

September 9, 2026

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call –**
Board Members Present: Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willsen, Ekaterina Khmelniker, Jessica Crew, James Stark
Guests: Brittany Galles, Jennifer Hoover, Becky Page (remote), Ryan Sutton, Mindy Kiel, Sarah Chase, Marcus Neal, Julia Koch, Jordan Watkins **Jordan Watkins joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.**
3. **Board Member Exigencies and Remote Attendance –**
Action: Shall the board approve any board members to participate in this board meeting from a remote location due to just cause exceptions per SB 707?
Information: Members must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and if so, the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals; and ensure their meeting participation using both visual and audio technology.

TABLED. NO ACTION.
4. **Meredith read the Grace Virtue Card.**
5. **Public Comment –**
Bri D'Agostini Cheek made a public comment regarding hiring protocols.

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 5:09 p.m.
6. **Consent Agenda –**
It was moved by Jessica Crew and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve the following items by consent:

6.1 The Board approved the August 19, 2026, Annual Meeting Minutes.
6.2 The Board approved an out-of-state field trip for the Orchard School 7th Grade Class to Ashland, Oregon in the Fall of 2026.

(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)
7. **Appointment of New Members to the Board of Trustees –**
Meredith nominated Marcus Neal to the Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve to appoint Marcus Neal to the Board of Trustees.

(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

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Meredith nominated Julia Koch to the Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve to appoint Julia Koch to the Board of Trustees.

(Ayes: 3, Noes: 0, Abstain: 3, J. Crew, E. Khmelniker, M. Neal)

8. BOT Oath of Office –

Board members Marcus Neal and Julia Koch recited, completed and signed the Board of Trustees (BOT) Oath of Office for the 2026-2027 school year.

9. 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals, GVOS –

Brian Lara from CSMC presented the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals for GVOS. Brian's slides are included at the end of these Regular Meeting Minutes.

The financial report as of June 30, 2026, was presented in comparison to the Board-approved 2nd Interim Budget, based on enrollment of 315 students and ADA of 293.00. Year-to-date revenues were 5.8% over budget, primarily due to a \$29,000 increase in LCFF revenue, \$292,000 in STRS on Behalf State revenue, and a \$37,000 increase in local revenue from foundation grants, donations, and field trip revenue. Federal revenue was \$27,000 below budget after accounting for the \$375,000 ERC tax credit transferred from River to Orchard. The ERC tax credit is recorded below the line and added to the ending fiscal year position. Year-to-date expenses were 6.4% over budget, primarily due to personnel expenses, including \$292,000 in STRS on Behalf expense and a \$40,000 overspend in OASDI/Medicare and Health and Welfare benefits. These increases were partially offset by underspending in certificated salaries (\$28,000) and classified salaries (\$47,000). Books and Supplies were \$14,000 over budget, and Services were \$4,000 over budget.

The resulting net income/ending surplus position was \$1,106,647, including the \$375,000 ERC tax credit. As of June 30, 2026, Orchard reported total cash of \$719,703, short-term liabilities of \$298,817, and no long-term liabilities. The ending fund balance was \$873,510. Compared to the prior year-end close, Orchard's reconciled cash increased by \$719,603, from \$90 to \$719,703.

James commented on field trip revenue being included within all other local revenue. Brian confirmed field trip revenue will be coded as its own line item and will become visible when CSMC starts to prepare the First Interim Budget. Brian offered to show what this will look like on the income statement during the next Finance Committee Meeting. Board members clarified field trip revenue includes both field trip payments and fundraising.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals for Golden Valley Orchard School (GVOS).

(Ayes: 7, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

10. 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals, GVRs –

Brian Lara from CSMC presented the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals for GVRs. Brian's slides are included at the end of these Regular Meeting Minutes.

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The financial report as of June 30, 2026, was presented in comparison to the Board-approved 2nd Interim Budget, based on enrollment of 316 students and ADA of 297.00. Year-to-date revenues were 0.02% over budget, primarily due to \$210,000 in STRS on Behalf State revenue and a \$50,000 increase in local revenue from foundation grants, donations, and field trip revenue. These increases were largely offset by a \$235,000 LCFF funding clawback related to prior-year overpayments and a decrease in federal revenue associated with the \$375,000 ERC tax credit transfer from River to Orchard. Noting the LCFF funding clawback, Brian advised the Board that this has also occurred to several other schools in Northern California. Susan Lefkowitz from CSMC is currently working on investigating and backtracking this matter to obtain more clarity. Brian will provide Jennifer with an update once Susan has more information.

