

REALMS Academic Performance Review 2021-22

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office (KCSOS) annually monitors the performance of the charter schools which it has authorized, including their academic progress. California Education Code 47607 details how charter school performance will be evaluated for renewal purposes, and relies heavily on the California School Dashboard’s academic data but also includes a State Board of Education approved list of valid assessments from which charters can select and use. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the state has not released academic Dashboard Data for 2020-21 or 2021-22. Therefore, REALMS Charter School identified and KCSOS approved, its use of the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment.

The MAP Assessment provides academic growth data in mathematics and Reading/language arts (ELA) for students individually, as well as averages for schoolwide results. It is a nationally norm-referenced assessment administered three times per year, providing data on student progress to determine if students are making measurable increases in academic achievement. EC 47607.2 states that for charter renewals, authorizers shall “consider clear and convincing evidence” to indicate “the school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school.”

For its annual Charter Review Report, KCSOS requested the NWEA Summary Growth Report from REALMS for 2021-22, which provides grade-level growth data in mathematics and ELA. Since each grade level has its own respective growth target, NWEA recommends analyzing the data on a grade-level basis, and not on a schoolwide average. The report provides the expected growth target for each grade and then the actual average growth index per grade. For ELA, the report indicates that students in 4 of 5 grade levels (grade 6 did not test enough students to produce a grade-level report) **did not** achieve a year’s growth. The chart below displays the percentage of students who met growth projections, by grade level, in ELA as well as the Growth Index per grade:

Grade level	Number of students assessed (at least 95% participation)	Percentage of students who met growth projection	Growth Index Difference of projected growth vs actual (0=no difference/1 yr growth)
1	19	53%	.64
2	15	20%	-1.04
3	18	39%	-.51
4	22	45%	-2.09
5	27	30%	-2.57
6	N/A		

In mathematics, students in 5 of the 6 grade levels **did not** achieve a year’s growth. The chart below displays the percentage of students who met growth projections by grade level in math, as well as the Growth Index per grade:

Grade level	Number of students assessed (at least 95% participation)	Percentage of students who met growth projection	Growth Index Difference of projected growth vs actual (0=no difference/1 yr growth)
1	19	47%	-1.59
2	15	27%	-1.65
3	17	71%	2.0
4	22	14%	-2.75
5	23	17%	-3.34
6	12	25%	-1.60

In Summary, the 2021-22 NWEA data reports for REALMS indicate that students are underperforming in math and ELA.