

## Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Legal Compliance Questionnaire

Charter School\_\_\_\_\_\_
Fiscal Year Ended \_\_\_\_\_\_

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## INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: This questionnaire should only be used for schools that are exempt from the Uniform System of Financial Records for Arizona Charter Schools (schools that HAVE an exception). If a school is subject to procurement requirements pursuant to A.R.S. §15-189.02 and 41-2535(A), this questionnaire should be used in conjunction with the Procurement Compliance Questionnaire (see audit guidelines memo dated 6/10 ) which is available on the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools' website <a href="http://asbcs.az.gov">http://asbcs.az.gov</a>.

In order to determine whether a charter school that is exempt from the requirements of the Uniform System of Financial Records for Arizona Charter Schools (USFRCS) is complying with applicable legal requirements, the auditors must complete the following Legal Compliance Questionnaire (Note: This questionnaire is not comprehensive of all legal requirements for charter schools. As such, this document should not be the sole reference to determine all laws and regulations that are applicable to charter schools).

The following prescribed minimum audit standards for completing the Legal Compliance Questionnaire must be used in all audits. The State Board for Charter Schools may reject audits not meeting these standards.

- Sufficient, appropriate evidence must be obtained annually for each question to satisfactorily determine whether the school complies with the legal requirements, and the evidence must be documented\_included\_in the working papersaudit documentation.
- Evidence may be obtained through test work, observation, examination, and client assertion. However, client assertion alone is not adequate evidence to support "Yes" answers to the questionnaire.
- Population size should be considered in determining the number of items to test, and the items selected should be representative of the population.
- ♦ The number of items tested must be sufficient to determine whether a deficiency was the result of an isolated incident or a recurring problem. Therefore, testing one transaction, record, or item is not sufficient.
- The sample size should be expanded if the <u>auditor audit firm</u> cannot clearly determine whether the school complies with the legal requirements <u>on thatof the</u> question.

- If sufficient evidence has been obtained and documented during the current audit, that evidence may be referenced to answer questions.
- All "No" and "N/A" answers must be adequately explained in the comments column or in an attachment. Findings must be described in sufficient detail to enable the State Board for Charter Schools to describe the finding in a letter. The description should include the number of items tested and the number of exceptions noted.
- ◆ A "Yes" answer indicates that the <u>auditor audit firm</u> has determined that the school complies with the legal requirements of the question and a "No" answer indicates the school does not comply. However, the final determination of compliance on each question, as well as overall compliance with legal requirements, is made by the State Board for Charter Schools based on the evidence presented in the questionnaire, audit reports, the <u>auditor's working papersaudit documentation</u>, and any other sources.

The resulting audit working papers documentation supporting auditors' the audit firm's answers to the Legal Compliance Questionnaire must be made available on request for review by the State Board for Charter Schools. To facilitate this review, auditors the audit firm may wish to include in the working papers audit documentation a copy of the Questionnaire questionnaire containing references to audit procedures performed for each question.

## Legal Compliance Questionnaire

Personnel  1. Did the school have valid fingerprint clearance cards (FCC) for 100% of the required personnel as of the testing date? A.R.S. \$15-183 (C)(4)(5) and A.R.S. \$15-512(H) (QUESTIONS #2a THRCUGH 2c ONLY APPLY TO NEW HIRES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO A.R.S. \$15-183(C)(5) TO HAVE VALID FCCS AND DO NOT APPLY IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S FCC HAS EXPIRED.)  2. For leach individual referenced in #1 that did not have a valid FCC, please provide the following information (provide supplemental pages, if necessary) (See agency guidance available on the Board's website prior to completing these questions) A.R.S. \$15-183(C)(5):  a. Was an application for a FCC on file with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as of the testing date?  b. Did DPS receive the application prior to the hire date?  c. Prior to placement, did the school do all of the following?  i) Document the necessity for hiring/placing the individual prior to receiving a FCC?  ii) Obtain statewide criminal history information on the individual-as required by Laws 2005, Chapter 21?  iii) Obtain references from the applicant's current and previous employers as required by Laws 2005, Chapter 21?  3. Did the charter school maintain up-to-date fingerprints of all governing board members as of the testing date?  Charter Contract!  4. Were all other personnel fingerprint checked as of the lesting date? A.R.S. \$15-183 (C)(4)(5) and A.R.S. \$15-512  5. Did the charter school inform the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the school of the availability of resume information for all employees who provide instruction to	Questions/Subject Area	Yes/No	Comments
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pupils? <b>A.R.S.</b> §15-183 (F)	pupils? <b>A.R.S. §15-183 (F)</b>		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Specific contract cites could not be provided as term references vary per contract year.