Year-to-date expenses were 9% over budget, primarily due to personnel expenses, including \$210,000 in STRS on Behalf expense, a \$46,000 overspend in OASDI/Medicare and Health and Welfare benefits, and a \$166,000 overspend in certificated salaries. Books and Supplies were \$38,000 over budget, and Services were \$29,000 over budget.

The resulting net income was \$209,083. As of June 30, 2026, River reported total cash of \$1,264,206, short-term liabilities of \$787,837, and no long-term liabilities. The ending fund balance was \$996,876. Compared to the prior year-end close, River's reconciled cash increased by \$479,548.

Brian reviewed the bottom line and fund balance for both GVOS and GVRs presenting a final fund balance of \$873,510 for GVOS; \$996,877 for GVRs; and \$1,870,387 in total.

James asked for clarity surrounding the negative \$233,137 fund balance for GVOS reflected on the bottom line and fund balance slide to be looked into further with the Finance Committee.

Jordan Watkins joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

It was moved by James Stark and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals for Golden Valley River School (GVRs).

(Ayes: 7, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

11. Golden Valley River School Charter Renewal (2027-2032) –

Jennifer's slides are included at the end of these Regular Meeting Minutes.

Jennifer presented an overview of the River Charter School renewal petition, noting that the renewal continues the school's existing educational program while comprehensively updating the Charter to reflect current law, operations, accountability requirements, and evidence gathered throughout the current charter term. The petition includes the 15 required charter elements and supporting documents, including governing documents, safety plans, organizational charts, employee and family handbooks, audit reports, a multi-year budget, LCAP, fiscal policies and procedures, renewal data, facilities agreement, and Form 990s.

The petition strengthens the connection between River's educational program and accountability by incorporating annual goals aligned with the LCAP and state priorities, along with systems for standards-aligned instruction, benchmark assessments, intervention, English language development, special education, professional development, and ongoing data analysis.

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Jennifer reviewed renewal evidence demonstrating River's continued academic and operational viability. River is classified in the state's middle-performing renewal category, in which academic performance receives significant weight. Enrollment has remained stable, reaching 317 students in 2025–26, while the percentage of students with disabilities increased from 9% in 2021–22 to 15% in 2025–26. Academic performance has shown improvement, with River generally meeting or exceeding district and state performance in English language arts and showing improved mathematics performance. ELA growth was particularly strong in 2025, with all students and key subgroups exceeding statewide growth comparisons. Mathematics growth remains an identified area for continued improvement, while students with disabilities exceeded their statewide comparison group in mathematics growth.

Non-academic indicators also support renewal, with chronic absenteeism generally below district and state levels, with the exception of 2023, and suspension rates consistently below district and state comparison rates. Renewal data also showed that students enrolled at River for three or more years generally demonstrated stronger ELA performance than newly enrolled students, providing supportive evidence of positive outcomes associated with sustained participation in the educational program.

Jennifer also reviewed updates clarifying the governance and fiscal accountability relationship between River and Golden Valley Charter Schools. The Golden Valley Charter Schools Board of Trustees retains ultimate legal and fiduciary responsibility, including authority over the budget, financial reporting, contracts, audits, fiscal solvency, executive leadership, Charter compliance, material program changes, and major facilities commitments. Centralized services provided by Golden Valley include governance, fiscal management, payroll, human resources, credential monitoring, special education coordination, compliance, legal and risk management, insurance, facilities, and technology, while River leadership retains authority over implementation of the instructional program, curriculum, school culture, student services, staffing recommendations, site priorities, and family engagement. The petition also strengthens provisions related to internal controls, fraud prevention, conflicts of interest, accounting, and ongoing fiscal oversight.

