



Start Young. Involve Parents.

Dear Interested Member of the Public:

Lumin Education takes great pride in our work with young children and their parents. We have a 42-year track record of success in educating young children (beginning with parent education during pregnancy and providing Montessori classes for children ages 1 to 9) from primarily low-income families.

Lumin's long term results reflect that 96% of Lumin's third grade alumni have successfully completed high school or earned a G.E.D. and 89% of those graduates attend college. By comparison, only 72% of children in those same census tracts complete high school and 56% attend college.

[2012-2016 American Community Survey, <https://factfinder.census.gov>]

Since 1999, Lumin has operated as a charter public Montessori school, earning Gold Star Acknowledgments for our students' reading performance; awards, such as SMU Simmons School of Education Luminary Award; and recognition as an "Exemplar of Education" through research funded by Trust for Learning.

So it was a surprise and a wake-up call when Lumin received unsatisfactory ratings from the state in 2018 and 2019 based on student performance on the STAAR test. You will find the following reports on Lumin student performance at these links:

➤ Federal Report Card

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires each State education agency to prepare and publish an annual report card with state-, district- and campus-level data.

https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&year4=2018&year2=18&_debug=0&single=N&title=2018-19+Federal+Report+Card&_program=perf rept.perfmast.sas&prgopt=2019%2Ffrc%2Freport_card.sas&ptype=H&level=campus&search=campname&namenum=lumin&campus=057805101

➤ School Report Card

The school report card (SRC) combines accountability ratings, data from the Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR), and financial information to give a broad view of campus performance. Available for each campus in Texas, the SRC is intended specifically to inform parents and guardians about a school's individual characteristics and its academic performance.

https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=perf rept.perfmast.sas&cyr=2019&level=campus&search=campname&namenum=lumin&campus=057805101&_debug=0&prgopt=2019%2Fsrc%2Fsrc.sas

➤ Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)

The Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) pull together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. Performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics.

https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&year4=2019&year2=19&_debug=0&single=N&batch=N&app=PUBLIC&title=2019+Texas+Academic+Performance+Reports&_program=perf rept.perfmast.sas&ptype=H&paper=N&level=district&search=district&namenum=lumin&district=057805&prgopt=2019%2Ftapr%2Fpaper_tapr.sas

In order to make sure that the information referred to in this letter is accessible to all parents and other interested members of the public, paper copies are available in the office upon request and links are included on our website. Translation of this information is also available upon request.

Accreditation Status and Accountability Rating

Lumin Education has been assigned an Accredited-Warned status due to the ratings assigned to Lumin in the state's Academic Accountability Rating System. Lumin was rated "F" for the 2018-2019 school year. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to charter schools include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of Accredited-Warned means that Lumin exhibits deficiencies in performance on state assessments that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of Lumin's charter school accreditation status.

Additional information about Lumin's Accredited-Warned status may be found on the "Assignment of Accreditation Status to Lumin Education" letter posted on the "About" tab on Lumin's website at <https://lumineducation.org/about/>.

This unsatisfactory rating is significant because it has serious consequences.

- 1) Lumin Education is proud to be part of the public school system of Texas. This unsatisfactory rating jeopardizes Lumin's status as a public school. Any charter public school that receives an unsatisfactory rating for three years in a row loses its public school status.
- 2) Lumin is proud to be an innovator in education. This unsatisfactory rating jeopardizes Lumin's role as a model of early childhood education in the public sector.
 - In 1978, Lumin became the first in Dallas to offer Montessori from preschool through third grade to children from primarily low-income families without screening for ability or income.
 - In 1999, Lumin opened the first Montessori charter public school in Texas.
 - In 2009, Lumin opened the first Montessori Early Head Start program in Texas.
 - In October 2020, Lumin will be the recipient of the 2020 Ann R. Cox Award for Innovation in Education.

In order to continue to be considered an innovator, we are determined to learn how to support our students in successfully demonstrating their knowledge on tests, while serving as a model public Montessori school.

The Good News

The good news is that Lumin is learning to successfully integrate public school academic expectations and high fidelity Montessori. Our most recent assessment shows that:

- ❖ In January 2020, our third graders took an assessment called MAP. MAP is considered to be the most accurate projector of how a student will do on STAAR this coming May. Based on our third graders' scores on MAP, Lumin is projected to have a 2020 rating of "C".

The other good news is that Lumin and Southern Methodist University have entered into a three-year partnership that will identify measurements that matter most in early childhood. We know that, in addition to in-depth understanding of academic concepts, social/emotional and executive function skills are essential to life-long success.

Steps Being Taken By Lumin

As part of ensuring that our students succeed on state assessments while at the same time offering an authentic Montessori approach to education, Lumin has developed two plans:

- a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) that describes our work in 2019-20 and
- a TurnAround Plan (TAP) that describes how we will continue to partner with the Region 10 Educational Service Center and the Montessori Institute of North Texas (MINT) in 2020-21.

We welcome feedback on our TurnAround Plan from stakeholders and other interested members of the public. You will find our TurnAround Plan posted on the "About" tab of Lumin's website at <https://lumineducation.org/about/>.

Your Opportunity for Public Comment

Lumin's upcoming board meeting on this Friday, February 28, 2020 will include a review of the above documents and an opportunity for public comment and discussion of Lumin's TurnAround Plan and accreditation status. The board meeting will be held at Lumin Lindsley Park Community School, 7130 Tenison Memorial, Dallas, Texas 75223 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All parents and other interested members of the public are welcome. Please check in at the office to sign in and pick up a lanyard before joining us in the J.L. Williams Conference Room of the Hamon Building.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Lumin Education.

Sincerely,



Terry N. Ford, *The Mrs. Orien Levy Woolf Executive Director of Lumin Education*