	Yes/No	Comments
Required Filings		
1. Is the school in good standing with the following regulatory		
bodies:		
·		
a. Internal Revenue Service <del>for payroll taxes, income taxes (i</del>	£	
applicable) and required tax forms? (26 U.S.C. §3402)		
U.S.C. Title 26		
b. Corporation Commission (annual report)? (Charter		
Contract)		
i. For payroll taxes, income taxes (if applicable) and		
applicable tax forms required to be filed during the		
<u>audited fiscal year?</u>		
ii. The school did not have any payroll or income taxes		
payable from a prior year(s) as of audited fiscal year		
end (June 30th) is a true statement.		
iii. If the response to 1.a.i, 1.a.ii, or both is "no", does the		
school have a payment plan in place with the Internal		
Revenue Service?		
iv. If the answer to Question 1.a.iii is "yes", has the school		
made all of the required payments under the payment		
plan as of audited fiscal year end (June 30th)?		
e. <u>b.</u> Arizona Department of Revenue <del>for payroll taxes, state</del>		
income taxes (if applicable) and applicable tax forms?		
(A.R.S. §43-401 and §43-1111)		
i. For payroll taxes, state income taxes (if applicable) and	<u>1</u>	
applicable tax forms required to be filed during the		
audited fiscal year?		
ii. The school did not have any payroll or income taxes		
payable from a prior year(s) as of audited fiscal year		
end (June 30th) is a true statement.		
iii. If the response to 1.b.i, 1.b.ii, or both is "no", does the		
school have a payment plan in place with the Arizona		
Department of Revenue?	•	
iv. If the answer to Question 1.b.iii is "yes", has the schoo	<u>l</u>	
made all of the required payments under the payment		
plan as of audited fiscal year end (June 30th)?		
d.c. State unemployment contribution requirements? (Arizona	<u>l</u>	
Department of Economic Security A.R.S. § 23-721 et seq.)		
i. State unemployment contributions requirements for the	<u>1e</u>	
audited fiscal year?		
ii. The school did not have any state unemployment	1	
contributions payable from a prior year(s) as of audite	<u>a</u>	
fiscal year end (June 30th) is a true statement.		
iii. If the response to 1.c.i, 1.c.ii, or both is "no", does the		
school have a payment plan in place with the Arizona		