The petition addresses long-term operational viability, projecting enrollment of approximately 328 students beginning in 2027–28 and generally stable enrollment throughout the renewal term. It also reaffirms River's responsibilities related to special education, including implementation of IEPs, accommodations and related services, identification and assessment, the SST process, and provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. The petition further acknowledges San Juan Unified School District's statutory oversight authority and River's commitment to ongoing cooperation with district reviews, site visits, fiscal and programmatic monitoring, reporting, and renewal requirements.

Jennifer concluded that the renewal petition demonstrates River's academic viability, operational stability, fiscal accountability, and responsiveness to students and families, while acknowledging areas for continued improvement, particularly mathematics growth, and connecting those areas to specific accountability and intervention systems.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Julia Koch that the Board approve the Golden Valley River School Charter Petition (2027-2032) for submission to San Juan Unified School District for renewal.

(Ayes: 7, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

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12. Board Retreat Agenda Items –

Discussed agenda items were as follows: Charter finance overview (preferably from Susan at CSMC), River charter renewal updates, GVEF, staff survey review, executive director (ED) goals, ED review timeline, special education (SPED) overview, policy updates – grievance/conflict resolution policy, volunteer policy, and bylaws. Board member expectations, Brown Act training, ethics training, and staff/faculty priorities.

13. Faculty Reports –

Faculty Chair Report, Orchard: Orchard Faculty Chair, Jordan Watkins, presented items of interest to the board.

Faculty Chair Report, River: River Faculty Chair, Sarah Chase, presented items of interest to the board.

14. Executive Reports –

Board Chair Report: Board of Trustees Chair, Katie Gerski-Keller, presented items of interest to the board.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director, Jennifer Hoover, presented items of interest to the board.

15. The Board recited the Motto of the Social Ethic.

16. Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Galles.

Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair

Date



Financials through Jun 30, 2026

Financial Board Report- FY25-26 Unaudited Actuals

Prepared for: Golden Valley - Orchard and River

Prepared by School's CSMC SBM - Brian Lara



Orchard Financial Summary

Actual to Budget:

This report is as of Jun 30, 2026, compared against our board-approved 2nd Interim budget, based on an enrollment count of 315 students and ADA of 293.00.

YTD Revenues through **Jun 30, 2026**, are **5.8% over** our current budget due to:

- \$29K increase in overall LCFF revenue (this means actual ADA reported was slightly higher than the budgeted ADA)
- \$292K STRS on Behalf State revenue (essentially a wash when used to apply towards STRS on behalf expense)
- \$37K increase in overall Local Revenue from the 2nd Interim budget (foundation grants/donations and field trip revenue)
- \$27K decrease in overall Federal revenue when adding in the \$375K ERC tax credit revenue from River to Orchard

1. On Income Statement, Federal Revenue appears \$406K lower than what was budgeted. However, this does not include the \$375K ERC tax credit. The accounting treatment is as follows:

YTD Expenses through **Jun 30, 2026**, are **6.4% over** our current budget primarily due to being overspent in overall Personnel expenses:

1. \$292K STRS on behalf expense (essentially a wash when STRS on behalf revenue covers the expense)
2. \$40K overspend in OASDI/Medicare and Health and Welfare benefits
3. Benefits overspend softened by \$28K underspend in Certificated salaries/\$47K underspend in Classified salaries

- \$14K overspend in overall Books and Supplies (Materials and Supplies and Software Licensing)
- \$4K overspend in overall Services (Training/Development and CMO Mngmt Expense)

Therefore, net income is **\$1,106,647**.

Balance Sheet:

As of Jun 30, 2026, we had total cash of \$719,703, short-term liabilities of \$298,817, and long-term liabilities of \$0. The ending fund balance is \$873,510.

Compared to last year's close, Orchard is ending this year with \$719,603 more in reconciled cash. (only \$90 the previous year's close).

