



TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

LIBERTAS SCHOOL OF MEMPHIS

Annual Report

JANUARY 1, 2024



Libertas
SCHOOL OF MEMPHIS



Libertas School of Memphis

General Information		
School Name	Libertas School of Memphis	
Governing Board	Libertas School of Memphis	
Charter Management Organization	N/A	
Contracted Services	N/A	
Address	3777 Edenburg Drive, Memphis, TN 38127	
Phone	(901) 609-3611	
Website	https://www.libertasmemphis.org/	
School Leader	Bob Nardo, bob.nardo@libertasmemphis.org	
Model	Montessori	
Operating Status	Open and operating	
Year Opened	2015	
Grades Served in 2022-23	K-5 (expanding to K-8)	
Enrollment in 2022-23	396 students	
Approved Waivers	View here	
Other Information		
Population	School	Memphis-Shelby County Schools
Black/Hispanic/Native American	85%	93%
Economically Disadvantaged	58%	55%
Students with Disabilities	19%	11%
English Learners	<5%	11%
English Learners with Transitional 1 – 4	<5%	13%



The **mission** of Libertas is to be a school for human flourishing: cultivating the minds, hand, and hearts of children in Memphis for lives of wonder, work, and love,

Community: We serve the historic but marginalized Frayser community in north Memphis. We opened in 2015 to transform Brookmeade school, which at that time was the second-lowest achieving elementary school in the state, but which now is an exemplar of excellence. We serve about 500 children age 6 weeks through 5th grade. About 85% of our students qualify for free- or reduced-price meals.

Curriculum: We are the first public charter school in Tennessee offering the rich, rigorous, personalized learning method of Dr. Maria Montessori - a model normally only available in private schools. Montessori allows children to advance at their own pace using materials that help them learn “from the hand to the mind.” We develop strong world knowledge and vocabulary through daily interactive readalouds of Core Knowledge and high quality books. Students participate in “work of the hand” - gardening and practical life skills - as well as encounter and express beauty through the fine arts, such as choral music and visual art.

Culture: We are an “attachment village” where children thrive when the adults around them love and expect the best from them. We have multi-age classrooms where teachers “loop” with the same children for up to 3 years. Our relational and restorative approach to student behavior fosters peace and resulted in one of the lowest suspension rates in the city, and zero expulsions in eight years. We develop character virtue through a literature-based program that features heroes from African American history.

Extensive family engagement results in 95% parent involvement and satisfaction every year. We offer an intensive array of wraparound supports - resulting in over 500 service referrals last year alone, ranging from health, vision and dental screenings and services to mental health, first time homebuyer services, adult education and financial planning, and more.

Achievement: offering the best to the smallest, our students show what they can do:

- The only K-8 school in Memphis to earn the state’s highest designation for academic growth - TVAAS Level 5 - three straight years (2019-2022)
- #1 highest academic proficiency of any charter school in the city of Memphis in 2021
- Our economically disadvantaged students achieved in the top 15% of their subgroup in 2022

Special education: We serve one of the largest and most intensive special education populations of any charter school in Tennessee, with needs such as developmental delay, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, speech/language impairment, and autism. Through our continuum of inclusive placements and specialized support services - including a partnership with LeBonheur Children’s Hospital - by 2021 these students also achieved in the top 15% of their subgroup statewide.

Early childhood education: With one of the largest PreK programs in Memphis, our PreK4 children grew 50% faster than their peers across Memphis on the Brigance measure of academic and whole-child development, and were almost 30% more Kindergarten ready on the NWEA MAP test. Our infant and toddler community accepts TN DHS child care vouchers, providing excellent quality care for free to community members and affordably for teachers.

Educator preparation: We run Arete Memphis Public Montessori Residency, the first in the nation dual-licensure (nationally-accredited Montessori diploma and state teacher license) for urban schools, and one of the first registered teacher Apprenticeship programs in Tennessee. We train 24 teachers per year for 5 partner schools across the Mid-South. We are doubling the diversity and tripling the number of teachers qualified to bring Montessori to thousands more students.