	Department of Economic Security?	
	iv. If the answer to Question 1.c.iii is "yes", has the school	
	made all of the required payments under the payment	
	plan as of audited fiscal year end (June 30th)?	
	d. Corporation Commission (e.g., annual report)? Charter Contract	
2	Was a copy of the adopted budget signed by a majority of the	
۷.	Governing Board members and filed with the Superintendent	
	of Public Instruction by July 18th? A.R.S. §15-905 (B) and (E)	
2	and §15-183 (E)(6) Was the Appeal Financial Penart (AFP) cont to the	
3.	1 / /	
	Superintendent of Public Instruction by October 15th? <b>A.R.S.</b>	
Cransi	§15-183 (E) (6) and 15-904 (A)	
	al Education	
1.	Is the staff the school uses to provide special education services	
	(internal or contracted) certified in special education?	
2.	J 0=	
	students? AAC R7-2-401	
3.	Are evaluations and <a href="#">HEP's IEPs</a> on file for special education students? 34 CFR 300.341-350 and 300.531-536	
Class		
	sroom Site Fund - A.R.S. §15-977 & OAG Memorandum	
#44		
1.	Did the School properly allocate Classroom Site Fund receipts	
	among the following projects: 1011 – Base Salary (20%), 1012 –	
	Performance Pay (40%), and 1013 – Other (40%)?	
2.	For Project 1011, were expenses only for teacher base salary	
	increases and employment-related expenses?	
3.	For Project 1012, were expenses only for performance-based	
	teacher compensation increases and employment-related	
	expenses?	
4.	For Project 1013, were expenses only for class size reduction,	
	teacher compensation increases, AIMS intervention programs,	
	teacher development, dropout prevention programs, and	
	teacher liability insurance premiums?	
5.	, 11	
	than supplant, existing funding from all other sources? (See	
	USFRCS Memorandum No. 44 for guidance for Classroom Site	
	Projects.)	
6.	If the School had monies remaining at year-end, were they	
	properly carried forward in the three Classroom Site Projects	
	(1011, 1012, and 1013) to help ensure that the restrictions placed	
	on the original allocation of revenues is applied in future	
1	years?	

7. Did the School have sufficient cash at year- end to cover the carry over monies?		
Student Attendance Reporting		
If test work performed in questions 3-16-15 and 19-18 of this section discloses a net overstatement or understatement of membership and/or absence days, report the net overstatement or understatement in the "Comments" column.		
	Yes/No	Comments
1. Was school in session for at least 180 days or 144 days for schools operating on a 4-day week, or did the governing board adopt a calendar with an equivalent number of minutes of instruction per school year based on a different number of days of instruction and were membership and attendance recorded for each day school was in session? A.R.S. §§15-902 (H), (I), and (J) and 15-341.01.		
2. Did the School ensure that:		
2. Did the School ensure that:  (Note: Instruction hours do not include periods of the day in which an instructional program or course of study is not being offered, including, but not limited to, lunch, recesses, home room periods, study hall periods, and early release or late start hours. ADE's <a href="School Finance Procedures Manual">School Finance Procedures Manual</a> )		
a. Kindergarten was in session for at least 356 hours? <b>A.R.S.</b> §15-901(A)(2)-		
b. Grades 1 through 3 were in session for at least 712 hours?  A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2):		
c. Grades 4 through 6 were in session for at least 890 hours?  A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2):		
d. Grades 7 and 8 were in session for at least 1,0681,000 hours for fiscal year 2010 (1,000 hours for FY 2011 and thereafter)?  A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2):		
e. For high school, a full-time instructional program meets at least 720 hours during the minimum number of days required? A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2)-		
f. For high school, a full-time instructional program includes at least four subjects, each of which if taught each school day for the minimum number of days required in a school year, would meet a minimum of 123 hours a year; or any number of subjects totaling at least 20 hours per week, prorated for any week with fewer than 5 school days?  A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2):		
For Student Attendance Reporting questions 3-1615, the audit firm must select and test the specified number of transactions (records, entries, withdrawals, or days) as shown in the sample size instructions before each section. That sample should include 3 or more grade levels and 3 or more campuses, where applicable. The		

listed sample sizes represent the minimum level of required test work. The audit firm should use its judgment in determining whether a larger sample is needed. All student attendance records tested in steps 3-10 and 16-15 should be selected from the 100 <sup>th</sup> day reporting period.  In the parentheses provided in questions 3-1615, indicate the actual number of transactions tested. If all transactions were tested, indicate such in the "Comments" column.	
For questions 3-5 select at least 3 student attendance records.	
3. If the School had an early (pre-)kindergarten program, based upon review of () early (pre-) kindergarten students' attendance records, did the School only calculate and submit ADM data to ADE for this program if the program was designed to advance students to the first grade at the end of the of the school year? A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2)(a)(i) and USFRCS Memorandum No. 33-	
4. Based upon review of () students' attendance records in kindergarten programs with instructional time between 356 and 692 hours a year, were students not in attendance for at least three-quarters of the day counted as being absent? If the instructional time for the year was 692 hours or more, were students not in attendance at least one-half of the day counted as being absent? A.R.S. §§15-901(A)(2)(a)(i) and 15-901(A)(6)(a)(i):	
5. If the School had an early first grade program, based upon review of () early first grade students' attendance records, did the School calculate and submit ADM for this program as it would for kindergarten in accordance with ADE's <u>School Finance Procedures Manual</u> ? A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2)(b)(i) and <u>USFRCS Memorandum No. 33</u> .	
For questions 6 and 7, use the following sample sizes:	
SCHOOLWIDE ADM Student Attendance Records	
<1,000 5	
1,000-5,000 10	
>5,000 15	
6. Based on review of () students' attendance records at elementary and junior high schools, in which attendance was based on half days, were students in attendance for less than one-half the day counted as being absent for one full day?	

