

**Alabama Public Charter School Commission
Annual Charter School Report
2023-2024**



Logan Searcy, Executive Director

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Introduction

The 2015 Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act marked a pivotal step in Alabama's educational reform by authorizing the establishment of public charter schools across the state. This legislation aimed to increase educational options for Alabama families, particularly in underserved communities, by allowing the creation of high-quality, innovative charter schools focused on improving student outcomes. Under the Act, the Alabama Public Charter School Commission was established to oversee charter schools' approval, support, and accountability as an authorizer. By empowering educators and providing parents with greater school choice, the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act continues to play a critical role in enhancing access to quality education and addressing diverse student needs.

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission is committed to expanding high-quality educational opportunities for students across Alabama through the authorization and oversight of public charter schools. Our mission is to empower educators, engage communities, and provide families with innovative schooling options prioritizing student success and academic excellence. This annual report reflects our progress in advancing Alabama's educational landscape, highlighting the impact of charter schools in fostering student achievement, community engagement, and educational equity. Through rigorous accountability and collaborative partnerships, the Commission strives to support schools that meet the diverse needs of Alabama's learners, preparing them for college, career, and civic life.

Since the passage of the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act, a total of 17 charter schools have opened and are operational in Alabama while an additional three are in the planning phase to be opened in fall 2025 and fall 2026. Three of the operational charters are conversion charter schools which

by law are authorized at the local level. Of the remaining 14 charter schools, twelve are authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission while the remaining two are authorized at the local level. All three of the schools in the planning stage are authorized by the Commission. In total over 5000 students are currently enrolled in public charter schools with the vast majority in schools authorized by the Commission.

The chart below provides an overview of the schools authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission. Each school listed represents a commitment to delivering high-quality, innovative education options that cater to the diverse needs of Alabama's students and communities. Two of these schools are in rural areas while the remaining thirteen in urban, inner-city locations. All schools are relatively new, with less than 10 years of operation. Notably, two schools have served their communities for 5 years or more, while 8 schools have operated for under 5 years. This distribution reflects the Commission's recent yet growing impact in expanding educational opportunities across Alabama.

Authorized Charter School	Local School System	Contract Approval Year	Year Students Began Attending	Original Contract Renewal Year	Grade Levels Served	2023-2024 Student Count	Recipient USDOE Grant
Acceleration Day and Evening Preparatory Academy	Mobile City	2016	2017	2022	6-8th and 9-12th	679	yes
University Charter School	Sumter County	2017	2018	2023	PreK-5th and	691	yes
Legacy Preparatory School	Birmingham City	2018	2019	2024	K-6th	407	yes
Lead Academy	Montgomery City	2019	2019	2024	PreK-3rd and 4th-9th	717	no
i3 Academy	Birmingham City	2019	2020	2025	K-5th and 6th-8th	704	yes
Breakthrough Charter School	Perry County	2020	2021	2026	PreK-10th	319	yes
Magic City Acceptance Academy	Jefferson County	2020	2021	2026	6th-12th	335	yes
Empower Community School	Bessemer	2021	2022	2027	K-3rd and 6th-7th	255	yes
Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School	Bessemer	2021	2022	2027	9th-11th	140	yes
Covenant Academy	Mobile	2022	2023	2028	K-5th	230	no
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	Birmingham	2022	2024	2029	K	N/A	yes
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	Mobile	2023	2024	2029	6th-11th	N/A	yes
Independence Preparatory Academy	Birmingham	2023	Approved to open in 2025	Not Yet Open	K-8th	N/A	yes
I Dream Big Academy	Tuscaloosa	2024	Approved to open in 2025	Not Yet Open	6th-12th	N/A	yes
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Montgomery	Montgomery	Pending	Pending	Pending	K		no

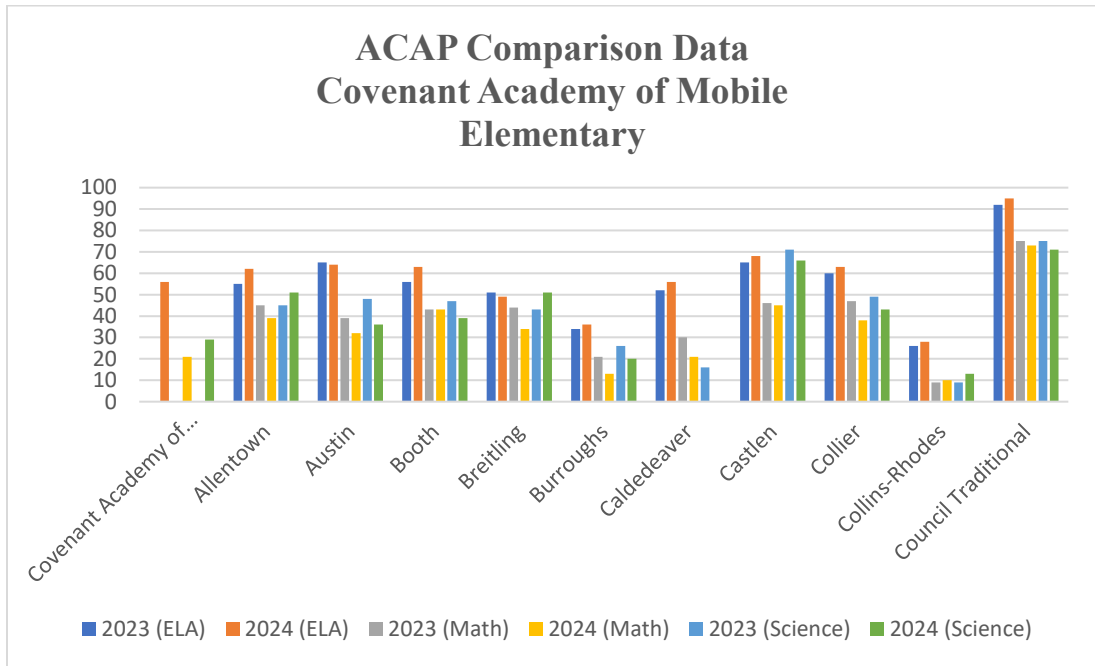
Charter schools operate with increased flexibility in exchange for heightened scrutiny and accountability. As an authorizer, the Alabama Public Charter School Commission’s role is to ensure that the schools in its portfolio provide a safe learning environment, maintain fiscal responsibility, and uphold high academic standards. To this end, the Commission monitors and evaluates schools across three axes: Academic, Financial, and Organizational. A quality charter school must demonstrate excellence in each of these areas, with performance measured through multiple indicators. The following sections provide an overview of the Alabama Public Charter School Commission’s portfolio along each of these axes, followed by concluding remarks. Detailed information on each school in the portfolio, along with descriptions of the metrics used, can be found in the appendices.

Academic Performance and Accountability

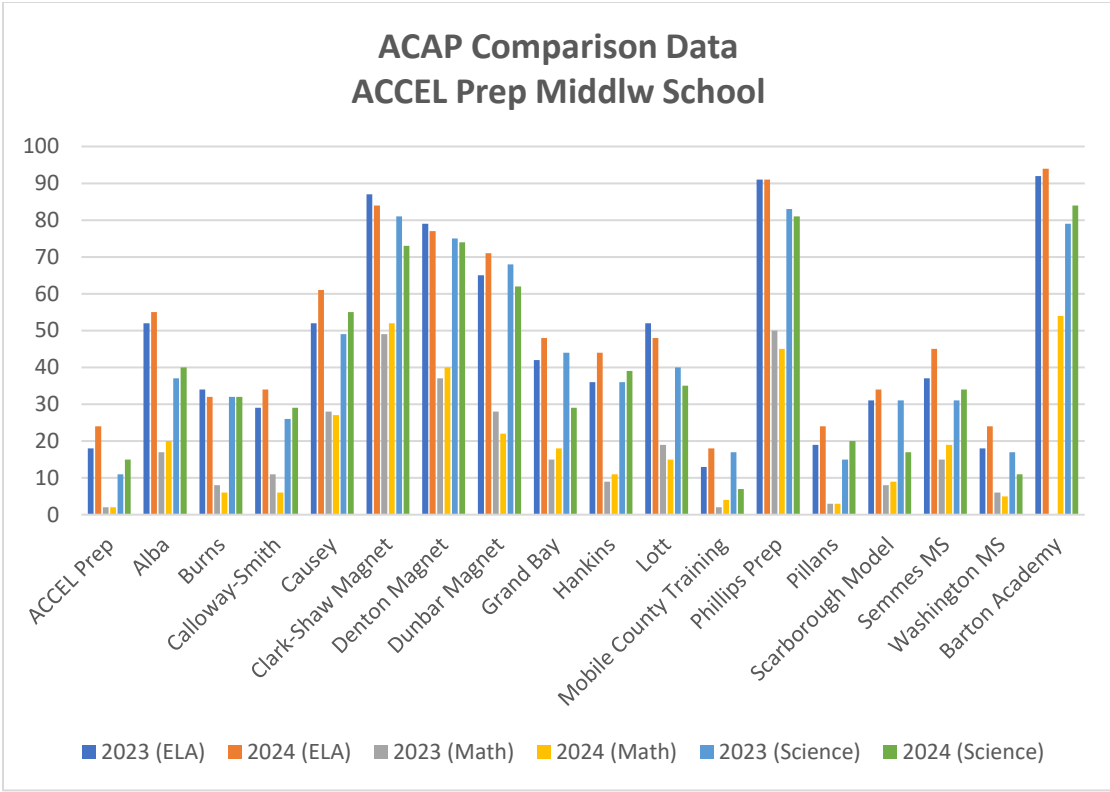
Schools authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission operate within a rigorous framework emphasizing accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. Each school is held to high standards in academics, financial stewardship, and operational integrity to ensure they deliver quality education and meet the needs of their students and communities. Through regular performance reviews and accountability measures, the Commission supports schools in maintaining their commitment to excellence, fostering environments where students can thrive and succeed academically, socially, and personally. This framework ensures that all authorized schools are aligned with Alabama's educational goals and contribute positively to the state’s public education system. The section below summarizes each authorized charter school's academic performance per the available data.

**Covenant Academy of Mobile Elementary, ACCEL Prep Middle School,
ACCEL Prep High School
(Mobile County Schools)**

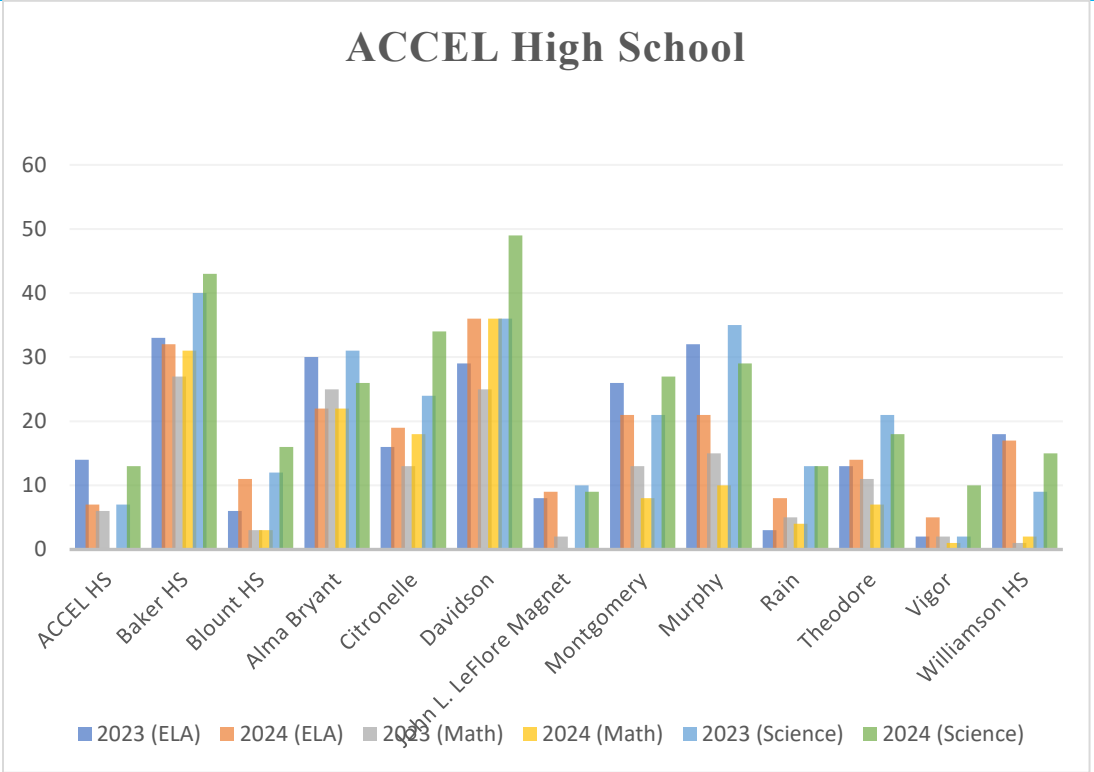
Elementary Schools



Middle Schools



High Schools



Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance: Covenant Academy of Mobile, ACCEL Prep, and ACCEL High School

This analysis focuses on the academic performance of Covenant Academy of Mobile, ACCEL Prep, and ACCEL High School across English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science for the 2023-2024 school year. It includes a comparison with other schools in the district to provide context.