-Bob Nardo, Executive Director

MEETS STANDARD
I. Academic Performance

The academic performance for Libertas School of Memphis in 2022-23 based on the Commission's School Performance Framework is as follows:

INDICATORS AND MEASURES	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE	RATING
STUDENT OUTCOMES		
School academic performance, as measured by the Tennessee Department of Education	State Letter Grade: C	Does Not Meet
MISSION-SPECIFIC GOAL		
Mission-Specific Goal	School reports exceeding mission-specific goal	Exceeds
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE		
Comparative Performance to Resident District		
School comparative performance to Memphis Shelby County Schools ("MSCS") in ELA	Libertas 27.0%, MSCS 24.3%	Meets Standard
School comparative performance to MSCS in Math	Libertas 19.1%, MSCS 22.0%	Meets Standard
School comparative performance to MSCS in Science	Libertas 23.5%, MSCS 26.3%	Meets Standard
School comparative performance to MSCS in Social Studies	N/A	N/A
Comparative Subgroup Performance to Resident District		
Students with Disabilities comparative performance to MSCS in ELA	Libertas 14.3%, MSCS 17.2%	Meets Standard
Students with Disabilities comparative performance to MSCS in Math	Libertas 5.7%, MSCS 18.5%	Does Not Meet
English Learners comparative performance to MSCS in ELA	suppressed due to n count	--
English Learners comparative performance to MSCS in Math	suppressed due to n count	--
Economically disadvantaged students comparative performance to MSCS in ELA	Libertas 24.4%, MSCS 18.1%	Exceeds
Economically disadvantaged students comparative performance to MSCS in Math	Libertas 16.7%, MSCS 15.7%	Meets Standard
Black, Hispanic, Native American students comparative performance to MSCS in ELA	Libertas 22.6%, MSCS 22.0%	Meets Standard
Black, Hispanic, Native American students comparative performance to MSCS in Math	Libertas 14.3%, MSCS 19.6%	Does Not Meet
TENNESSEE VALUE-ADDED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ("TVAAS") COMPOSITE INDEX		
Overall Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System ("TVAAS") Composite Index	School-Wide Composite: 5	Exceeds

Suppression noted by **% indicates school proficiency level less than 5%.

MEETS STANDARD
II. Financial Performance

The financial performance for Libertas School of Memphis in 2022-23 is as follows:

INDICATORS AND MEASURES	RATING
NEAR TERM FINANCIAL HEALTH	
Current Ratio	Meets Standard
Unrestricted Days Cash	Meets Standard
Enrollment Variance	Meets Standard
Debt Default	Meets Standard
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	
Total Margin	Meets Standard
Debt to Asset Ratio	Meets Standard
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Meets Standard
Unrestricted Net Position	Meets Standard
Total Margin by School	n/a: single site operator

III. Organizational Performance
MEETS STANDARD

The organizational performance for Libertas School of Memphis in 2022-23 is as follows:

INDICATORS AND MEASURES	RATING
EDUCATION PROGRAM	
Charter Terms	Meets Standard
Compliance with Education Requirements	Meets Standard
Enrollment in Alignment with the Charter Agreement	Meets Standard
Student Retention Rates	n/a: baseline year
Student Retention Rates by Subgroup	n/a: baseline year
Students with Disabilities Rights	Meets Standard
English Learner Rights	Meets Standard
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT	
Financial Reporting and Compliance Reporting	Meets Standard
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles	Meets Standard
GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING	
Governance Requirements	Meets Standard
Accountability of Management	Meets Standard
Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard
STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES	
Rights of Students	Meets Standard
Suspension Rate Goals	n/a: new reporting system
Attendance	Meets Standard
Credentialing	Meets Standard

INDICATORS AND MEASURES	RATING
Employment Rights	Meets Standard
Background Checks	Meets Standard
Teacher Retention	Meets Standard
SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT	
Facilities and Transportation	Meets Standard
Health and Safety	Meets Standard
Information Handling	Meets Standard
ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS	
All Other Obligations	Meets Standard