	than three-quarters of a day, half day? Were students in	for at least one-half day, but less counted as being absent for one- attendance for at least three- ed in attendance for a day?	
7.	elementary and junior high based on quarter days, were than three-quarters of the day Were students in attendance	students' attendance records at schools where attendance was students in attendance for more counted in attendance for a day? for three-quarters of the day or for each quarter of the day in (6)(b)(i)-	
	For questions 8 through 12, u	se the following sample sizes:	
	SCHOOLWIDE ADM	<b>Student Attendance Records</b>	
	<1,000 1,000-5,000	3 5	
	>5,000	7	
8.	Based For schools approved based upon review of the at period for () students when minutes, did the School report	to report minutes of attendance, tendance records for a 1 month hose attendance was reported in attended by the students in Finance Procedures Manual?	
9.	whose attendance was report absence days reported in a	) high school students' records ted in terms of absences, for all 1 month period, did the School ance with the method(s) provided tures Manual?	
10	records, did the School prora	high school students' attendance ate the membership of the high ss than four subjects as provided ures Manual?	

11. For schools offering an Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) Program, based upon a review of () AOI students' attendance records for 4 weeks:	
a. Was the guardian-approved or School computer-generated daily log describing the amount of time spent by the student on academic tasks maintained by the participating AOI School? A.R.S. §15-808(E)	
b. Did the hours reported to ADE agree to the guardian- approved or School computer-generated daily log?	
c. Were all pupils who participated in an AOI Program residents of this State? A.R.S. §15-808	
12. Based upon review of () students' attendance records (all grades) for students withdrawn for having 10 consecutive unexcused absences, was the student only counted in membership through the last day of actual attendance?  A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2):	
For questions 13 through 15 and 14, use the following sample sizes:	
SCHOOLWIDE ADM Entries/Withdrawals	
<1,000	
1,000-5,000	
>5,000	
13. Based upon review of () entries: ( <b>Note:</b> Enrollment forms are not required for continuing students at the same school.)	
a. Were the entry dates entered into the School's computerized attendance system within 5 working days after the actual date of entry and was documentation maintained to support the date of data entry?	
b. Did the entry date in the computerized attendance system agree to the entry form?	
c. Did the teacher's attendance registers, if used, and other documentation support the entry date in the computerized attendance system?	
d. Did membership for continuing/pre-enrolled students begin with either the first day of actual attendance or the	

of school? For all other st	attended within the first 10 days rudents, did membership begins rual attendance? ADE's School	
14. Based upon review of () w	ithdrawals:	
computerized attendance after the actual date of wit maintained to support the of withdrawal" means: withdrawal date or the student will not be return	ates entered into the School's system within 5 working days hdrawal and was documentation date of data entry? ( <b>Note:</b> "Day a.) the later of the student's day the school is notified the ning; or b.) the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of nonse withdrawn for having ten sences.)	
the withdrawal form? attendance system require of non-attendance for membership through the l	n the attendance system agree to (Note: If the computerized is the school to input the first day a student to be counted in last day of actual attendance, the system should be the school day date on the form.)	
	nce registers, if used, and other in support the withdrawal date in ince system?	
	Pupil Withdrawal form prepared hdrawal and signed by a school <b>827</b> -	
15. For schools offering an AOI () student records were al residents of this State? A.R.S. §	l pupils who participated in AOI	
For question 1615, use the	following sample sizes:	
SCHOOLWIDE ADM	Days	
<1,000	3	
1,000-5,000	5	
>5,000	7	
15. Based upon review of ( grades, and classes in the com	_) days for various campuses, puterized attendance system, did	