Report created on 8/28/2026 9:44:51 AM for Golden Valley - Orchard



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Orchard Actual to Budget Summary- FY25-26

FY 2025-2026, July - June

Account Description	July - Last Closed		
	Actual	Budget	Variance \$
LCFF Revenue	\$3,627,305	\$3,598,252	\$29,053
Federal Revenue	\$970,362	\$1,373,260	(\$402,898)
State Revenue	\$808,134	\$524,822	\$283,312
Local Revenue	\$77,363	\$39,744	\$37,619
Total Revenue	\$5,483,164	\$5,536,078	(\$52,914)
Benefits	\$1,109,321	\$766,228	(\$343,093)
Classified Salaries	\$634,812	\$682,009	\$47,197
Certificated Salaries	\$1,356,773	\$1,385,111	\$28,337
Total Personnel Expenses	\$3,100,907	\$2,833,347	(\$267,559)
Other Outgo	\$31,900	\$31,900	-
Capital Outlay	\$1,569	-	(\$1,569)
Services	\$1,308,072	\$1,304,484	(\$3,587)
Books and Supplies	\$309,091	\$295,019	(\$14,071)
Total Operational Expenses	\$1,650,632	\$1,631,404	(\$19,228)
Total Expenses	\$4,751,538	\$4,464,751	(\$286,787)
Net Income	\$731,626*	\$1,071,327	(\$339,701)

Revenue

\$5,483,164

Expenses

\$4,751,538

Surplus / (Deficit)

\$731,626

This report displays all actual and budgeted revenue and expenditures by object code series and by month. This report can be useful in revenue in a timely manner and that you stay within board approved expenditure levels.

***NOTE:**

Other sources (Transfer of ERC tax credit revenue to Orchard from River) of \$375,022 brings ACTUAL ending surplus position to \$1,106,647

Report created on 8/28/2026 9:44:52 AM for Golden Valley - Orchard



3

River Financial Summary

Actual to Budget:

This report is as of Jun 30, 2026, compared against our board-approved 2nd Interim budget, based on an enrollment count of 316 students and ADA of 297.00.

YTD Revenues through **Jun 30, 2026**, are **0.02% over** our current budget due to:

- \$210K STRS on Behalf State revenue (essentially a wash when used to apply towards STRS on behalf expense)
- \$50K increase in overall Local Revenue from the 2nd Interim budget (ie. foundation grants/donations and field trip revenue)
- \$20K decrease in overall Federal Revenue when removing the \$375K ERC tax credit revenue from River to Orchard
- 1. The \$375K expense in Other Outgo is the transfer of the ERC tax credit from River to Orchard. The accounting treatment recognizes the receivable under federal revenue first, and then it records the transfer out of these funds to Orchard as an "expense".
- \$235K "claw back" of LCFF funding (prior year overpayments were deducted from current year LCFF funds)

YTD Expenses through **Jun 30, 2026**, are **9% over** our current budget primarily due to being overspent in overall Personnel expenses:

1. \$210K STRS on behalf expense (essentially a wash when STRS on behalf revenue covers the expense)
2. \$46K overspend in OASDI/Medicare and Health and Welfare benefits
3. \$166K overspend in Certificated Salaries (Teacher salaries and Other cert salaries)
- \$38K overspend in overall Books and Supplies (Materials and Supplies and Food Supplies)
- \$29K overspend in overall Services (Training/Development and CMO Mngmt Expense)

Therefore, net income is **\$209,083**.

Balance Sheet:

As of Jun 30, 2026, we had total cash of \$1,264,206, short-term liabilities of \$787,837, and long-term liabilities of \$0. The ending fund balance is \$996,876.

Compared to last year's close, River is ending this year with \$479,548 more in reconciled cash.

Report created on 8/28/2026 9:52:39 AM for Golden Valley - River



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River Actual to Budget Summary- FY25-26

FY 2025-2026, July - June

Account Description	July - Last Closed		
	Actual	Budget	Variance \$
LCFF Revenue	\$3,475,571	\$3,669,482	(\$193,911)
Federal Revenue	\$1,104,817	\$749,841	\$354,976
State Revenue	\$722,686	\$547,699	\$174,987
Local Revenue	\$93,520	\$42,979	\$50,541
Total Revenue	\$5,396,594	\$5,010,001	\$386,594
Benefits	\$1,056,408	\$781,653	(\$274,755)
Classified Salaries	\$622,227	\$732,698	\$110,471
Certificated Salaries	\$1,549,107	\$1,383,007	(\$166,100)
Total Personnel Expenses	\$3,227,742	\$2,897,358	(\$330,384)
Other Outgo	\$375,022	-	(\$375,022)
Capital Outlay	\$1,244	-	(\$1,244)
Services	\$1,285,008	\$1,255,779	(\$29,229)
Books and Supplies	\$330,397	\$292,119	(\$38,277)
Total Operational Expenses	\$1,991,670	\$1,547,898	(\$443,772)
Total Expenses	\$5,219,412	\$4,445,256	(\$774,156)
Net Income	\$177,183*	\$564,745	(\$387,562)