1. Covenant Academy of Mobile (K-5, Enrollment: 262)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2024 Score: 56 (No prior data for comparison)
 - Analysis: Covenant Academy's ELA score of 56 is a strong starting point, indicating that students are performing reasonably well in literacy compared to district averages.
- **Math:**
 - 2024 Score: 21 (No prior data for comparison)
 - Analysis: The Math score of 21 shows a moderate level of proficiency. While it is lower than top-performing schools, it provides a solid foundation for further growth.
- **Science:**
 - 2024 Score: 29 (No prior data for comparison)
 - Analysis: The Science score of 29 suggests moderate proficiency. With targeted interventions, Covenant Academy can work to improve student outcomes in Science.

2. ACCEL Prep (6-8, Enrollment: 627)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 18
 - 2024 Score: 24
 - Change: +6 points

- Analysis: ACCEL Prep achieved a 6-point increase in ELA, showing positive growth in literacy. This reflects effective literacy programs and interventions.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 2
 - 2024 Score: 2
 - Change: 0 points
 - Analysis: Math scores remained steady, indicating a need for stronger Math support to foster improvement in this subject area.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 11
 - 2024 Score: 15
 - Change: +4 points
 - Analysis: ACCEL Prep's 4-point gain in Science suggests steady growth, though additional support may help achieve larger gains.

3. ACCEL High School (9-12, Enrollment: 385)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 14
 - 2024 Score: 7
 - Change: -7 points
 - Analysis: ACCEL High School experienced a 7-point drop in ELA, highlighting a need for targeted literacy interventions to prevent further declines and improve proficiency.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 6
 - 2024 Score: 0
 - Change: -6 points
 - Analysis: Math performance dropped significantly, suggesting an area for immediate intervention to support students and reverse this trend.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 7

- 2024 Score: 13
- Change: +6 points
- Analysis: Despite declines in ELA and Math, Science saw a 6-point gain, indicating some progress in scientific proficiency.

Comparison to Other Schools in the District

ELA Performance:

Analysis:

- Covenant Academy’s ELA score of 56 is competitive among the district, while ACCEL Prep’s 6-point gain in ELA shows positive growth. ACCEL High School’s 7-point decline in ELA highlights a need for intervention, as it lags behind other schools in literacy improvement.

Math Performance:

- **Covenant Academy’s** Math score of 21 is moderate but competitive relative to several other schools, while **ACCEL Prep** maintained its Math score without improvement, suggesting a need for further support. **ACCEL High School’s** Math decline from 6 to 0 highlights a significant challenge.

Science Performance:

- **Covenant Academy of Mobile’s** Science score of 29 is moderate but competitive among district schools. **ACCEL High School’s** 6-point gain is positive but still leaves room for improvement to match higher-performing schools.

Overall Performance of Covenant Academy of Mobile, ACCEL Prep, and ACCEL High School Compared to Other Schools

- **Covenant Academy of Mobile:**
 - **Strengths:** Competitive starting scores in ELA (56), Math (21), and Science (29).

- **Challenges:** While scores are moderate, additional support in Math and Science can enhance overall performance. Covenant Academy stands competitively among other elementary schools in ELA and Science, though it can further improve to reach top performers.
- **ACCEL Prep:**
 - **Strengths:** Moderate improvement in ELA and Science.
 - **Challenges:** The Math score remains stagnant, indicating an area needing targeted intervention. ACCEL Prep’s growth in ELA and Science is positive, though its Math performance falls below district averages, suggesting a focus area.
- **ACCEL High School:**
 - **Strengths:** Improved Science performance with a 6-point gain.
 - **Challenges:** Significant declines in both ELA and Math. ACCEL High School struggles in ELA and Math compared to other schools, pointing to a need for comprehensive academic support in these subjects.

Conclusion

Covenant Academy of Mobile, ACCEL Prep, and ACCEL High School show varied academic results for the 2023-2024 school year:

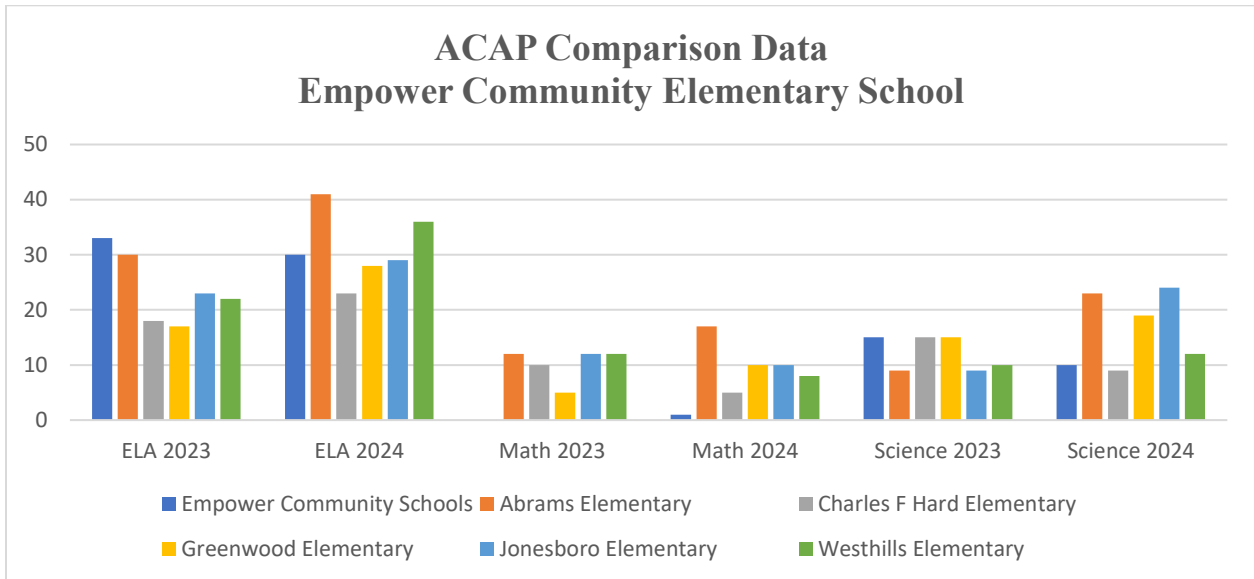
- Covenant Academy of Mobile demonstrates competitive baseline scores in ELA, Math, and Science, indicating a strong starting point with room for growth.
- ACCEL Prep shows positive growth in ELA and Science but needs additional Math support to achieve consistent improvement.
- ACCEL High School faced declines in ELA and Math, though Science saw modest gains. The school would benefit from targeted support to address the significant drops in literacy and numeracy.

While Covenant Academy of Mobile performs well among elementary schools, ACCEL Prep and ACCEL High School have areas needing focused improvement. Specifically, ACCEL High School requires substantial intervention to improve its ELA and Math outcomes.

Overall, with targeted efforts, these charter schools have the potential to enhance student outcomes across subjects and better align with district performance standards.

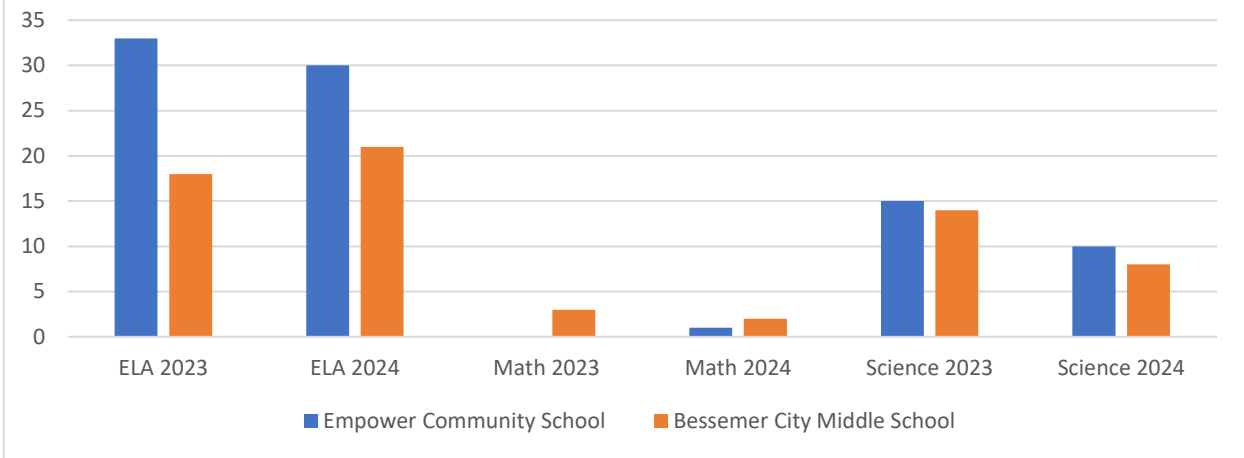
Empower Community Schools and Alabama Aerospace High School (Bessemer City School System)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



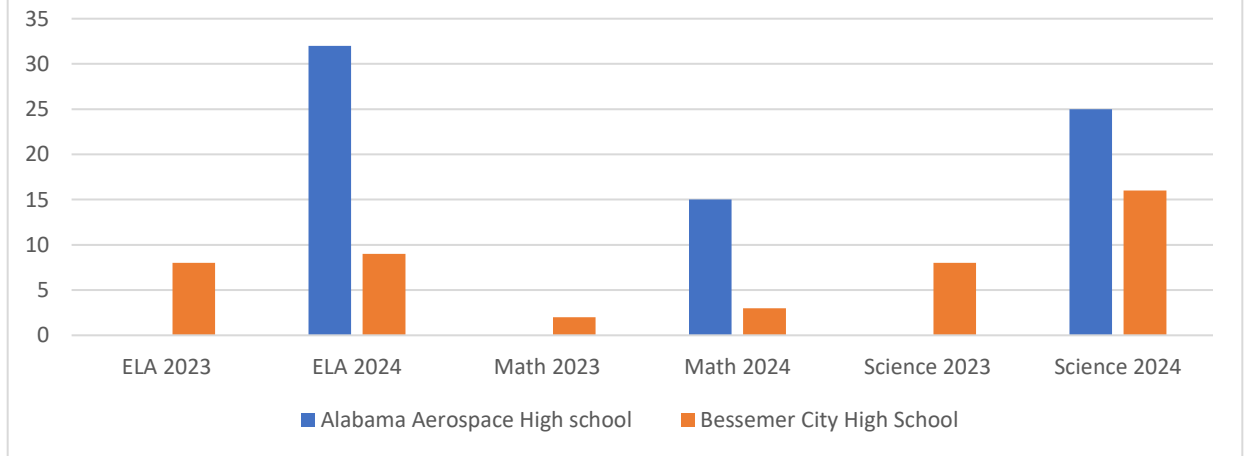
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

ACAP Comparison Data Empower Community Middle Schools



HIGH SCHOOLS

ACT Comparison Data Alabama Aerospace High School



Analysis of Charter School Performance Empower Community School and Alabama Aerospace High School

This analysis examines the academic performance of Empower Community School and Alabama Aerospace High School for the 2023-2024 school year. The focus is on their performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, along with a comparison to other schools to contextualize their standing.

1. Empower Community School (K-3, 6-8, Enrollment: 302)

ELA (English Language Arts):

- 2023 Score: 33
- 2024 Score: 30
- Change: -3 points
- Analysis: Empower Community School experienced a minor decline in ELA performance. While a decrease of 3 points indicates a slight setback, an ELA score of 30 remains competitive within the districts, especially when compared to schools with larger declines.

Math:

- 2023 Score: 0
- 2024 Score: 1
- Change: +1 point
- Analysis: The Math score showed a marginal improvement from 0 to 1. Although this represents progress, the current proficiency level remains low, highlighting the need for enhanced Math instruction and support.

Science:

- 2023 Score: 15
- 2024 Score: 10
- Change: -5 points
- Analysis: A 5-point decline in Science suggests challenges in maintaining Science education quality. This decrease indicates a need for targeted interventions to support Science learning outcomes.