6/10

the student absences from each day agree to the teachers' attendance registers, absence slips, or other supporting documentation, if used?		
16. Did the school have adequate electronic or manual controls in place to ensure that any changes to the original record of student attendance data were properly authorized and documented, including the names or identification numbers of the persons making and authorizing the changes?		
17. Was the School's membership/absence information submitted to ADE electronically at least once every 20 school days through the last day of instruction (with the first 20 day period beginning the first session day of school or the opening of SAIS for current fiscal year data submission, whichever is later)?  A.R.S. §15-1042(H):		
18. Based upon review of the School's 40 <sup>th</sup> and 100 <sup>th</sup> day information uploaded to ADE, did the membership and absences agree with the School's computerized attendance system records? ( <b>Note:</b> For an AOI program, review year-end attendance information.)		
	3/ /AT	
	Yes/No	Comments
Open Meeting Law A.R.S. § 38-431.01 and § 38-431.02 (See also	Yes/No	Comments
Open Meeting Law A.R.S. § 38-431.01 and § 38-431.02 (See also Attorney General Opinion I00-009)	Yes/No	Comments
_	Yes/No	Comments
1. Did Beginning July 29, 2010, did the school conspicuously post a statement on its website stating where all public notices of its meetings will be posted, including the physical and electronic locations? Laws 2010, Chapter 88 file a disclosure statement with the Secretary of the State identifying where public notices	Yes/No	Comments
Attorney General Opinion 100-009)  1. Did Beginning July 29, 2010, did the school conspicuously post a statement on its website stating where all public notices of its meetings will be posted, including the physical and electronic locations? Laws 2010, Chapter 88 file a disclosure statement with the Secretary of the State identifying where public notices of its meetings will be posted?  2. Beginning July 29, 2010, did the school post all public meeting	Yes/No	Comments
Attorney General Opinion 100-009)  1. Did Beginning July 29, 2010, did the school conspicuously post a statement on its website stating where all public notices of its meetings will be posted, including the physical and electronic locations? Laws 2010, Chapter 88 file a disclosure statement with the Secretary of the State identifying where public notices of its meetings will be posted?  2. Beginning July 29, 2010, did the school post all public meeting notices on its website? Laws 2010, Chapter 88  2.3. Did the school maintain a record of notices that includes a copy of each notice that was posted and information regarding the	Yes/No	Comments

Insurance Requirements A.R.S. §15-183(M)		
Does the school have the required insurance for liability and property		
loss?		
Tuition A R.S. §15-185 (B)(7)-(6) (See also Attorney General Opinion		
198-007) and Laws 2010, 7th S.S., Ch. 8, Sec. 16		
Did the school refrain from charging fees that may be considered		
tuition other than as provided for in A.R.S. §15-185(B)(6)		
[nonresidents] and Laws 2010, 7th S.S., Ch. 8, Sec. 16 [full-day		
kindergarten for fiscal year 2011 only]?		
Records Management		
1. Did the school retain records in accordance with the Records		
Retention and Disposition for Arizona School Districts Manual		
published by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public		
Records (based on the testing conducted during the course of		
the audit)?		
2. Was adequate documentation retained to support amounts in		
the financial statements (if the school is not the primary		
reporting entity - was adequate documentation retained to		
support revenue and expenses in the charter school)?		
out perviewed until out persons are une established controlly.		
This Overting was completed in accordance with the minimum	a audit atam	adamada aa aat famtha in tha
This Questionnaire was completed in accordance with the minimum	n audit star	idards as set forth in the
instructions on pages 2 and 3.		
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Audit Firm		Date
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Preparer's Signature (Audit Firm Representative)		Title

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