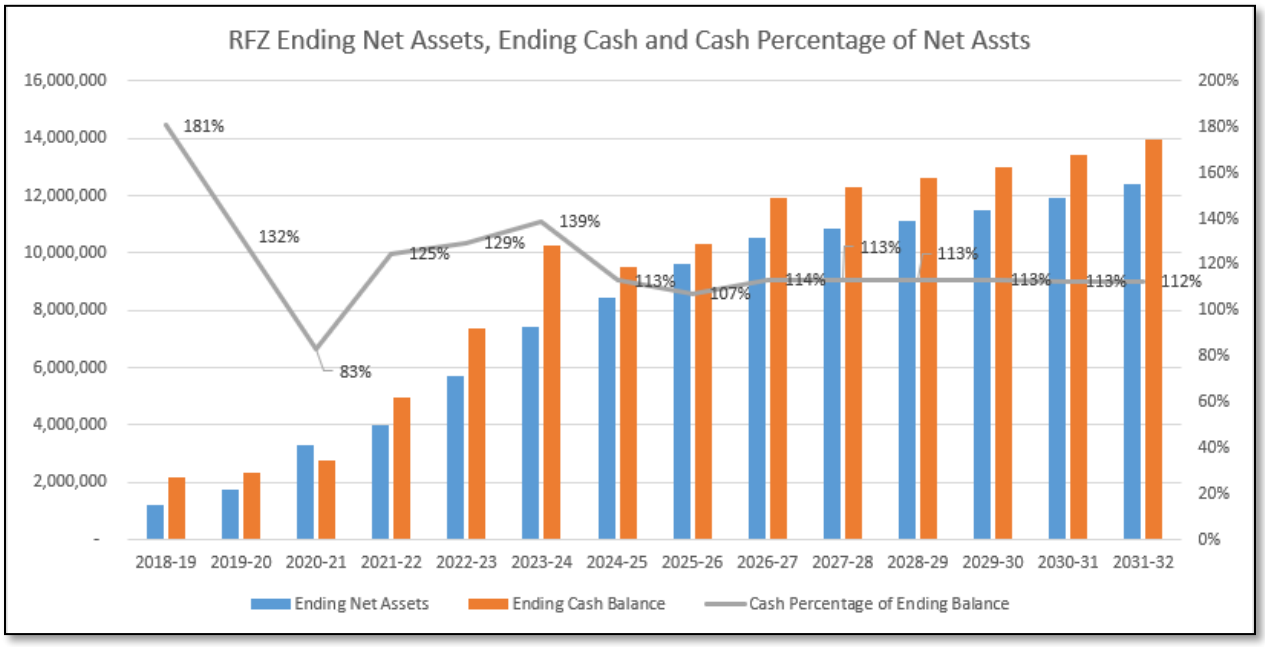
Overall, RFZ's historical cash position and projected monthly balances indicate substantial liquidity and a favorable capacity to meet financial obligations throughout the renewal term. Staff recommends continued monitoring of monthly cash flow, revenue receipt timing, and actual results against projections to ensure sufficient available cash for ongoing operations.

Object 28: RFZ Historical and Renewal Petition Days of Cash on Hand (DCOH)



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Object 29: RFZ Historical Ending Net Assets, Ending Cash and Cash as a Percentage of Net Assets



Potential Civil Liability Effects on the School and County Office

RFZ is in compliance with its current MOU, including insurance and indemnification, defense, and hold harmless provisions. The Renewal Petition specifies that RFZ will carry insurance as recommended by its insurance company and enter into an MOU to indemnify SCCOE. It is essential that RFZ comply with the SCCOE's current requirements regarding insurance and indemnification, defense, and hold harmless (not just its insurance carrier's recommendations) in order to protect SCCOE and RFZ from potential civil liability effects of RFZ's operations. The 2018 MOU – including its insurance and indemnification obligations – will remain in effect unless and until a new MOU or addendum to the MOU replacing it in whole or part is entered into, which will address any new provisions as required by SCCOE's risk management team. There is no reason to believe RFZ will not continue to abide by SCCOE's requirements and the agreed upon MOU and/or an addendum thereto.

2. Exclusive Public Employer

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the Charter specifies RPS shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the Charter School for the purposes of Educational Employment Relations Act ("EERA").

3. Requirements for Grade-Levels Served, Facility Location, and Students Served

RFZ currently serves TK-5. It is located within the boundaries of the ARUSD in a facility built for RFZ's specific needs, and RFZ plans to remain at that location throughout the renewal term. RFZ is located at 70 S Jackson Ave, San Jose, CA 95116.

The Charter Schools Department Staff found RFZ can meet the requirements for grade levels served, facility location, and students served.

4. Any Other Criteria Set Forth in the Statute

Since RFZ's Charter was last renewed, several new laws have gone into effect, including but not limited to AB 1505, AB 1507, AB 1219, SB 126, SB 820, SB 98, AB 126 and AB 2467 which enacted broad changes to the Charter Schools Act. RFZ will need to comply with the changes to the law.

CONCLUSION

The Charter Schools Department Staff reviewed RFZ's Renewal Petition and verified data of measurable increases in academic achievement, in response to RFZ being designated as a middle performing school, utilizing the criteria for charter renewal set forth in Education Code Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2.

Staff recommends the RFZ Charter be renewed with the condition that RFZ and RPS enter into an MOU and/or an addendum to an MOU on or before January 31, 2027, that addresses each of Staff's concerns and recommended conditions identified above, including as specifically reviewed in this Staff Analysis. Recommendations, and Proposed Findings of Fact, and as necessary to update and/or replace the terms of the 2018 MOU to be consistent with current law and SCCOE best practices, as well as any additional conditions identified by the SCCBOE.

Staff further recommends that the SCCBOE effectuate these actions by adopting the proposed resolution entitled: Resolution Conditionally Approving for a term of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032, the Charter Renewal for Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School, and, Alternatively, Making Written Factual Findings Supporting Denial & Denying the Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School Charter Renewal if the Requirements Are Not Met.

Student Impact

The Charter School Department provides oversight and monitoring for 20 County Board of Education authorized charter schools. RFZ was authorized in 2014 and currently serves approximately 540 students.