2. Alabama Aerospace High School (9-12, Enrollment: 168)

ELA (English Language Arts):

- 2023 Score: N/A
- 2024 Score: 32
- Change: N/A
- Analysis: With no available data for 2023, the 2024 ELA score of 32 serves as a baseline for future assessments. Initial performance indicates areas for improvement, particularly as no prior data exists for comparison.

Math:

- 2023 Score: N/A
- 2024 Score: 15
- Change: N/A
- Analysis: Similarly, the 2024 Math score of 15 provides a starting point for evaluating future progress. Establishing baseline metrics will be crucial for tracking growth and identifying instructional needs.

Science:

- 2023 Score: N/A
- 2024 Score: 25
- Change: N/A
- Analysis: The Science score of 25 in 2024 establishes an initial performance level. Future comparisons will help determine the effectiveness of Science programs and instructional strategies.

Comparison to Other Schools

ELA Performance:

- Empower Community School's slight decline in ELA places it below other schools with positive growth. However, its ELA score of 30 is still relatively competitive within the district. Alabama Aerospace High School's baseline ELA score of 32 provides a middle-ground comparison to schools with established performance.

Math Performance:

- Empower Community School showed minimal improvement in Math, moving from 0 to 1, which is low compared to other schools with more significant gains. Alabama Aerospace High School’s baseline Math score of 15 is stronger in comparison but still shows room for growth to achieve competitive district levels.

Science Performance:

- Alabama Aerospace High School’s baseline Science score of 25 positions it moderately well in comparison to other schools, surpassing several that experienced declines. Empower Community School’s 5-point decline in Science places it behind other schools that made positive gains.

Overall Performance of Empower Community School and Alabama Aerospace High School Compared to Other Schools

- **Empower Community School:**
 - Strengths: Maintains a relatively competitive ELA score despite a slight decline.
 - Challenges: The minimal growth in Math and the decline in Science indicate areas needing intervention to improve outcomes.

Empower Community School performs below other schools with larger gains in Math and Science, suggesting a need for targeted improvements in these subjects.
- **Alabama Aerospace High School:**
 - Strengths: Established initial benchmark scores for ELA, Math, and Science.
 - Challenges: Initial scores suggest room for growth in all subjects to reach district averages or above.

While Alabama Aerospace High School’s scores are moderate, they provide a foundation for assessing future growth and positioning the school among established district performers.

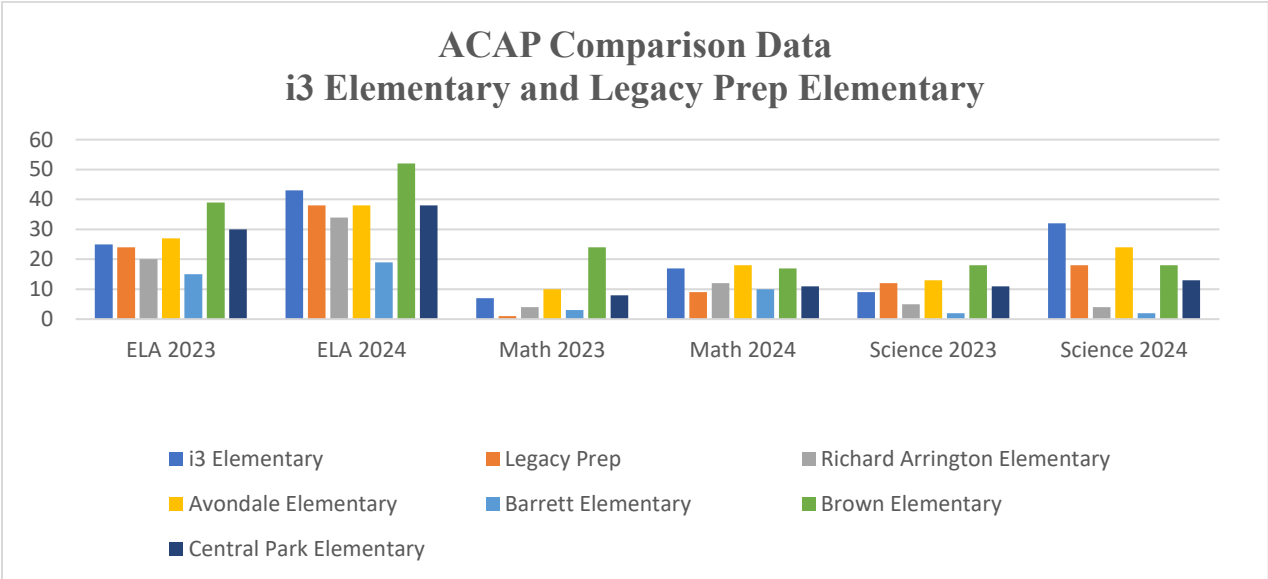
Conclusion

Empower Community School and Alabama Aerospace High School have varied academic profiles. Empower Community School showed a slight decline in ELA and Science, with minimal improvement in Math. These results indicate a need for targeted interventions to support balanced academic growth across subjects. Alabama Aerospace High School, with no prior data,

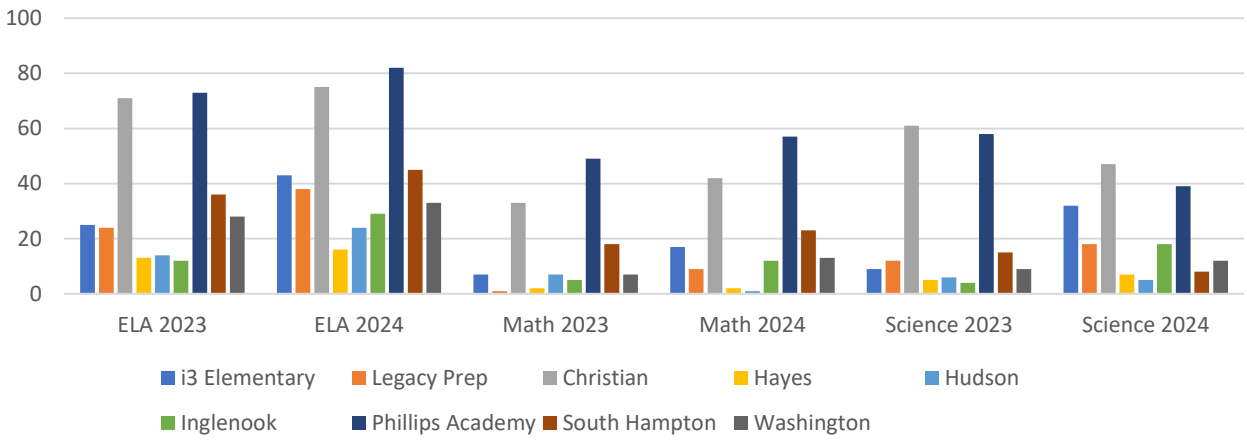
established baseline scores for ELA, Math, and Science, indicating a starting point with room for improvement in all areas. Overall, both schools have opportunities to enhance their academic performance. Empower Community School would benefit from focused interventions in Math and Science, while Alabama Aerospace High School can use its baseline data to guide strategic growth across all subjects.

i3 Elementary and Legacy Prep Elementary Schools K-5 (Birmingham City School System)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

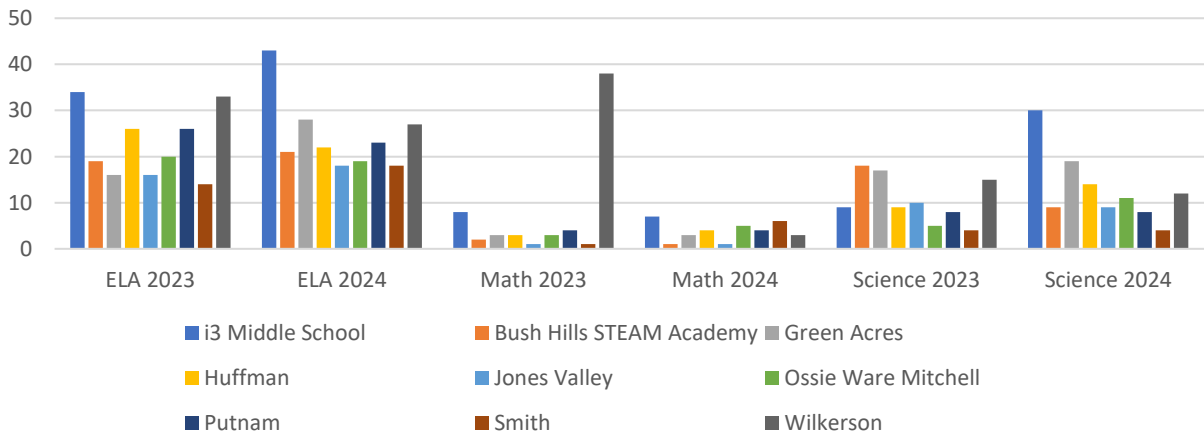


ACAP Comparison Data i3 and Legacy Prep Elementary (K-8)



MIDDLE SCHOOLS

ACAP Comparison Data i3 Middle School



Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance I3 and Legacy Preparatory

This analysis examines the academic performance of i3 and Legacy Preparatory for the 2023-2024 school year. The focus is on their performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, along with a comparison to other schools in the district to contextualize their standing.

1. i3 Elementary (K-5, Enrollment: 420)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**

- 2023 Score: 25
- 2024 Score: 43
- Change: +18 points
- Analysis: i3 Elementary made remarkable gains in ELA, improving by 18 points. This increase suggests effective literacy programs and strong instructional practices in reading and language arts.

- **Math:**

- 2023 Score: 7
- 2024 Score: 17
- Change: +10 points
- Analysis: With a 10-point increase, i3 Elementary demonstrated strong growth in Math, reflecting successful efforts to enhance math proficiency among students.

- **Science:**

- 2023 Score: 9
- 2024 Score: 32
- Change: +23 points
- Analysis: The 23-point increase in Science indicates a substantial boost in science education, suggesting that i3 Elementary has effectively engaged students in scientific inquiry and enhanced curriculum quality

2. Legacy Prep (K-5, Enrollment: 438)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**

- 2023 Score: 24
- 2024 Score: 38

- Change: +14 points
- Analysis: Legacy Prep achieved a substantial 14-point increase in ELA, indicating strong literacy programs that are positively impacting student outcomes in reading and language arts.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 1
 - 2024 Score: 9
 - Change: +8 points
 - Analysis: The 8-point increase in Math demonstrates growth in foundational math skills, although the score remains relatively low compared to top-performing schools.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 12
 - 2024 Score: 18
 - Change: +6 points
 - Analysis: A 6-point gain in Science shows steady progress in this area, though the score still trails behind some schools that have shown larger improvements.

3. i3 Middle School (6-8, Enrollment: 298)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 34
 - 2024 Score: 43
 - Change: +9 points
 - Analysis: i3 Middle School demonstrated solid growth in ELA, with a 9-point increase that indicates effective literacy instruction and student engagement in reading.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 8
 - 2024 Score: 7
 - Change: -1 point

- Analysis: Math scores declined slightly by 1 point, suggesting a need for targeted support to improve math outcomes and prevent further declines.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 9
 - 2024 Score: 30
 - Change: +21 points
 - Analysis: A 21-point increase in Science reflects substantial growth in science achievement, highlighting the success of science education initiatives at i3 Middle School.

Comparison to Other Schools

ELA Performance:

- i3 Elementary and Legacy Prep are among the top-performing schools in ELA improvement, with gains that exceed many other schools. i3 Middle School also shows solid growth, though its increase is more modest compared to the elementary levels.

Math Performance:

- i3 Elementary and Legacy Prep show significant Math improvements, indicating effective math programs, though Legacy Prep’s Math score remains on the lower end. i3 Middle School’s slight decline suggests an area for potential focus to maintain consistent growth.

Science Performance:

- i3 Elementary and i3 Middle School achieved substantial gains in Science, making them leaders in Science improvement. Legacy Prep’s more modest gain places it below the top Science performers but still reflects progress.

Overall Performance of i3 Elementary, i3 Middle School, and Legacy Prep Compared to Other Schools

- **i3 Elementary:**

- **Strengths:** Demonstrates substantial improvements in ELA (+18), Math (+10), and Science (+23), positioning it as a top-performing elementary school in growth across all subjects. Outperforms most other elementary schools in the district, especially in Science, where it has the largest improvement.
- **Legacy Prep:**
 - **Strengths:** Significant gains in ELA (+14) and Math (+8) highlight effective literacy and foundational math programs.
 - **Challenges:** Science improvement is moderate compared to i3 schools, and the Math score, while improved, remains low relative to other schools. Legacy Prep is competitive in ELA and shows good growth in Math, though it still lags behind top-scoring schools in terms of absolute Math scores.
- **i3 Middle School:**
 - **Strengths:** Shows strong growth in ELA (+9) and exceptional improvement in Science (+21).
 - **Challenges:** The slight decline in Math suggests an area where additional support could help maintain balanced performance. i3 Middle School's Science growth places it among the leaders, but it could improve in Math to fully compete with top-performing schools.

