



Great Oak Kathleen Sherry Charter School | Site Visit Report Evaluative Comments

Benchmark 1: Student Performance

GO-NYC's student demographics demonstrate a significantly more disadvantaged population than New York State as a whole, and our student subgroups consistently perform strongly on the NYSTP. GO-NYC's academic results have demonstrated the school's ongoing commitment to not only striving toward high academic achievement across all subject areas, but also targeting the academic acceleration of students in need of additional support. Our team is proud of what our students have accomplished and we continue to refine our programming to increase achievement, but we respectfully ask the CSO to consider the most appropriate comparisons for our school for this charter term and adjust our Benchmark 1 rating to a "Meets" accordingly.

Until our move in 2023, GO-NYC was physically located within CSD 1. This is not a matter of selecting the most advantageous comparison: the vast majority of our students continue to reside in CSD 1 (48.2%). Only a small percentage of our students reside in CSD 2 (8.9%). There is precedent within the Regents' charter portfolio for utilizing the district where most of a school's students reside as the appropriate comparison, such as the Renaissance Charter Academy of the Arts (RACSA). While RACSA is physically located in the Greece CSD, the majority of its students reside in the Rochester CSD and the CSO consistently uses that district for the comparisons in Benchmarks 1 and 9. Other meaningful comparisons are drawn from the schools across NYS that NYSED identified as demographically similar to GO-NYC. Of these, GO-NYC substantially outperformed all of its most similar schools by double digits in ELA, math, and science.

The CSO included CSD 1 data in its Attachment 1, but in GO-NYC's renewal report, the narrative on page 8 only speaks to the performance differentials to CSD 2. Please see the version below for our proposed revisions or additions to that language.

“Based on the results of the 2024 NYSTP 3-8 Assessments, GO-NYC’s overall ELA proficiency of 49 percent is -11 percentage points below New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 1 where the majority of its students reside. The school’s overall math proficiency of 43 percent is 17 percentage points below NYC CSD 1. Notably, GO- NYC outperformed New York State (NYS) for All Students in ELA by +1 percentage point. GO-NYC’s students with disabilities (SWD) exceeded the performance of their CSD 1 peers by +10 in ELA and +9 in math; our SWD and economically disadvantaged (ED) subgroups also exceeded the State with differentials of +17 and +6 percentage points in ELA and +15 and +5 percentage points in math, respectively. Based on 2024 NYSTP results, GO-NYC’s overall maintenance of and trending toward proficiency was 62 percent for ELA and 56 percent for math.

The GO-NYC 2021 cohort will be the first for which 4-year graduation rate and Regents cohort data is available.”

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition

GO-NYC continues to strive to keep its financial health at the forefront to ensure continuous growth and sustainability. In fact, the school’s financial management has been steadily improving, as evidenced by the change in NYSED’s finding on Benchmark #5 from “Approaches” in 2022 to “Meets” in 2025.

As described in GO-NYC’s renewal application, the school has been impacted by declining enrollment in recent years, which has led to a decline in the financial composite score. GO-NYC has taken two important steps to improve its financial condition:

- **Enrollment cap:** In 2022, GO-NYC modified its charter to cap enrollment at 375 rather than 573 as originally chartered. This change has allowed the school to, over time, right-size its staff, operational activities, and facility to maintain a stronger financial position.
- **New facility:** In August 2023, GO-NYC moved from the second and third floors of a commercial office building to a fully functional middle and high school which includes a gym and new cafeteria. The move to a facility so conducive to student learning represents an investment in the long-term stability of the school - and one that will help it overcome the enrollment challenges impacting schools across New York City.

The 2024-2025 Renewal Report indicates that GO-NYC’s composite score dropped to 0.67 for the 2023-2024 school year, the year the school moved into its new facility. The move, while strategically important, had an outsized effect on the composite score. As cited in the Renewal

Report, given that GO-NYC entered into a long-term lease, the school is subject to ASC 842 lease accounting principles. The school appreciates that NYSED has taken into consideration that ACS 842 disproportionately affects schools with long-term leases. It is also important to note that the move brought other unexpected expenses, such as higher utilities costs, moving costs, and fixes around the building. These either represent one-time costs or costs that were underestimated in 2023-2024, and have been accurately budgeted for in the 2024-2025 budget.

With enrollment stabilized and the upheaval from the move settled, the school anticipates having a smaller percentage of revenue exceeding expenses and remaining in a stronger cash position going forward.