Revenue
\$5,396,594

Expenses
\$5,219,412

Surplus / (Deficit)
\$177,183

This report displays all actual and budgeted revenue and expenditures by object code series and by month. This report can be useful in revenue in a timely manner and that you stay within board approved expenditure levels.

***NOTE:**
Other sources (Transfer of ERC tax credit claim fees from River to Orchard) of \$31,900 brings ACTUAL ending surplus position to \$209,083

Report created on 8/28/2026 9:52:39 AM for Golden Valley - River



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Bottom Line and Fund Balance- FY25-26 Unaudited Actuals

	Orchard	River	Total
Beginning Fund Balance	(\$233,137)	\$787,794	\$554,657
Ending Surplus/(Deficit) Before Other Sources	\$731,626	\$177,183	\$908,809
Other Sources (not on Income Statement)	\$375,022	\$31,900	\$406,922
Ending Surplus/(Deficit) After Other Sources	\$1,106,647	\$209,083	\$1,315,730
Final Fund Balance	\$873,510	\$996,877	\$1,870,387

Report created on 8/28/2026 9:52:41 AM for Golden Valley - River



6

Golden Valley River School

Charter Renewal Petition

Board review and approval for submission to San Juan Unified School District

September 2026 GVCS Board Meeting

What the petition includes

September GVCS Board Meeting

The renewal packet is comprehensive by design.

- All 15 statutory charter elements updated for current law and operations
- Academic performance and renewal evidence aligned to the state renewal framework
- LCAP-aligned annual goals, measurable outcomes and progress-monitoring systems
- Governance, fiscal controls, facilities, special education and authorizer relationship clarified
- Supporting appendices: audit, budget, handbook, LCAP, fiscal policies, data, lease and Form 990s

Document structure

Required elements

+

Supplemental criteria

+

Appendix evidence

Purpose: show both compliance and a coherent case for renewal.

2

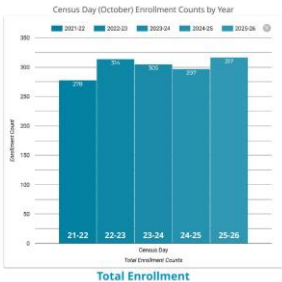
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River is presented as a stable, improving middle-performing renewal candidate.

Central renewal argument: stable enrollment, stronger service to students with disabilities, ELA strength, improving math, favorable climate indicators and clear systems for continued improvement.

- The charter identifies math growth as a continued focus rather than overstating the evidence.
- LCAP goals and data cycles connect the renewal findings to future actions.
- Governance and fiscal language has been clarified for reviewer transparency.

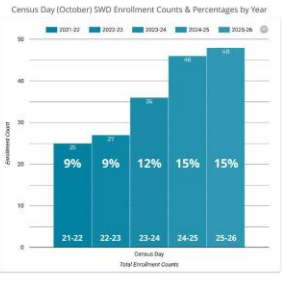
Total Enrollment Over Time



Key Data Points

Total enrollment has fluctuated slightly over the past five years, with the 2025-26 school year showing the **highest total enrollment on record** for Golden Valley River.

Students with Disabilities Enrollment Over Time



Key Data Points

The **number and proportion of Students with Disabilities** has increased significantly over the past five years, **nearly doubling** from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

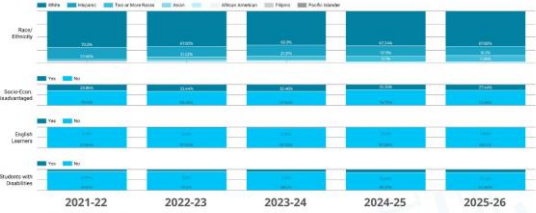
Enrollment is stable, while GVRS is serving a materially larger population of Students with Disabilities than earlier in the charter term.