Conclusion

i3 Elementary, i3 Middle School, and Legacy Prep exhibited impressive academic growth for the 2023-2024 school year, particularly in ELA and Science:

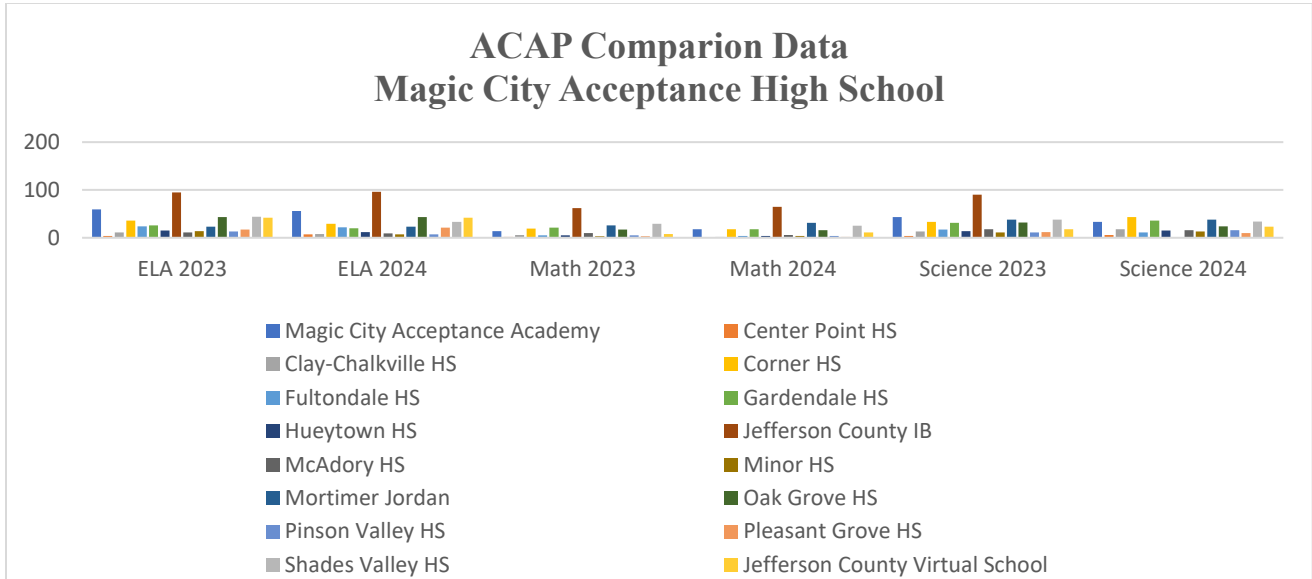
- **i3 Elementary** is a standout performer, with large gains in all three subjects, making it one of the top elementary schools for growth in the district.
- **Legacy Prep** demonstrates strong growth in ELA and Math, though further improvement in Science could enhance its competitive standing.
- **i3 Middle School** shows substantial improvement in Science and steady growth in ELA, although Math could benefit from additional attention.

These charter schools are competitive in ELA and Science, with i3 Elementary and i3 Middle School leading in Science growth. Legacy Prep also competes well in ELA

improvement, though it would benefit from enhanced Math and Science scores to fully match the top-performing schools. Overall, these schools are demonstrating effective growth in key subjects, positioning them as strong educational options within the district. Continued focus on Math for i3 Middle School and Science for Legacy Prep will support a balanced trajectory of academic excellence.

Magic City Acceptance High School Jefferson County School System

HIGH SCHOOLS



Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance Magic City Acceptance

This analysis examines the academic performance of Magic City Acceptance for the 2023-2024 school year. The focus is on their performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, along with a comparison to other schools in the district to contextualize their standing.

Magic City Acceptance Academy (6-12)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 59

- 2024 Score: 56
- Change: -3 points
- Analysis: Magic City Acceptance Academy experienced a minor decrease in ELA performance, with a 3-point drop. However, the score of 56 remains strong compared to many other schools in the district, indicating that their ELA proficiency level is still relatively high.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 14
 - 2024 Score: 18
 - Change: +4 points
 - Analysis: The school made progress in Math, improving by 4 points, which shows effective support for Math proficiency. This increase places the school in a better position compared to other schools that showed declines or minimal changes in Math.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 43
 - 2024 Score: 33
 - Change: -10 points (Significant Decline)
 - Analysis: A 10-point decline in Science highlights a potential area of concern for Magic City Acceptance Academy, indicating that Science may require additional instructional support or resources to reverse this trend.

Comparison to Other Schools

ELA Performance:

- Despite a minor decline, Magic City Acceptance Academy's ELA score of 56 remains competitive and above the scores of many other schools in the district, reflecting a relatively strong position in literacy.

Math Performance:

- Magic City Acceptance Academy’s 4-point increase in Math ranks well among schools with improvements, highlighting effective Math programs. This is particularly notable given that several other schools experienced declines in this subject.

Science Performance:

- Magic City Acceptance Academy’s 10-point decline in Science is one of the more significant decreases, indicating an area where the school falls behind other schools that have maintained or improved Science scores. This decline may point to a need for targeted Science interventions.

Overall Performance of Magic City Acceptance Academy Compared to Other Schools

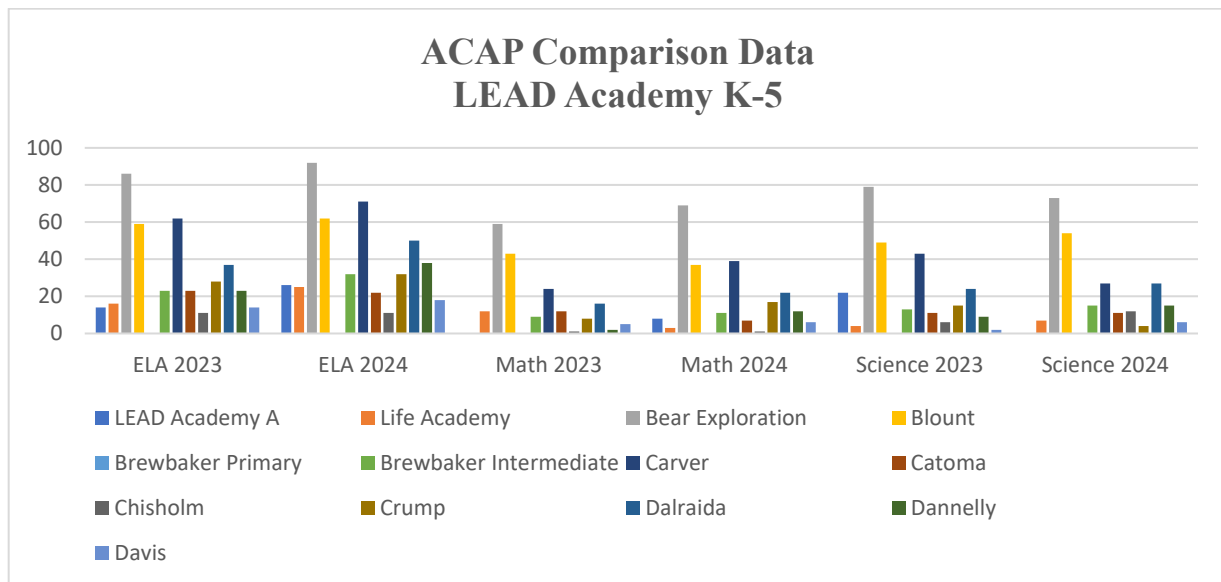
- **ELA:**
 - **Strengths:** Despite a slight decline, Magic City Acceptance Academy’s ELA score of 56 remains robust, positioning it above many schools with larger drops in ELA proficiency.
- **Math:**
 - **Strengths:** The 4-point improvement in Math highlights progress and places Magic City Acceptance Academy ahead of schools experiencing declines. This improvement is a positive outcome, especially given the district-wide trend of minimal changes or declines in Math.
- **Science:**
 - **Challenges:** The 10-point drop in Science underscores a critical area for improvement. This decline contrasts with schools like Corner HS that showed gains in Science, suggesting that Magic City Acceptance Academy may benefit from additional support in Science.

Conclusion

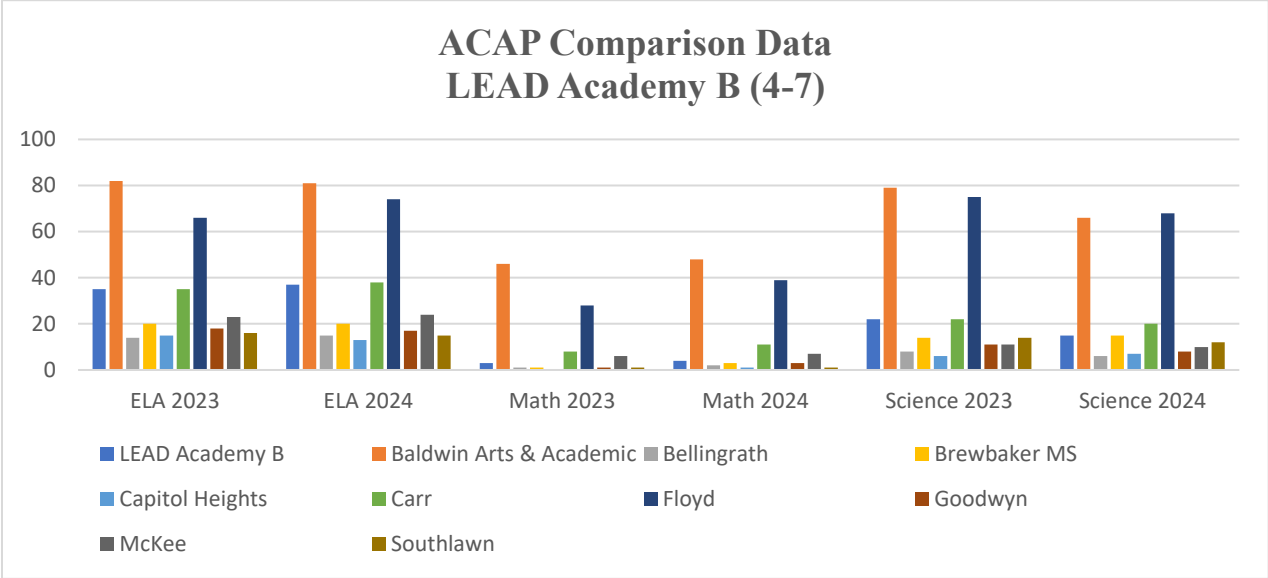
Magic City Acceptance Academy demonstrated mixed academic performance for the 2023-2024 school year. Magic City Acceptance Academy is competitive in ELA and shows positive growth in Math, distinguishing it from schools with larger declines in these subjects. However, the significant drop in Science points to an area where it lags behind some other schools, indicating an opportunity for focused improvement

LEAD Academy (Montgomery County School System)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance LEAD Academy A and B.

This analysis highlights the academic performance of LEAD Academy A, and LEAD Academy B across English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science from 2023 to 2024. Additionally, it compares their performance to other schools in the district to provide context on their standing.

1. LEAD Academy A (P-3, Enrollment: 362)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 14
 - 2024 Score: 26
 - Change: +12 points
 - Analysis: LEAD Academy A demonstrated remarkable growth in ELA, highlighting effective literacy initiatives for preschool to third-grade students.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 0
 - 2024 Score: 8
 - Change: +8 points (Significant Improvement)

- Analysis: Transitioning from no measurable proficiency to an 8-point score indicates successful efforts to enhance mathematical skills among young learners.

- **Science:**

- 2023 Score: 22
- 2024 Score: 0
- Change: -22 points (assuming no data or untested grade band)
- Analysis: The drastic drop in Science performance suggests possible issues in curriculum delivery or assessment accuracy. It may also indicate that Science assessments were not administered or reported correctly for 2024.

2. LEAD Academy B (4-7, Enrollment: 378)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**

- 2023 Score: 35
- 2024 Score: 37
- Change: +2 points
- Analysis: LEAD Academy B showed a modest increase in ELA scores, reflecting steady progress in literacy among fourth to seventh-grade students.

- **Math:**

- 2023 Score: 3
- 2024 Score: 4
- Change: +1 point Analysis: A slight rise in Math proficiency indicates gradual enhancements in mathematical instruction, though overall scores remain low.

- **Science:**

- 2023 Score: 22
- 2024 Score: 15
- Change: -7 points (Moderate Decline)
- Analysis: The decline in Science scores points to challenges in maintaining Science education quality, necessitating targeted interventions.

