



2024-2025 Charter Renewal Application Packet – Douglas County Montessori School

PACKET CONTENTS

Attachment #1: Renewal Application & Attachments: [DC Montessori Application](#); [DC Montessori Application \(Attachments\)](#)

Attachment #2: Performance Frameworks: [2019](#), [2022](#), [2023](#), [2024](#)

Attachment #3: Choice Programming Annual Site Visit Reports: [2022-23 DCMS Site Visit](#), [2023-24 DCMS Site Visit](#), [2024 Safety - Security Renewal Site Visit](#)

Attachment #4: External Reviewer Site Visit Report: [DC Montessori Outside Reviewer](#)

Attachment #5: Current Charter Contract: [DC Montessori Current Contract](#)

RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of DCSD staff that the charter contract between Douglas County School District (DCSD) and DC Montessori School be renewed for a term of 5 years.

RENEWAL APPLICATION PROCESS & EVALUATION:

The renewal process provides an opportunity for schools to (1) present any new or supplemental evidence of school performance and (2) articulate school plans and capacities for the next charter term. The charter renewal recommendation to the Board will be based on an array of evidence gathered over the charter term, including data and information collected by Douglas County School District Office of Choice Programming, the Colorado Department of Education, and any supplemental information that the applicant group provides.

The renewal process begins in September when the charter school declares its intent to apply for renewal. No later than September 1, the charter school submits its Renewal Application to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming. All information is presented to the Superintendent’s Cabinet through a compilation of evidence collected through the school’s site visit, an analysis of the school’s educational, operational, and financial health, and any feedback provided to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming by the applicant team upon initial review of this final report.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Mission: The Mission of the DCS Montessori is to provide students with an opportunity to acquire an education based on an authentic and accredited curriculum founded on the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori. **Vision:** DCS Montessori Charter School students enrich the world through positive and substantial contributions in their chosen endeavors.

Key Design Elements:

- Montessori elements - kinesthetic modality for all early learning transitioning into more traditional modalities as child development progresses.
- Focused goals are on the “whole child” and long term “successful adult (25 year old)”
- Students’ goals are independence, strong work ethic, empathy, and social problem solving skills.

Information Since Last Renewal:

- DC Montessori is now part of the shared SRO pool, providing consistent SRO coverage to the school
- Sources of Strength will continue to Middle School, while also expanding to Elementary grades for SEL
- In 2025, a Roof Solar project will position to school for environmental and financial sustainability
- DCS Montessori Board of Directors participates in annual training to ensure preparedness

- Overall Rating of EXEMPLARY by outside reviewer and successful annual reports by DCSD

Website link: <https://dcsmontessori.org/>

Address: 311 Castle Pines Parkway Castle Pines, CO 80108

Year Opened: 1997

School Model: Montessori Method

Grades Served: PK-8

Total Enrollment: 547



Subgroup	This School	This Region	DCSD
FRL	6.22%	7.30%	12.99%
SPED	6.95%	11.78%	12.86%
ML	2.01%	3.91%	4.80%
504	3.66%	5.09%	5.21%
GT	7.86%	18.88%	11.73%
Minority	31.99%	32.33%	33.32%

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS

<p>Is the school implementing the material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract?</p> <p>The school is implementing the essential terms of the education program in all material respects and the educational program in operation reflects the essential terms as defined in the charter, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructional days or minutes requirements Graduation and promotion requirements State assessments 	<p>YES</p>
<p>Is the school protecting the rights of all students?</p> <p>The school is protecting student rights pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a school in a district LEA Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and US Department of Education authorities relating to English Language Learner requirements Law, policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, enrollment, the collection and protection of student information Conduct of discipline procedures, including discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices, in compliance with CRS 22-33-105 and 22-33-106 Recognition of due process protections, privacy, civil rights and student liberties requirements, including 1st Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction 	<p>YES</p>

School Performance Framework Ratings (Retrieved from: Colorado Department of Education)

DC Montessori Charter School	SY 23-24	SY 22-23	SY 21-22	SY 20-21
DC Montessori Elementary	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)

DC Montessori Middle	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)
----------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	---------------------

OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

<p><i>Is the school complying with governance requirements?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board policies • Board bylaws • Conflicts of interest • Board composition and membership requirements, if applicable 	YES
<p><i>Is the school holding management accountable?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to oversight and evaluation of school leadership.</p>	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with reporting requirements?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to relevant reporting requirements to the authorizer, CDE, and/or federal authorities.</p>	YES
<p><i>Is the school meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to state certification requirements and background checks.</p>	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with facilities and transportation requirements?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to the school facilities, grounds, and transportation, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire inspections and related records • Certificate of occupancy • Documentation of insurance coverage • Student transportation 	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?</i></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate nursing services • Food services requirements, if applicable • Emergency management plan 	YES

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Asset Sufficiency Ratio (ASR) Benchmark ≥ 1			Operating Reserve Ratio (ORR) Benchmark ≥ .0192			Operating Margin Ratio (OMR) Benchmark ≥ .01			Change in Fund Balance Ratio (CFBR) Benchmark > 0			Default of loan covenant or delinquent on payment	Accreditation Issues Current Year	Accreditation Issues Prior Year	CDE Comment 22-23
2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022		2024	2023	2023
4.94	6.19	6.02	0.20	0.26	0.27	-0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.10	0.08	0.13	No	None	None	Ensure FIN DEC mirrors the audit going forward

A review of the past three years shows that Douglas County Montessori School met many of the fiscal benchmarks set forth by Douglas County School District. Douglas County Montessori School has 11 weeks of reserve fund balance, which has fluctuated over the last 5 years, but always met or exceeded the benchmark.

The school is below the Operating Margin Ratio benchmark for last year. Operating Margin Ratio indicates the amount added to reserves for every \$1 in total general fund gross revenue. Operating Margin has a benchmark of >.01, DCSM has met the benchmark in two of the last three years in 2022 with .03, .02 in 2023 and -.02 for 2024. The school missed the Change in Fund Balance ratio in 2024, this ratio indicates the change in the general fund balance and a consistent decline is not sustainable. Douglas County Montessori School has fluctuated in fund balance over the past five years from .08 in 2021 and 2023 while 2022 was at .13 the current ratio is a -.10 in 2024, the first year of a decrease in fund balance. Douglas County Montessori School shows overall good fiscal health and meets all financial deadlines.

COLORADO LAW - GROUNDS FOR NONRENEWAL

Colorado law (C.R.S. 22-30.5-110) specifies the grounds for revoking or not renewing a charter. A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

A. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;	NO
B. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;	NO
C. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;	NO
D. Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.	NO

Conditions Placed on the School: None