- 2025–26 enrollment reached the highest census-day enrollment in the five-year dataset.
- SWD enrollment increased from 25 students, or 9%, to 48 students, or 15%.
- The renewal case emphasizes improved outcomes while serving more complex student needs.

Enrollment composition and retention

September GVCS Board Meeting

Student Group Enrollment Over Time



Key Data Points

- Students with Disabilities have become a higher proportion of the student population over the past five years.
- Aside from SWD, demographics have remained stable over time.

Contiguous Enrollment



Key Data Points

- The proportion of 1st year students has fluctuated over time.
- Cohorts of students who are *not* in their first year of enrollment outweigh the cohort of first year students. In other words, **most of the student population has been enrolled in Golden Valley River for more than one year.**

The student population is stable enough to evaluate program effect, and most students have sustained exposure to the GVRS program.

- Subgroup enrollment patterns are part of the renewal evidence.
- Contiguous enrollment helps explain the school's ability to show program impact over time.
- The petition uses longitudinal participation as supportive, not causal, evidence.

State Dashboard Indicators

September GVCS Board Meeting

ELA Comparisons - Priority Student Groups



Key Data Points

Golden Valley River consistently matches or exceeds the performance of the district and state in ELA not only at the "All Students" level, but for most student groups as well.

Math Comparisons - Priority Student Groups



Key Data Points

Beginning in 2024 and continuing in 2025, Golden Valley River matches or exceeds the performance of the district in Math not only at the "All Students" level, but for most student groups as well.

ELA is a clear strength; math has improved and is now more competitive against district and state comparisons.

- The renewal framework gives greater weight to academic performance.
- The petition highlights both current results and year-over-year improvement.
- Priority-group data are central to the argument, not supplemental.

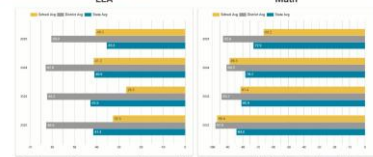
CAASPP trends: all students and priority groups

September GVCS Board Meeting

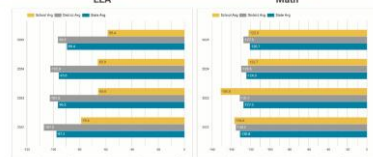
CAASPP Trends - All Students



CAASPP Trends - SED



CAASPP Trends - Students with Disabilities



The trend data show improvement while keeping subgroup performance visible to the Board and authorizer.

- All-student, SED and SWD trends are presented side by side for transparency.
- The charter links these trends to benchmark assessments, intervention and LCAP actions.
- These data help show the school’s capacity to identify and respond to instructional needs.

Growth data

September GVCS Board Meeting

ELA Growth - 2025



A positive growth score indicates students are showing more growth than similar students across the state. **Students at Golden Valley River are significantly outpacing the growth of similar students statewide** in ELA-not only at the “All Students” level, but for each significant student group as well.

Math Growth - 2025

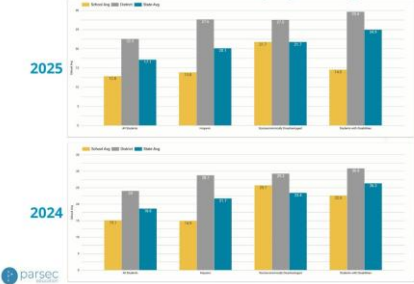


A positive growth score indicates students are showing more growth than similar students across the state. Although the “All Students” growth is slightly below the state average, **Students with Disabilities are outpacing the growth of students in those same groups throughout the state in Math.**

ELA growth is a key strength. Math growth remains the most important continued academic focus, with SWD math growth above comparison.

- All-student ELA growth is meaningfully above the statewide average.
- SED and SWD ELA growth are also above their comparison groups.
- The petition acknowledges all-student and SED math growth as areas for continued improvement.