Comparison to Other Schools

ELA Performance:

- LEAD Academy A's 12-point increase places it among the higher-performing schools for ELA improvement, though slightly behind schools with larger gains. LEAD Academy B's modest 2-point increase indicates stable progress, but it trails the top performers.

Math Performance:

- LEAD Academy A made notable progress in Math, with an 8-point increase, placing it ahead of several schools experiencing declines. LEAD Academy B showed minimal improvement, highlighting an area for focused development to achieve similar gains.

Science Performance:

- LEAD Academy B's 7-point decline in Science suggests a need for improved Science instruction. The lack of data or significant drop for LEAD Academy A may reflect either missing data or untested grades in Science, indicating an area to address for more consistent reporting and improvement.

Overall Performance of LEAD Academy Compared to Other Schools

- **LEAD Academy A:**
 - Strengths: Significant improvements in ELA and Math position it among the higher-performing schools for growth in early grades.
 - Challenges: The decline in Science or lack of data indicates an area needing attention for a balanced academic profile.
 - Comparison: LEAD Academy A outperformed several schools in ELA and Math improvements, showcasing effective foundational education in literacy and numeracy.
- **LEAD Academy B:**
 - Strengths: Achieved stability in ELA and slight gains in Math, indicating a foundation to build upon.

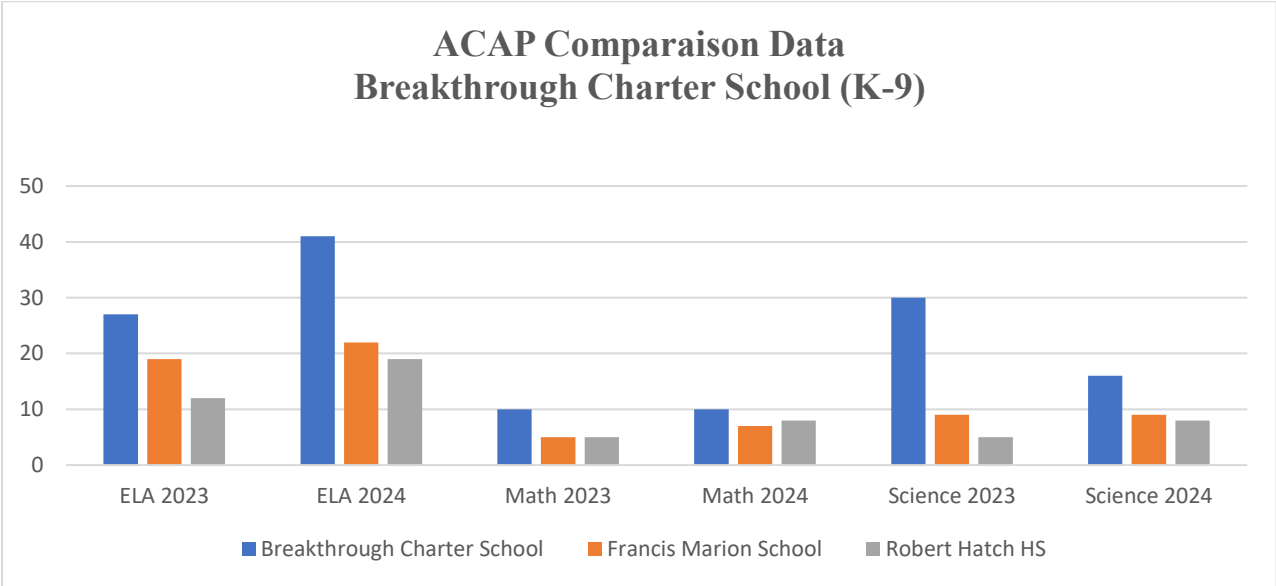
- Challenges: The decline in Science highlights the need for curriculum support in this subject area.
- Comparison: LEAD Academy B's modest improvements place it slightly below schools with larger gains, suggesting potential for growth in all subjects to reach top performance levels.

Conclusion

LEAD Academy A competes well in ELA and Math, with its improvements placing it alongside other high-growth schools in early literacy and numeracy. LEAD Academy B maintains steady progress but could benefit from a stronger focus on Science to enhance its standing relative to other schools. Overall, LEAD Academy shows promising growth in foundational skills, especially in early literacy and numeracy, while highlighting areas for focused intervention in Science to ensure consistent performance across subjects.

**Breakthrough Academy
(Perry County School System)**

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE



**Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance
Breakthrough Charter School**

This analysis highlights the academic performance of Breakthrough Charter School for the 2023-2024 school year, focusing on English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science. Additionally, it compares the school's performance to other schools to provide context on its standing.

Breakthrough Charter School (K-9, Enrollment: 314)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 27
 - 2024 Score: 41
 - Change: +14 points (Significant Improvement)

- Analysis: Breakthrough Charter School showed substantial improvement in ELA with a 14-point gain, indicating successful literacy programs and student engagement in reading and language arts.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 10
 - 2024 Score: 10
 - Change: 0 points (No Change)
 - Analysis: Math scores remained unchanged at 10, reflecting stable performance but signaling a need for additional support to increase math proficiency.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 30
 - 2024 Score: 16
 - Change: -14 points (Significant Decline)
 - Analysis: The Science score dropped by 14 points, which may indicate challenges in Science instruction or a need for targeted interventions to support Science learning outcomes.

Comparison to Other Schools in the District

ELA Performance:

- Breakthrough Charter School's 14-point increase in ELA positions it as the top performer among the schools listed, showing the most substantial growth in literacy compared to Francis Marion School and Robert Hatch HS.

Math Performance:

- While Francis Marion School and Robert Hatch HS showed slight improvements in Math, Breakthrough Charter School maintained its Math score with no change, suggesting stability but also a need to explore opportunities for growth.

Science Performance:

- Breakthrough Charter School experienced a significant decline in Science, contrasting with the slight improvement at Robert Hatch HS and stable performance at Francis Marion School. This drop highlights an area for focused interventions to bolster Science education.

Overall Performance of Breakthrough Charter School Compared to Other Schools

- **ELA:**
 - Strengths: Breakthrough Charter School excelled in ELA with a 14-point increase, making it the highest performer in ELA growth among the schools in the data. Its ELA gain surpasses those at Robert Hatch HS and Francis Marion School, reflecting effective literacy initiatives.
- **Math:**
 - Strengths: Math scores remained stable, outperforming schools experiencing declines but lagging behind schools with even minor improvements.
 - Challenges: Breakthrough Charter School’s Math stability suggests a need for strategies to boost growth and bring scores closer to or above district averages.
- **Science:**
 - Challenges: The 14-point decline in Science is a concern, setting Breakthrough Charter School below Francis Marion School (which had stable scores) and Robert Hatch HS (which improved slightly).
This decrease highlights an area for targeted support to improve Science proficiency and better align with other schools’ steady or improving Science performance.

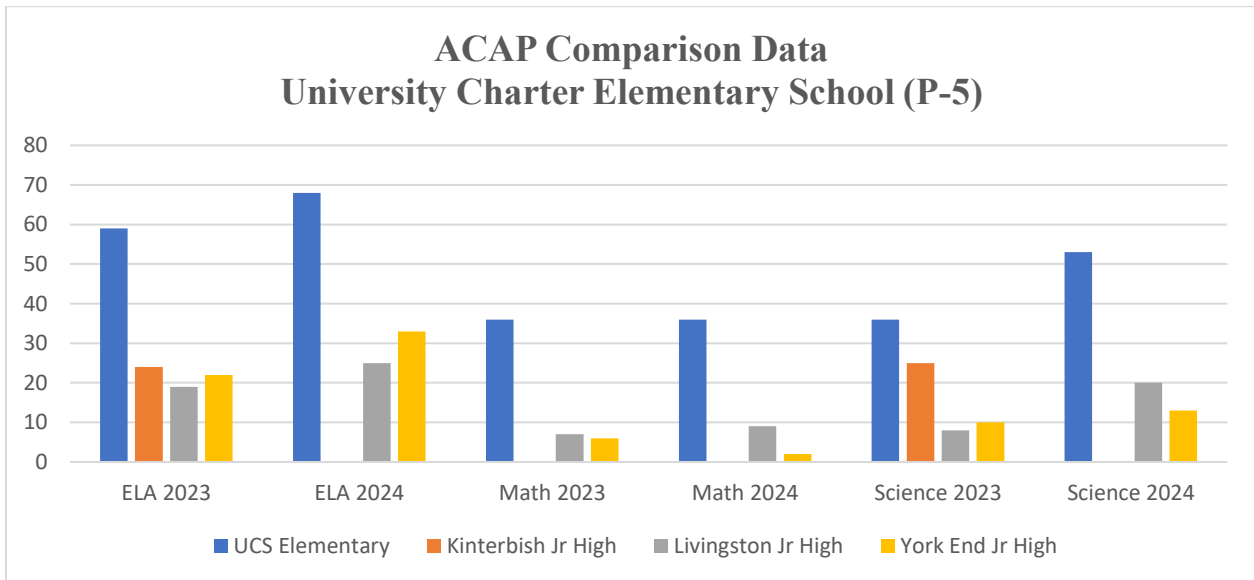
Conclusion

Breakthrough Charter School leads in ELA improvement compared to Francis Marion School and Robert Hatch HS, showcasing its strength in literacy. However, its stable Math performance and significant Science decline suggest areas for targeted enhancement to support balanced academic growth across all subjects. By addressing these areas, Breakthrough Charter School

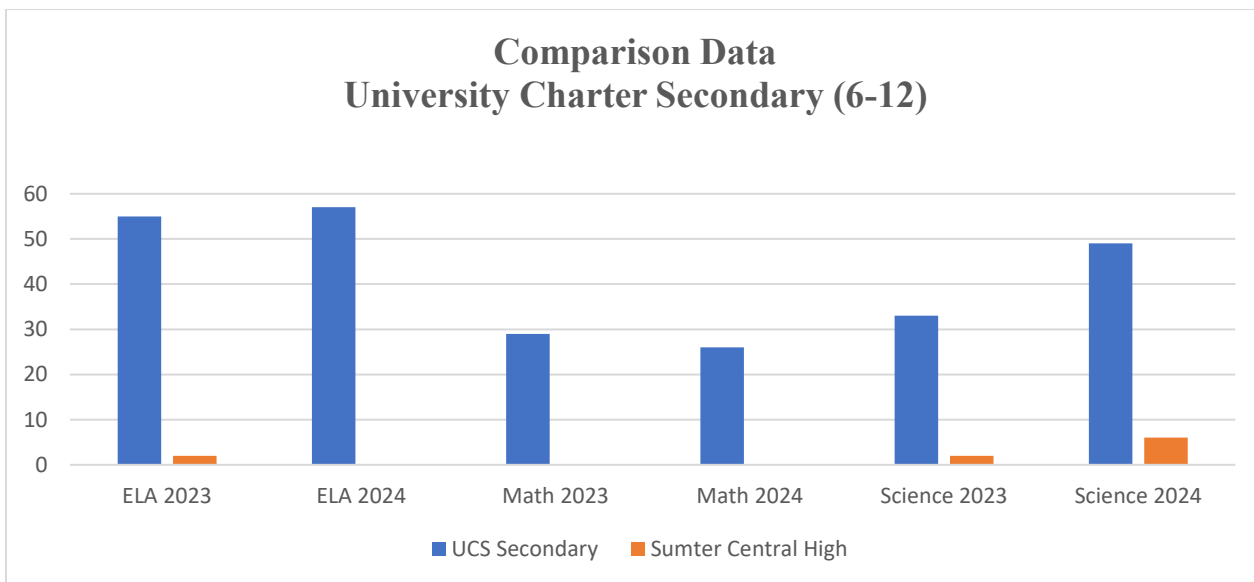
can maintain its strengths while closing performance gaps in Math and Science relative to other schools.

University Charter School (Sumter County School System)

ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL



Summary Analysis of Charter School Performance

University Charter Elementary and Secondary

This analysis highlights the academic performance of University Charter Elementary and Secondary for the 2023-2024 school year, focusing on English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science. Additionally, it compares the school's performance to other schools to provide context on its standing.

1. UCS Elementary (P-5, Enrollment: 331)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**
 - 2023 Score: 59
 - 2024 Score: 68
 - Change: +9 points (Significant Improvement)
 - Analysis: UCS Elementary achieved a notable 9-point increase in ELA, indicating effective literacy programs and enhanced student performance in reading and language arts.
- **Math:**
 - 2023 Score: 36
 - 2024 Score: 36
 - Change: 0 points
 - Analysis: The Math score remained stable, demonstrating consistent performance. While maintaining the current level is positive, there is potential for further improvement to enhance mathematical proficiency.
- **Science:**
 - 2023 Score: 36
 - 2024 Score: 53
 - Change: +17 points
 - Analysis: A substantial 17-point increase in Science reflects significant advancements in science education, curriculum effectiveness, and student engagement in scientific inquiry.

