Acorn Montessori Charter School, Inc. - Entity ID 79437
Schools: Acorn Montessori Charter School,
Acorn Montessori Charter School - West Campus

Renewal Executive Summary

Performance Summary

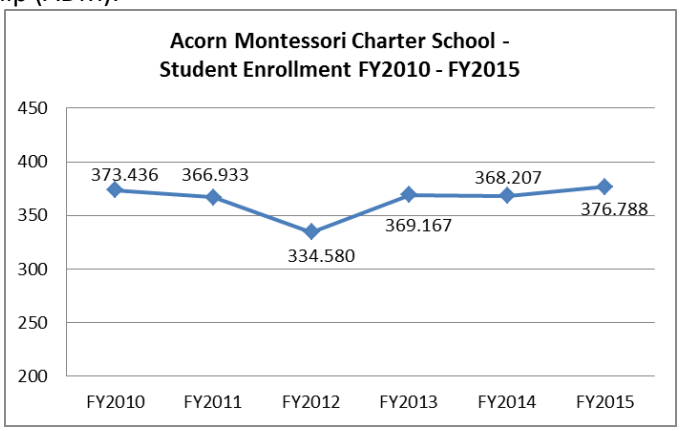
Area	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Academic Performance	☒	☐
Financial Performance	☒	☐
Operational Framework	Not Yet Rated See Section III	Not Yet Rated See Section III

Acorn Montessori Charter School, Inc. met both the Board's academic performance expectations and the financial performance expectations as set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board. Therefore, the Charter Holder was waived from submitting the Academic Performance Section of the renewal application and the Financial Sustainability portion of the Detailed Business Plan Section of the renewal application.

The Charter Holder did have compliance matters that were resolved.

Profile

Acorn Montessori Charter School, Inc. operates two schools in Prescott Valley. Acorn Montessori Charter School – West Campus serving grades K-2 and Acorn Montessori Charter School serving grades 2-8. The graph below shows the Charter Holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2010-2014. For fiscal year 2015, the graph shows the Charter Holder's actual 40th day average daily membership (ADM).



A dashboard representation of Acorn Montessori Charter School's academic outcomes, based upon the indicators and measures adopted by the Board, is provided below.

Academic Performance

NO PERMISSION TO EDIT

Acorn Montessori Charter School

		2012 Traditional Elementary School (1-8)			2013 Traditional Elementary School (1 to 8)			2014 Traditional Elementary School (1 to 8)		
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	42	50	12.5	37	50	12.5	41	50	12.5
	Reading	50	75	12.5	53	75	12.5	52	75	12.5
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	50	75	12.5	34	50	12.5	44.5	50	12.5
	Reading	49.5	50	12.5	38	50	12.5	57.5	75	12.5
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	76 / 65.1	75	7.5	68.1 / 64.1	75	7.5	67.6 / 63.8	75	7.5
	Reading	80 / 77.1	75	7.5	83.8 / 77.8	75	7.5	87.9 / 78.9	75	7.5
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	11.9	75	7.5	8.4	75	7.5	6.1	75	7.5
	Reading	3.1	75	7.5	9.2	75	7.5	9.6	75	7.5
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	74 / 55.4	75	3.75	64.4 / 54.9	75	3.75	66.4 / 53.8	75	3.75
	Reading	79 / 69.4	75	3.75	83.2 / 70.3	75	3.75	87.1 / 71.5	75	3.75
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	46 / 27.7	75	3.75	36.1 / 25.5	75	3.75	33.3 / 25.3	75	3.75
	Reading	54 / 36.7	75	3.75	58.3 / 37.1	75	3.75	55.6 / 39.9	75	3.75
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		B	75	5	B	75	5	B	75	5
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		68.75		100	65.62		100	68.75		100

A dashboard representation of Acorn Montessori Charter School – West Campus' academic outcomes is not available since the school does not serve any tested grade levels.

I. Success of the Academic Program

The academic performance of Acorn Montessori Charter School, which is the school operated by the Charter Holder that has academic performance data available, meets the Board's academic performance expectations set forth in the performance framework adopted by the Board. Because the Board does not have a rating process for schools serving only untested grade levels, staff explored other means to evaluate the performance of the West Campus. In its analysis of data, staff found that more than 50% of students included in the data for the rating of the Acorn Montessori Charter School previously attended

the West Campus. As a feeder school in the same charter, it is appropriate to acknowledge that the success of the receiving school can be attributed, at least in part, to the feeder when at least half of the students' prior education can be credited to that school. Because Acorn Montessori Charter School has met the Board's Academic Performance Expectations, and more than 50% of students tested at Acorn Montessori Charter School previously attended the West Campus, the academic reporting requirement for the West Campus was waived. With one school rated as Meets and the other waived, the Charter Holder was not required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress.

II. Viability of the Organization

The Charter Holder meets the Board's financial performance expectations set forth in the performance framework adopted by the Board. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit a financial performance response.

III. Adherence to the Terms of the Charter

Does the delivery of the education program and operation reflect the essential terms of the educational program as described in the charter contract?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder's education program, in operation, reflects the essential terms as described in the charter contract.

Does the Charter Holder adhere with applicable education requirements defined in state and federal law?
Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2014, the Charter Holder adheres with applicable education requirements defined in state and federal law.

The Charter Holder did not provide services pursuant to IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability. Specifically, in March 2012 a formal complaint was filed with Arizona Department of Education Dispute Resolution. During the investigation, noncompliance issues were identified. In October 2012, the Charter Holder was notified that final required corrective action documentation was received by the Corrective Action Compliance Monitor.

Do the Charter Holder's annual audit reporting packages reflect sound operations?
As reported in the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2013, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2012 annual audit reporting packages, respectively.

As reported in fiscal year 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to the annual audit reporting package, except that the fiscal year 2013 audit reporting package included a second-time medium impact finding involving charter holder funds being disbursed for non-business purposes. Specifically, the fiscal year 2013 audit reporting package stated, "On February 4, 2013, the director and charter representative used $2,299.21 of School funds to pay their personal home mortgage in error. On February 28, 2013, the error was corrected and the School was reimbursed the entire amount. On July 3, 2013, the director and charter representative again used $2,299.21 of School funds to pay their personal home mortgage in error. This time the error

was caught immediately, and on July 3, 2013, it was corrected and the School was reimbursed the entire amount." The fiscal year 2013 audit further indicated that the charter holder and the director/charter representative bank at the same financial institution and therefore, the accounts for both are viewable through the same user id and password.

Is the Charter Holder administering student admission and attendance appropriately?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to administering student admission and attendance.

Is the Charter Holder maintaining a safe environment consistent with state and local requirements?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to maintaining a safe environment.

Is the Charter Holder transparent in its operations?

Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to transparency of operations.

Is the Charter Holder complying with its obligations to the Board?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to its obligations to the Board.

Is the Charter Holder complying with reporting requirements of other entities to which the Charter Holder is accountable?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to operational requirements monitored by other entities to which the Charter Holder is accountable.

Is the Charter Holder complying with all other obligations?
Yes. Based on the available information in the current fiscal year and fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to all other obligations.

Staff Recommendation

Based upon the Charter Holder meeting the academic performance expectations set forth in the Board's performance framework, completing the obligations of the contract, complying with applicable statutory requirements, and the information in the renewal application package, I move to approve the request for charter renewal and grant a renewal contract to Acorn Montessori Charter School, Inc.