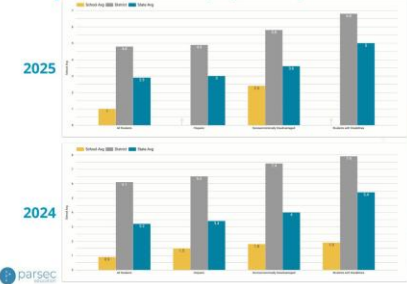
Chronic Absenteeism (%) Comparisons



Key Data Points

With the exception of 2023, Chronic Absenteeism at Golden Valley River is consistently lower than both the district and state not only at the "All Students" level, but for most student groups as well.

Suspension Rate (%) Comparisons



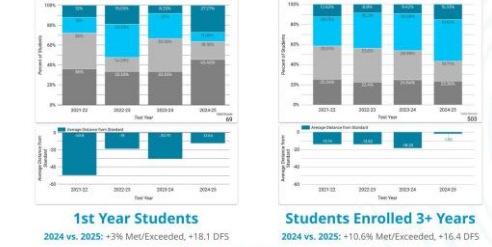
Key Data Points

The Suspension Rate at Golden Valley River is consistently lower than both the district and state not only at the "All Students" level, but for all student groups as well.

Chronic absenteeism and suspension data support a renewal narrative of student engagement, access and continuity of learning.

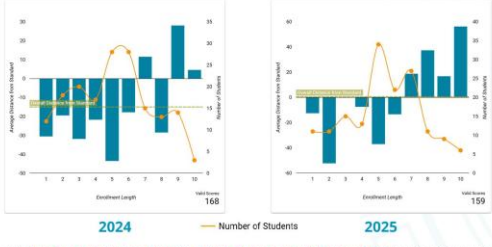
- With the exception of 2023, chronic absenteeism has generally remained below district and state levels.
- Suspension rates have consistently been lower than district and state comparisons.
- These indicators strengthen the academic evidence by showing students remain connected to the program.

CAASPP Trends - ELA by Enrollment Length



In ELA, students enrolled at Golden Valley River for at least 3 years perform significantly higher than newly enrolled students. This indicates there is a strong positive correlation between enrollment length and achievement.

Contiguous Enrollment - Distance from Standard: ELA



In ELA, there is a clear correlation between length of enrollment and increased DFS. Additionally, the largest cohort of tested students is in their 4th through 6th year of enrollment, indicating that families choose to remain enrolled at Golden Valley River.

Students with longer exposure to the GVRS program show stronger ELA outcomes, supporting the value of sustained participation.

- The petition uses length-of-enrollment analysis to show a positive relationship between sustained enrollment and outcomes.
- The evidence is presented as supportive and not causal.
- This helps show that the educational model has a cumulative effect over time.

Governance and fiscal accountability

September GVCS Board Meeting

The renewal petition clarifies who is responsible for what.

- GVCS is the nonprofit public benefit corporation that operates GVRs.
- The GVCS Board retains ultimate legal, fiduciary, fiscal and policy responsibility.
- The Board oversees budget, financial reports, major contracts, audits, fiscal solvency, charter compliance and facilities commitments.
- GVRs leadership retains meaningful site-level authority for instruction, school culture, student services, staffing recommendations and family engagement.

Fiscal safeguards

Separate school-level accounting

Regular financial reporting

Segregation of duties

Conflict-of-interest controls

Independent annual audits

Grant and non-guaranteed revenue planning

GVRs Charter Renewal • 12

Operational commitments

September GVCS Board Meeting

The petition also confirms how GVRs will operate during the next charter term.

Facilities

Projected enrollment of approximately 328 students, with facilities costs included in the annual budget and multiyear projections. Board oversight remains in place for leases and major facilities commitments.

Special Education

GVRs will continue to serve all enrolled students with disabilities, implement IEPs, provide accommodations and services, maintain SST processes and provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment.

Authorizer relationship

The charter affirms cooperation with SJUSD oversight, annual reviews, site visits, reporting, fiscal and programmatic monitoring, information requests and renewal processes.

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Approve the petition for submission to SJUSD.

Staff recommends that the GVCS Board of Trustees approve the Golden Valley River School Charter Renewal Petition for the term July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2032, and authorize its submission to the San Juan Unified School District.

Renewal case: stable demand, positive academic evidence, strong climate indicators, clear governance, fiscal accountability and continued focus on improvement.

Questions and Board discussion