2. UCS Secondary (6-12, Enrollment: 320)

- **ELA (English Language Arts):**

- 2023 Score: 55
- 2024 Score: 57
- Change: +2 points
- Analysis: UCS Secondary experienced a slight 2-point increase in ELA, indicating steady progress in literacy without significant fluctuations.

- **Math:**

- 2023 Score: 29
- 2024 Score: 26
- Change: -3 points
- Analysis: A small decrease of 3 points in Math suggests areas for improvement in mathematical instruction and student performance, though the decline is relatively minimal compared to broader district trends.

- **Science:**

- 2023 Score: 33
- 2024 Score: 49
- Change: +16 points
- Analysis: UCS Secondary saw a remarkable 16-point increase in Science, highlighting effective science programs and increased student proficiency in scientific subjects.

Comparison to Other Schools

ELA English Language Arts:

- UCS Elementary is one of the top performers in ELA improvement, with a 9-point gain, aligning it closely with schools like York End Jr High. UCS Secondary maintained a stable improvement, placing it among schools with consistent but modest gains in ELA.

Math Performance:

- UCS Elementary maintained its Math score, which shows consistency but suggests room for growth to match schools like Kinterbish Jr High with substantial gains.
- UCS Secondary experienced a minor decline in Math, indicating a potential need for additional support to improve Math outcomes.

Science Performance:

- Both UCS Elementary and UCS Secondary demonstrated significant gains in Science, placing them among the highest-performing schools in Science improvement within the district. These gains highlight strong science programs and effective engagement in scientific subjects.

Overall Performance of UCS Elementary and UCS Secondary Compared to Other Schools

- **ELA:**
 - Strengths: UCS Elementary showed a substantial 9-point gain, making it one of the leading schools in ELA improvement within the district.
 - Challenges: While UCS Secondary saw a modest increase, it has room to achieve stronger gains.
- **Math:**
 - Strengths: UCS Elementary maintained a stable Math score, outperforming schools with more notable declines.
 - Challenges: UCS Secondary’s slight decline in Math highlights the need for targeted Math interventions to improve outcomes.
- **Science:**
 - Strengths: Both UCS Elementary and UCS Secondary achieved impressive gains in Science, making them among the highest-performing schools in this subject area.
 - Challenges: Consistency in Science growth will be key to maintaining this competitive edge.

Conclusion

University Charter School (both UCS Elementary and UCS Secondary) demonstrated commendable academic performance for the 2023-2024 school year. UCS Elementary excelled with substantial improvements in ELA (+9) and Science (+17), showing strong overall growth in these subjects while maintaining stable Math performance. UCS Secondary showed consistent progress, especially in Science (+16), but experienced a slight decline in Math, indicating an area for improvement.

Overall, University Charter School showcases strong academic growth, especially in Science, making it a competitive institution within the district. Continued focus on enhancing Math and ELA scores, particularly at UCS Secondary, will help sustain and build upon its academic achievements.

Annual Report Review

The NACSA report outlines the importance and structure of annual performance reports for charter schools. These reports serve to monitor academic, financial, and organizational health and ensure transparency, accountability, and effective communication between charter schools and their authorizers. Each charter schools conducted a self-assessment and an evaluation of the reports were conducted by the charter school commission academic and financial specialists. The section below summarizes the annual reports.

Summary of the Performance Report for Magic City Acceptance Academy (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluates MCAA’s academic, financial, and organizational performance. The report provides a comprehensive review of the school's achievements and compliance with APCSC standards while highlighting areas for growth and improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **Standards Met:** MCAA meets standards for state and federal accountability, academic proficiency, academic growth, and postsecondary readiness. The school achieved a notable 100% graduation rate, though the Alabama State Report Card assigned it a score of 66, reflecting its unique student demographic and some initial data challenges.
- **Challenges and Goals:** Chronic absenteeism (nearly 28%) and lower math proficiency scores were noted as areas needing improvement. MCAA is actively addressing these issues with math intervention classes and expanded support services.

2. Financial Performance:

- **Strengths:** MCAA meets standards in several financial areas, including the current ratio, enrollment variance, debt default status, and cash flow, indicating financial stability in the short term.

- **Areas for Improvement:** Unrestricted days cash on hand and total margin fell below expectations, highlighting a need for long-term financial sustainability planning.
3. **Organizational Performance:**
- **Compliance:** MCAA fully complies with educational program requirements, governance, financial management, student rights, and health and safety standards, reflecting strong organizational practices and adherence to state and federal guidelines.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** MCAA has established a positive trajectory in academic growth, especially with its 100% graduation rate and 72% college and career readiness rate. The school demonstrates a commitment to serving a diverse, often underserved population in an LGBTQ-affirming environment.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Despite overall academic compliance, MCAA faces challenges with chronic absenteeism and math proficiency. The school's demographic, which includes students who have struggled in traditional settings, has impacted initial achievement scores. To address this, MCAA has implemented math intervention classes, free tutoring, and targeted support services.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** MCAA shows strong short-term financial health with a current ratio of 3.87, meeting enrollment projections, and maintaining cash flow and debt standards.
- **Challenges:** With a total margin of -0.23 and limited unrestricted cash on hand, the school's financial sustainability is a concern. To bolster long-term stability, MCAA may benefit from enhancing its cash reserves and exploring funding sources to secure ongoing operational support.

Organizational Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** MCAA meets all compliance and governance standards, highlighting its organizational integrity and strong oversight in financial management, employee and student rights, and adherence to health and safety protocols. Leadership roles, including mental health coordination and academic counseling, reflect the school’s focus on student well-being and academic readiness.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Expanding on its community-based approach to student retention could further reduce absenteeism rates and support students' integration and success. Additionally, as the school matures, refining data collection and reporting processes will ensure that performance metrics accurately reflect MCAA's achievements and ongoing improvements.

Conclusion and Recommendations: MCAA’s comprehensive support structure and specialized focus contribute significantly to its students' successes. Strengthening financial sustainability and addressing chronic absenteeism will enhance MCAA’s capacity to serve its student population effectively. Strategic planning for financial reserves and continued development of data accuracy processes will further align MCAA with APCSC standards, positioning it for sustained growth and success in its mission.

Summary of the Annual Report Review for Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluates AAHS academic, financial, and organizational performance. The report provides a comprehensive review of the school's achievements and compliance with APCSC standards while highlighting areas for growth and improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **Standards Met:** AAHS meets all academic performance standards, including state and federal accountability, academic proficiency, and academic growth, though the report notes that the school’s ACT performance (15.5) does not meet the benchmark.

2. **Financial Performance:**

- **Strengths:** The school meets short-term financial health standards, with a stable current ratio and debt-free status.
- **Challenges:** Issues with financial sustainability are noted, including a lack of unrestricted cash on hand, negative total margin, and cash flow constraints. These concerns highlight the need for stronger financial reserves and long-term sustainability planning.

3. **Organizational Performance:**

- **Compliance:** AAHS is fully compliant with educational program standards, governance, financial oversight, and organizational requirements, indicating strong adherence to operational regulations and fiduciary responsibilities.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** AAHS is performing well academically, meeting state and federal benchmarks, which demonstrates its alignment with core educational standards. The proficiency levels in core subjects like English and science suggest effective instruction.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Despite overall compliance, the ACT score is an area of concern. To address this, the school could implement targeted academic interventions, such as ACT prep courses or additional tutoring, to support students in achieving higher postsecondary readiness scores.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** The school demonstrates good near-term financial health, with no debt and a stable current ratio.
- **Challenges:** The report's concern over unrestricted cash, total margin, and cash flow issues points to potential financial risks. To mitigate these, AAHS may consider enhancing its cash reserves, possibly by revisiting budget allocations or securing additional funding sources, to ensure longer-term fiscal health.

Organizational Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** AAHS’s compliance with all organizational, governance, and operational standards reflects sound management and oversight, underscoring the school’s commitment to providing a secure, well-regulated educational environment.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Although compliance is strong, the school could benefit from exploring additional community and stakeholder engagement practices to strengthen transparency and support long-term sustainability.

Conclusion and Recommendations: The report underscores AAHS’s commitment to academic achievement and organizational stability. Enhancing financial sustainability and addressing the ACT performance gap are priorities for the school’s ongoing success. By building financial reserves and exploring ways to bolster student outcomes, AAHS will be better positioned for long-term operational and educational success.

Summary of the Annual Performance Report for Covenant Academy of Mobile (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluated CAM’s academic, financial, and organizational performance for the 2023-2024 school year, focusing on the school's compliance with federal and state standards. This report is a key tool for the APCSC in assessing CAM's renewal application and identifying areas of strength and improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **ELA Proficiency:** CAM's proficiency in ELA stands at 56%, surpassing the county and state averages.
- **Math and Science Proficiency:** Math proficiency is relatively low at 21%, while science proficiency is 29%, which is slightly below the county and state levels.
- **Grade-Level Proficiency:** CAM’s 3rd- and 5th-grade students performed well in ELA compared to other charter schools in Alabama, with the 5th grade ranking first in ELA proficiency among Alabama charter schools.

2. Financial Performance:

- The report includes general guidelines for evaluating CAM’s financial sustainability through measures like the current ratio, unrestricted days cash on hand, and enrollment variance, but specific data on CAM's financial status for 2023-2024 is not provided.
3. **Organizational Performance:**
- **Compliance:** CAM meets requirements for educational program compliance, governance, and student rights protections. The school also adheres to health, safety, and facilities standards, demonstrating strong organizational stability.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** CAM’s ELA performance is strong, with 3rd and 5th grades excelling in proficiency among Alabama charter schools. This demonstrates CAM’s effective literacy programs and instructional support for reading.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Math and science proficiency rates are lower than desirable. To improve these scores, CAM may consider implementing targeted math interventions, tutoring programs, and additional support for STEM subjects to help bridge achievement gaps and align with state standards.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** Although specific financial data is unavailable, CAM’s focus on financial measures such as the current ratio and cash reserves suggests a commitment to fiscal health and sustainability.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Securing a stable financial base with reserves to cover potential shortfalls and managing cash flow efficiently will be essential as CAM grows. The school should prioritize building financial resilience to enhance long-term viability.

Organizational Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** CAM’s adherence to governance, reporting, and student rights compliance reflects sound management practices. Protecting student and employee rights and

meeting health and safety standards showcase CAM's commitment to a secure and supportive learning environment.

- **Areas for Development:** Continued monitoring and adaptation to ensure that CAM's organizational practices remain effective as the school scales will further strengthen operational stability.

Conclusion and Recommendations: CAM demonstrates strengths in ELA proficiency and organizational stability. Focusing on improving math and science scores and establishing a solid financial framework will further enhance CAM's performance. By prioritizing these improvements, CAM will position itself effectively for long-term success and renewal.

Summary of the Annual Performance Report for University Charter School (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) report evaluates UCS's academic, financial, and organizational performance, providing a comprehensive overview for the school's stakeholders. This report supports UCS's renewal application and identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **Standards Exceeded:** UCS exceeds standards in overall academic performance, with a state accountability rating of 83/B, surpassing the local district's score of 62.
- **Proficiency:** UCS shows high proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) at 56.78% and science at 33.85%, both exceeding Sumter County averages. Math proficiency stands at 32.18%, which is also above the county average.
- **Growth:** UCS demonstrates 100% growth across all subjects, showing substantial improvement among student subgroups, including economically disadvantaged and special education students.

2. Financial Performance:

- **Stability:** UCS meets financial standards, with a high current ratio (5.98), unrestricted days cash on hand (94.94), and positive enrollment variance

(97.29%). Additionally, the school shows a healthy operating margin (8.5%) and low debt-to-asset ratio (0.17).

3. **Organizational Performance:**

- **Compliance:** UCS meets all organizational and compliance standards, demonstrating effective governance, adherence to financial management principles, and protections for student and employee rights.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** UCS's academic achievements in ELA and science reflect effective instructional practices, with scores significantly above county averages. The school's commitment to student growth is evident, especially with 100% growth across subjects and subgroups, indicating targeted support for diverse learners.
- **Areas for Improvement:** While UCS surpasses local math performance, proficiency remains lower than desirable at 32.18%. The school could enhance math interventions and tutoring support to close achievement gaps and bring math performance closer to state averages.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** UCS exhibits strong financial health with ample cash reserves and a low debt-to-asset ratio, supporting both short-term and long-term fiscal stability. The high current ratio indicates UCS's strong ability to meet financial obligations, providing a solid foundation for future growth.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** To maintain fiscal resilience, UCS may benefit from continued monitoring of enrollment trends and exploring additional funding sources to support long-term sustainability as it scales its educational offerings.

