

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Charter Renewal Application – Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem

Request

Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem (“Charter Holder”) submitted a charter renewal application on March 15, 2018 to continue operation of AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy.

See Appendix A: Renewal Application

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a charter in 2004

See Appendix B: Renewal Summary Review.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Gaurav Auditya
Dameon Blair
Leah Parker
Christopher Prickett
William Wendt

Operational Performance

During the Academic Systems Review, specific areas of the charter contract are reviewed to ensure a charter holder is in compliance. If Board staff identifies contractual non-compliance issues at the site visit, each issue is reflected on the charter holder’s Operational Performance Dashboard, with required submissions to come into compliance.

The Charter Holder’s enrollment policies were found not to be in compliance pursuant to A.R.S. §15-828 due to requiring a Birth Certificate, as referenced in the enrollment packet provided at the Academic Systems Review Visit. On April 3, 2018, the Charter Holder submitted an updated Enrollment Packet that demonstrates compliance with A.R.S. §15-828.

The Charter Holder currently meets the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board.

Academic Performance

School Name	AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy		
Date Open	August 2004		
Location	Anthem		
Grades Served	K - 8*		
FY 17 Letter Grade	A		
	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
ELA AzMERIT (39% ⁺)	47%	56%	59%
Math AzMERIT (40% ⁺)	38%	48%	65%
Science AIMS (53% ⁺)	66%	83%	75%

⁺FY 17 State Average Passing

*At its February 12, 2018 Board Meeting, ASBCS approved the charter to expand to serve grades 9 and 10 beginning in FY 2019.

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-10 within 5 Miles of AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy

Total Schools	FY 14 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 17 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>39%)	Math (>40%)	Science (>53%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
6	A	1	6	6	6	2	*	6
2	B	0	2	2	2	0	*	1

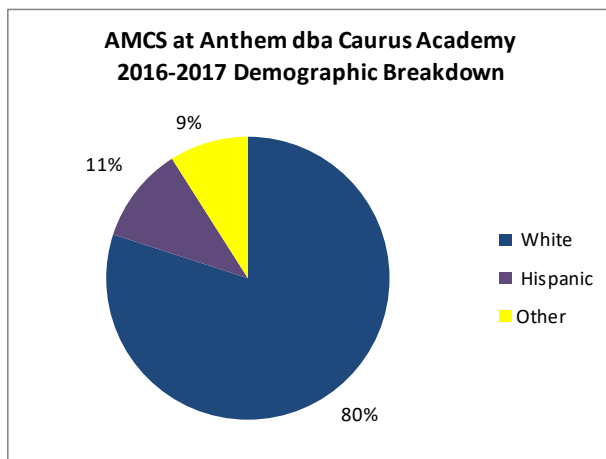
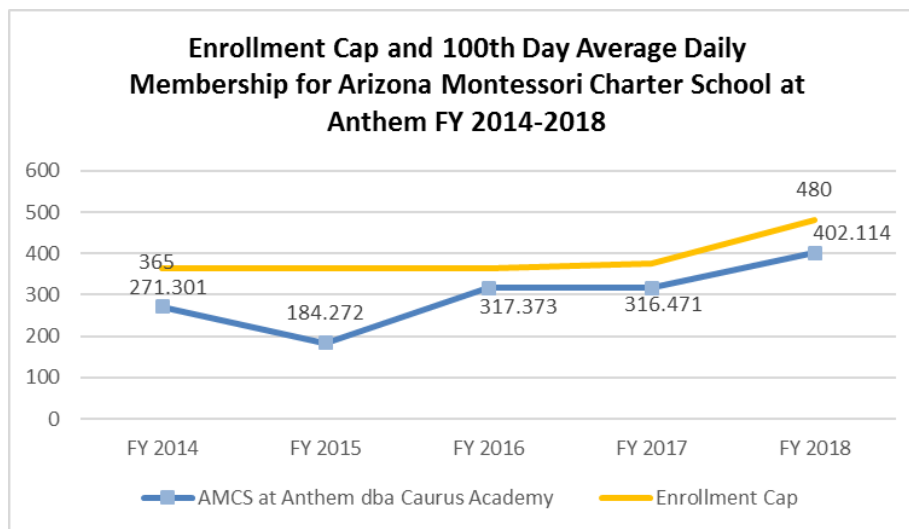
*Because the percentage of ELL students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.

Comparison of Nearby Schools to AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy

Total Schools	FY 14 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 17 State Assessment Data Greater than AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy		
			AzMERIT ELA (>59%)	AzMERIT Math (>65%)	AIMS Science (>75%)
6	A	1	6	3	6
2	B	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Schools		Total Number of Schools Performing better than AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy (Percentage of Total)			
8		1 (13%)	6 (75%)	3 (38%)	6 (75%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2014–FY 2018.



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	21%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	12%

*If the percentage of students is 0% or 100%, or the group includes less than 10 students, the percentage for that group is redacted.



Academic Systems Review

Board staff conducted an Academic Systems Review (“ASR”) at AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy operated by the Charter Holder to gather evidence that demonstrates that the school implements a comprehensive program of instruction and measures pupil progress toward pupil outcomes, as required in its charter contract. The Board has established criteria comprised of questions that guides the staffs’ visit. This report includes information regarding how the school develops and implements:

- a curriculum that improves student achievement.
- a system for monitoring the integration of the State academic standards.
- a system for monitoring and documenting student proficiency.
- a professional development plan that supports effective implementation of the curriculum.

The ASR site visit was conducted by Judy Thompson, Education Program Manager and Dan Cobin, Education Program Manager on March 15, 2018.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Systems Review is provided in *Appendix C: Academic Systems Review Report*.