Organizational Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** UCS's compliance with governance, reporting, and educational requirements indicates strong leadership and a commitment to a secure learning environment. The

school's protection of student and employee rights further strengthens its organizational stability and reputation.

- **Potential for Growth:** As UCS expands, enhancing community partnerships and increasing stakeholder engagement could further strengthen its organizational framework, aligning with its mission to provide collaborative, place-based education.

Conclusion and Recommendations: UCS demonstrates strengths in academic growth, financial stability, and organizational compliance. Addressing math proficiency through targeted support and maintaining fiscal health as the school grows will position UCS for continued success. Enhanced community partnerships and increased engagement with stakeholders will also support UCS's mission and long-term impact.

Summary of the LEAD Academy Montgomery Annual Performance Report (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluates LEAD Academy academic, financial, and organizational performance. The report provides a comprehensive review of the school's achievements and compliance with APCSC standards while highlighting areas for growth and improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **Progress:** LEAD Academy improved state ratings, with the primary school moving from an "F" to a "D" and the intermediate school from an "F" to a "C." The intermediate school was also recognized among the top 25 most improved schools in Alabama.
- **Proficiency Levels:** The school's overall proficiency rates are 31.03% in English and 22.02% in science, both of which are above comparable local non-magnet schools. However, math proficiency is notably low at 2.38%.
- **Growth:** LEAD demonstrated strong growth, with 70% in English and 56% in math, showing positive academic development among students.

2. Financial Performance:

- **Stability:** LEAD meets financial standards, with a high current ratio (16.66) and enrollment variance (106%), indicating financial stability and growth. The school has maintained a positive total margin and improved cash flow.
 - **Challenges:** The report notes prior issues with audit delays due to the auditing firm, which has since been replaced, and past challenges with the Child Nutrition Program (CNP), which have been resolved.
3. **Organizational Performance:**
- **Compliance:** LEAD Academy meets all organizational standards, with full compliance in areas such as educational program adherence, student and employee rights, governance, and reporting. The school successfully meets health, safety, and facility requirements.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** LEAD Academy's improvements in state ratings and recognition as a top-improving school indicate successful academic initiatives. The growth metrics in English and math reflect LEAD's effectiveness in supporting student development.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Despite progress, proficiency in math remains low. LEAD could implement targeted math intervention programs, tutoring, and data-driven instructional strategies to address math performance gaps and improve overall achievement levels.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** LEAD's strong current ratio and positive enrollment variance reflect financial health and a stable fiscal foundation. The school's proactive approach in addressing audit issues and CNP compliance demonstrates effective financial oversight.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Continued attention to cash reserves and financial planning will support LEAD's financial resilience as the school expands. Ensuring timely financial reporting and maintaining strict compliance standards will be essential to uphold credibility and sustainability.

Organizational Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** LEAD’s compliance with all governance, reporting, and safety standards reflects robust organizational management and operational stability. Adherence to staff credentialing and background checks underscores LEAD’s commitment to a secure educational environment.
- **Potential for Growth:** Building stronger community partnerships and increasing parent engagement could further enhance LEAD’s organizational impact, especially in supporting students from historically underserved backgrounds.

Conclusion and Recommendations: LEAD Academy demonstrates meaningful improvements in academic performance and maintains solid financial health. Enhancing math proficiency, sustaining financial transparency, and expanding community engagement will support LEAD’s trajectory toward long-term success and positive outcomes for students

Summary of the i3 2024 Annual Performance Report

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluates i3’s academic, financial, and organizational performance. The report provides a comprehensive review of the school's achievements and compliance with APCSC standards while highlighting areas for growth and improvement.

Key Points:

1. Enrollment and Demographics:

- i3 Academy serves 798 students across grades K-9, with a waiting list of 350. Approximately 88% of students are Black, and 70% are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, reflecting a strong commitment to underserved communities.

2. Academic Performance:

- The school has shown improvements in English and Science proficiency and has implemented a new curriculum for the 2024-25 academic year to drive further gains in middle and high school. The goal is to surpass local and state proficiency rates in core subjects and to foster college and career readiness among high school students.

3. **Financial Health:**

- i3 Academy has maintained fiscal stability by optimizing staffing and securing financial oversight through a Chief Financial Officer and a new service provider. Adjustments were made to address recent cash flow challenges, including restructuring staff to ensure sustainability.

4. **Organizational and Governance Structures:**

- The school has updated its leadership structure, adding principals and key administrators to support expanded grade levels. The Board of Directors remains involved in governance, with recent roster updates to ensure effective oversight.

5. **Future Expansion:**

- i3 Academy plans to fully establish its high school program, partnering with Jeff State for dual enrollment opportunities, enabling students to graduate with college credits. The curriculum aligns with Alabama's graduation requirements and includes career and technical education options to support diverse student goals.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** i3 Academy's commitment to instructional quality is evident in its adoption of research-backed curricula and the integration of dual enrollment for high school students. The focus on project-based learning and comprehensive student support systems has proven beneficial, as shown by growth in academic performance, especially in literacy.
- **Opportunities for Improvement:** Math proficiency is an area that requires focused intervention, as it has not progressed at the same rate as ELA. The recent adoption of A+ College Ready curriculum and additional support for teachers are promising strategies to bridge this gap and meet academic goals.

Financial Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** The separation of financial and operational oversight into distinct roles improves accountability, while the engagement of a specialized service provider

enhances daily financial operations. These changes demonstrate i3 Academy’s proactive approach to financial management, essential for long-term stability.

- **Challenges:** Recent reductions in cash reserves required budget adjustments, but collaboration with board members and external partners has addressed immediate financial concerns. Continued attention to cash flow and building reserves will further strengthen financial health as the school expands.

Organizational and Governance Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** i3 Academy’s strengthened leadership team reflects a responsive approach to growth, with new roles to manage the K-12 scope effectively. Compliance with governance and reporting requirements underscores a strong organizational foundation.
- **Future Focus:** Enhancing community partnerships and expanding wrap-around services will be vital as the school scales. Ensuring continuous professional development for teachers across grade levels will also help maintain instructional quality as the student body diversifies.

Conclusion and Recommendations: i3 Academy has made meaningful strides in academic growth, financial stability, and organizational capacity. Addressing math performance gaps, fortifying financial reserves, and fostering strong community partnerships will position i3 for sustained success in its mission to serve Birmingham’s students effectively. Continued investment in dual enrollment and career pathways will further support i3 Academy’s vision of college and career readiness.

Summary of the Breakthrough Charter School Annual Performance Report (2023-2024)

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) evaluates Breakthrough’s academic, financial, and organizational performance. The report provides a comprehensive review of the school's achievements and compliance with APCSC standards while highlighting areas for growth and improvement.

Key Findings:

1. Academic Performance:

- **Participation Rates:** The school achieved high participation rates in state assessments, with 96.88% in reading, 97.26% in math, and 95.56% in science, exceeding state expectations.
 - **School Grade:** Breakthrough received a "D" rating, indicating it does not meet state standards.
 - **Academic Achievement:** Despite the "D" grade, Breakthrough exceeded district comparison rates in reading (41.2% vs. 20.8%), math (10% vs. 7.8%), and science (16.3% vs. 8.5%), though it remains below the state averages.
 - **Academic Growth:** Breakthrough's academic growth was rated as meeting expectations, with 82.3% of students showing sufficient growth, close to the district's 83.1%.
2. **Student Demographics:**
- **Enrollment and Diversity:** Breakthrough serves 371 students, with 65.77% identifying as Black and 28.3% as White. A significant portion of the student population, 72.51%, qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch.
3. **Mission-Specific Goals:** The school meets its mission-specific academic goals, indicating progress toward service-oriented and project-based learning objectives that align with its mission to support student development beyond traditional academics.

Evaluation Notes

Academic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** The high participation rates in assessments show Breakthrough's commitment to academic accountability. Additionally, the school has surpassed district averages in academic proficiency in reading, math, and science, indicating that it is effectively raising student performance relative to the local context.
- **Areas for Improvement:** The "D" school grade highlights challenges in meeting state benchmarks. Focusing on strategies to align academic achievement closer to state averages, particularly in math and science, will be critical. Breakthrough could implement targeted interventions and enhanced instructional support in these areas to improve proficiency levels.

Organizational and Demographic Evaluation:

- **Strengths:** Breakthrough’s commitment to serving a diverse and historically underserved population aligns well with its mission. The significant proportion of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch underscores the school’s role in providing equitable educational opportunities.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Expanding support for English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities can further support inclusivity and responsiveness to community needs. Increased resources for these groups would strengthen Breakthrough’s educational impact and reinforce its mission to support individual student growth.

Conclusion and Recommendations: Breakthrough Charter School has shown success in improving academic performance relative to district averages and meeting mission-specific goals. Addressing gaps in state proficiency benchmarks, particularly in math and science, should be a priority to enhance overall academic standing. Continued focus on social-emotional learning and individualized support for diverse student needs will reinforce the school’s mission and drive further improvements.

Financial Performance and Accountability

A necessary condition for an organization to operate a public school, charter or not, is the financial resources required to meet the needs of students. In Alabama, the bulk of these resources for public charter schools originate from state and federal sources supplemented by grants and donations from private entities. Opening a new charter school is complicated by the fact that state and federal resources only apply once open - so planning and initial start-up costs all must be handled through grants and donations. While traditional public schools can tap local tax dollars, thus far in Alabama public charter schools have not been able to do so at a significant level. Even once open and operational public charter schools are at a fiscal disadvantage to their traditional peer schools in the school system. Public charter schools are not allowed to charge tuition, or collect any fees above what a traditional public school allows. Hence, in many ways public charter schools are being asked to do more with much less.

The financial health of public charter schools are determined by a Near-Term indicator and a Sustainability indicator. Because of the local landscape in Alabama, an additional Flexibility indicator is also used. As suggested by the name, the Near-Term indicator uses measures that reflect the charters ability to meet the short-term financial needs of the institution and thus keep the school operational through the academic year. The Sustainability indicator determines the charters ability to stay operational for the next several years, making sure the organization is on a firm financial standing with financial metrics trending in a favorable direction. The Flexibility indicator reflects the ability of the school to innovate, by describing the types of fund available and the restrictions on those funds.

All schools within the portfolio achieved a Meets Standards rating for the Near Term indicator. The Current Ratio for schools ranged from 2.2 to 80.6 with the best practices target at 1.1 or higher. Days Cash ranged from 49 to 203 days,

where the target is 30 days or more. There is some concern with Enrollment Variance, but it should be noted that the capacity numbers for the schools are dated coming from the original Charter Contract and do not reflect the actual capacity of the school. Rectifying the capacity of the school with what is listed in the Charter Contract is a top agenda item over the next year. No school is in default, and the Revenue Projection Ratio is higher than the Expense Projection Ratio for all but one school. The Charter Schools within the portfolio are living within their means.

Near-Term Measures						
	Current Ratio	Days Cash	Enrollment Variance	Debt Default	Revenue Projection Ratio	Expense Projection Ratio
Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School	10.3	70	38%	NO	0.87	0.79
Breakthrough Charter School	9.6	150	98%	NO	1.09	0.89
Covenant Academy of Mobile			75%	NO		
Empower Community School	80.6	137	55%	NO	1.01	0.84
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	2.2	98		NO	N/A	N/A
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	N/A	N/A	43%	NO	N/A	N/A
I-3 Academy	8.1	61	95%	NO	0.84	0.94
LEAD Academy Montgomery	28.2	96	93%	NO	0.87	0.65
Legacy Prep	25.7	166	93%	NO	1.42	1.02
ACCEL Academy (MAEF)	22.5	115	114%	NO	1.45	1.09
Magic City Acceptance Academy	5	49	81%	NO	0.98	0.95
University Charter School	2.9	203	96%	NO	1.11	1.1

All schools within the portfolio achieved a Meets Standards rating for the Sustainability indicator. All FY24 Actual Cash Flows are positive with favorable Current Margins ranging from 4.89% to 21.41% (the standard is 1.5% or higher). The projected Cash Flows are more mixed with several in the negatives, however these projections are based on the FY 2025 budgets which are conservative. The Revenue Projection Ratio and Expense Projection Ratios suggest that schools in the portfolio tend to underestimate revenues and overestimate expenses during the budgeting process. This resulted in slightly negative cash flows in several FY25 budgets. All Carry-overs, actual FY24 and projected FY25, are positive. The Current Net per student is \$1000 or more and Current Carry-Overs per student are substantial for all schools (dividing by enrollment adjusts for the size of the school). While historical trends on each of these metrics would provide a fuller picture for Sustainability, that data is not available for all charters at this time. Furthermore, as Alabama is an emerging market and most schools in the portfolio are still in the growth phase, historical data has limited usefulness. Moving forward, this historical data will be kept and included in the annual report. Regardless, all schools within the portfolio provide substantial evidence of fiscal sustainability.

Sustainability - Past - Based on FY24 Actuals					
	Current Net: (Cash Flow)	Current Margin	Current Carry- Over	Current Net per student	Current Carry- Over per student
Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School	\$326,210	7.30%	\$719,712	\$2,330	\$5,141
Breakthrough Charter School	\$1,377,642	19.78%	\$2,049,345	\$3,892	\$5,789
Covenant Academy of Mobile					

Empower Community School	\$1,568,340	21.41%	\$2,138,172	\$3,892	\$5,306
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	\$210,588	14.00%	\$198,780		
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
I-3 Academy	\$808,869	4.89%	\$2,361,625	\$1,001	\$2,923
LEAD Academy Montgomery	\$2,154,965	17.31%	\$4,006,800	\$2,912	\$5,415
Legacy Prep	\$1,611,572	16.84%	\$3,498,835	\$2,995	\$6,503
ACCEL Academy (MAEF)	\$1,320,885	8.90%	\$4,067,306	\$1,591	\$4,900
Magic City Acceptance Academy	\$457,914	6.32%	\$735,472	\$1,145	\$1,839
University Charter School	\$1,347,603	10.06%	\$4,462,694	\$2,089	\$6,919

Sustainability - Future - Based on FY25 Budgets					
	Projected Net (Cash Flow)	Projected Margin	Projected Carry-Over	Projected Net per student	Projected Carry-Over per student
Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School	\$10,147	0.29%	\$729,858	\$72	\$5,213
Breakthrough Charter School	\$339,300	6.30%	\$2,388,645	\$958	\$6,748
Covenant Academy of Mobile					
Empower Community School	-\$377,127	-7.03%	\$1,761,044	-\$936	\$4,370
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	\$131,553	4.02%	\$330,332		
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	\$339,399	11.82%	N/A	\$9,982	N/A
I-3 Academy	-\$737,765	-5.28%	\$1,623,860	-\$913	\$2,010

LEAD Academy Montgomery	-\$4,177	-0.04%	\$4,002,623	-\$6	\$5,409
Legacy Prep	-\$2,347,849	-34.09%	\$1,150,986	-\$4,364	\$2,139
ACCEL Academy (MAEF)	-\$2,264,619	-22.37%	\$1,802,687	-\$2,728	\$2,172
Magic City Acceptance Academy	-\$109,247	-1.76%	\$626,225	-\$273	\$1,566
University Charter School	\$607,885	6.10%	\$5,070,579	\$942	\$7,861

Seven of the twelve schools in the portfolio obtain a Meets Standards on the Flexibility Indicator, while the other five obtain an Approaches Standards rating. The main metric is the percentage of revenues that originate from state or federal sources with the target being 90% or lower. Funds received from state or federal sources tend to be targeted towards specific purposes with little flexibility to move those funds towards other needs. This can pigeonhole charters into a financial framework that looks remarkably similar to traditional public schools and remove the ability for the charter school to innovate. The initial target of 90% is geared to allow some flexibility to fund innovative and/or mission specific programming. Five schools meet the flexibility standard using FY24 Actuals, all but one meet the standard based on FY25 budget projections.

Flexibility		
	FY24 Actual State & Federal Revenue Percent:	FY25 Projected State & Federal Revenue Percent:
Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School	93.77%	76.44%
Breakthrough Charter School	93.29%	84.19%
Covenant Academy of Mobile		

Empower Community School	78.70%	81.96%
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	20.38%	75.11%
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	N/A	45.14%
I-3 Academy	90.66%	73.17%
LEAD Academy Montgomery	98.06%	90.70%
Legacy Prep	91.36%	80.78%
ACCEL Academy (MAEF)	68.45%	71.99%
Magic City Acceptance Academy	77.27%	59.95%
University Charter School	78.21%	77.49%

It should be noted that best practice is to use audited financial statements to calculate fiscal metrics. This would require using audited FY23 data which is only available for a subset of the operating charters. Additionally, dated audited data loses relevance when schools are in the growth phase which is the case for a majority of the schools in the portfolio. Since the charter landscape in Alabama is rapidly changing, the decision was made to use unaudited FY24 end of year actuals and the charter school board approved FY25 budgets.

Organizational Performance and Accountability

The last axis along which Public Charter Schools are measured is on organizational capacity. To operate effectively, a school must have dedicated and innovative key personnel who can not only manage the academic needs of their students but also follow all state and federal rules and regulations. The School Board should take an active role in the management of the school.

The best indicators for whether the charter leadership team has the organizational capacity to operate a school are if the school is academically rigorous and financially sound - and on both of these measures the schools in the portfolio perform admirably. However there are a significant number of other indicators upon which the school's organizational performance can be measured and on some of these indicators the sector has struggled - particularly with reporting requirements to ALSDE. Public charter schools operate as both a school and an LEA. The charter school's executive director is often both the principal and the superintendent. The charter's volunteer school board acts as a school system's school board (which often has compensation attached for traditional schools). The net effect is that a collective of a few people (sometimes 2-4) for a charter school take the role of tens of individuals at the local school system level.

An additional complication arises with institutional memory. Charters are relatively new to Alabama and the reporting requirements for school systems to the state has a significant learning curve. While each individual task is relatively simple and ALSDE provides several opportunities for training, the number of tasks can be overwhelming. If a charter loses key personnel, that institutional memory is also lost and often the charter must start over. This reality is a source of frustration on both the school's end and at ALSDE. Since the state and federal funding is

routed through ALSDE, and a public charter school can not exist without state and federal funding, this can put ALSDE in a difficult position of being asked to fund a school which has been unable to complete all reporting tasks. Holding up the funding effectively means closing the school - which is not the outcome anyone wants. We all are working towards the same goal - a safe learning environment where our children can thrive.

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission has taken on the role of a liaison to assist our charter schools complete the necessary reporting requirements to remain compliant with ALSDE. This runs the gambit from Federal Programs, to Compliance Monitoring, to School Improvement, to Transportation, to Certification, etc. While sometimes this is as simple as connecting a charter to the correct person at ALSDE, it can be more hands-on with guiding a charter employee step-by-step through a process. Because of state and federal laws, and the rules and regulations at ALSDE, the requirements are not always intuitive and the amount of documentation necessary is not always obvious. This educational role by the Commission is critical to the success of our portfolio of schools.

ALSDE completes in-depth, comprehensive, compliance monitoring of school systems including charter schools on a revolving basis with public charters starting in the second year of being open with students. If the findings are unfavorable to the system, ALSDE may repeat that monitoring into a second year and has the right to monitor any system at any time for any reason. This comprehensive compliance monitoring by ALSDE provides the best data upon which to evaluate the organizational effectiveness of the portfolio of schools. The table on the next page provides some information on the timing of the ALSDE for the Commission's portfolio of schools. It should be noted that the complete report is several hundred pages long which covers every state and federal law and the documentation necessary to prove compliance.

ALSDE Compliance Monitoring Schedule				
	Year Students Began Attending	Last Compliance Monitoring Year	Scheduled This Academic Year	Next Scheduled Compliance Monitoring Year
Alabama Aerospace & Aviation High School	2022	2023	No	2028
Breakthrough Charter School	2021	2021	No	2027
Covenant Academy of Mobile	2023	N/A	No	2029
Empower Community School	2022	2023	No	2028
Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy	2024	N/A	Pre-Compliance Monitoring Visit	2025
Freedom Preparatory Academy - Birmingham	2024	N/A	Pre-Compliance Monitoring Visit	2025
I-3 Academy	2020	2021	No	2026
LEAD Academy Montgomery	2019	2021	No	2025
Legacy Prep	2019	2022	No	2025
ACCEL Academy (MAEF)	2017	2018	Yes	
Magic City Acceptance Academy	2021	2022	No	2027
University Charter School	2018	2019	Yes	

Generally when a charter undergoes ALSDE compliance monitoring, there will be several findings - some more serious than others - which must be rectified. The Commission plays a role in helping the schools within our portfolio meet these standards and correct the problems.

When it comes to compliance with reporting requirements to ALSDE, several schools within the portfolio rate: Does Not Meet Standards, depending upon category, with the reasons articulated above.

In addition to meeting reporting requirements to ALSDE there are several other indicators that schools in our portfolio are expected to meet. While these are measured by ALSDE Compliance Monitoring, we pull them separately as critical indicators of the organizational health of the charter.

Charter leadership teams demonstrate organizational capacity by ensuring schools are academically rigorous and financially stable. While portfolio schools meet these standards, challenges persist in meeting ALSDE reporting requirements. Charter schools operate as both schools and Local Education Agencies (LEAs), with the executive director often serving as principal and superintendent, and a volunteer board functioning as the school system board. This setup means that a small group of people handles responsibilities usually managed by a larger team in traditional school systems.

A particular challenge is maintaining institutional memory. Since charters are new to Alabama, meeting state reporting requirements can be complex. ALSDE offers training, but the volume of tasks can be overwhelming. Losing key staff can result in lost institutional knowledge, requiring charters to restart processes, which frustrates both the school and ALSDE. As state and federal funding depends on ALSDE, incomplete reporting can put funding—and the school’s future—at risk.

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission helps charter schools fulfill ALSDE’s reporting requirements, offering support from Federal Programs to Certification. This role, whether connecting charters with ALSDE contacts or guiding staff step-by-step, is essential for portfolio success. ALSDE conducts in-depth compliance monitoring for all schools, starting in a charter's second operational year, and may monitor any school system as needed. Compliance data provides valuable insights into each school’s organizational effectiveness.

Chart:

ALSDE compliance monitoring often identifies areas requiring improvement, and the Commission assists schools in addressing these issues. Some schools in the portfolio receive a "Does Not Meet Standards" rating for ALSDE reporting compliance in certain categories, as described.

Other indicators, aside from ALSDE reporting, are also monitored as key measures of each charter school's organizational health.

Conclusion

Charter schools in Alabama are navigating a challenging landscape. Since the passage of the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act in 2015 several obstacles impact their ability to operate smoothly, expand, and meet community needs. One of the primary hurdles is securing adequate funding. Unlike traditional public schools, which receive stable state and local funding, Alabama's charter schools often rely heavily on grants and donations to cover costs, especially in the initial years of operation.

Beyond opening, Alabama charter schools often struggle to attract qualified staff due to competition with traditional schools, where teachers may find more stability or benefits. Charter schools have limited budgets and, therefore, must be creative with staffing and resources, which can lead to burnout or high teacher and administrator turnover.

Once operational, charter schools in Alabama continue to face hurdles in terms of facilities and resources. Charter schools generally cannot access state-provided buildings, forcing them to either renovate older buildings or pay for leased spaces, which significantly strains their budgets. Additionally, as they serve diverse communities, these schools need to offer various support services, from special education resources to extracurricular activities, to meet the needs of all students.

Ultimately, Alabama charter schools need supportive policies, access to consistent funding, and community engagement to thrive. Adjustments in funding allocations, facility access, and hiring support would help ensure that charter

schools in Alabama can provide quality education and address community needs effectively.

In Alabama, charter schools are held to high performance expectations despite their relative infancy. Since the first charter schools opened under the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act, all Alabama charter schools are less than ten years old. They operate in a system where they are expected to match and often surpass the performance of their traditional public school counterparts but with considerably less time to establish themselves.

Unlike public schools with decades of institutional history, these young schools are building their programs, cultures, and communities from the ground up. This pressure for quick results is rooted in their accountability to state regulators and their communities. Alabama charter schools must prove their efficacy almost immediately to secure continued funding and justify their existence. The Alabama Public Charter School Commission monitors these schools' performance, especially focusing on academic outcomes, which are often reviewed within the first two to five years.

Moreover, Alabama charter schools are expected to serve a wide range of students, including those who may have struggled in traditional school settings. This expectation amplifies the challenge, as these schools must quickly establish targeted support programs and interventions to meet diverse student needs while still achieving strong academic results.

The time constraints and high performance demands can be overwhelming. Building a successful educational environment often takes years of refinement, adjustments, and resources. Yet Alabama charter schools must accomplish this within the first few years of opening, demonstrating outcomes, securing family

support, and satisfying regulatory demands all at once. These schools are balancing the immense challenge of rapid development with the necessity to prove their worth and succeed in an education landscape that traditionally requires much more time to show progress.

To continue thriving under these pressures, Alabama charter schools need understanding and support. Policies that recognize their unique challenges, funding structures that acknowledge their need for rapid growth, and community involvement will be essential in helping these schools succeed and fulfill their promise of providing high-quality education alternatives across Alabama.