
AGENDA ITEM: Transfer Application – Apex Public Charter Academy**2009-2010 Transfer Application Summary Report**

Apex Public Charter Academy added three sites to its charter for operation beginning in FY09. The entity has now filed the appropriate documentation to transfer each of the three sites to individual charter contracts to be held by new non-profit entities. The new contracts would be as follows:

Entity Name	School Name	Grades Served
Arts Academy of Mesa Public Charter Elementary School	Arts Academy of Mesa	K-8
Liberty Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School	Liberty Arts Academy	K-6
Gilbert Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School	Gilbert Arts Academy	K-6

With the transfer of the three sites, the Apex Public Charter Academy charter contract would maintain the operation of the middle school. The Apex Public Charter Academy has submitted amendments that would change the middle school to serve 7th and 8th grade and move the middle school to a centralized location to serve students at each of the three transfer charters.

A summary of the current ADM at each of the existing schools is provided below:

School Name	Grades Served	ADM
Arts Academy of Mesa	K-8	120.6
Liberty Arts Academy	K-6	159.81
Gilbert Arts Academy	K-6	133.29
Apex Academy	6-8	22.32

No academic data is available for Liberty Arts Academy, Gilbert Arts Academy or Arts Academy of Mesa as these were new sites added by Apex Public Charter Academy for the 2009-2009 school year.

Apex Public Charter Academy has experienced the following academic success:

Apex Academy

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Annual Yearly Progress
2007-2008	Underperforming	Met
2006-2007	Performing	Met
2005-2006	Performing	Met

Curricular Emphasis:

Students will receive the personalized attention needed to reach his or her fullest potential. A full array of differentiated instructional strategies, accommodations, modifications and the implementation of the Response to Intervention (RTI) Model are utilized in classrooms to reach and teach every child. Developmentally appropriate practice recognizes the child is an active participant in the learning process. Classroom teachers serve as active facilitators who help children derive meaning from the various activities and interactions. Technology will be integrated for instructional planning, instructional delivery, assessment, monitoring student progress, and communicating information to parents. The school wide assessment plan will include a cycle of pre testing when students start new units, daily informal assessments and benchmark testing to ensure progress towards state standards mastery.

Governance Structure:

Each new entity will contract with The Leona Group to provide management services. The corporate board will be responsible for debt or bond financing, sale, lease or disposition of real property, appointing the governing body and hiring the school leader. The governing body will oversee the administrative staff in implementing all aspects of the charter contract as well as hold such staff accountable to carry out the policies and procedures of the school. The governing body is the top level to which a student or parent may bring a concern. The school leader handles the day to day operations at the site-level. All instructional and support staff are supervised and led by the school leader.

The mission of each additional charter is as follows:

The school will create a quality learning environment in which students are engaged in meaningful, academically challenging curriculum. Our environment is one which instills accountability and which fosters respect and social responsibility. We are committed to providing life long learning, shared goals with parents and student, positive community relationships and an appreciation for the arts.

Special Emphasis	Effective Schools Model and the new three R’s of education: Rigor, Relevance and Relationships
Methodology	Differentiated Instructional Strategies, Cooperative Learning, Integration of Technology and Hands-on Activities
Market Analysis-Student Population	Students in grades K-8 who are seeking an alternative to the large size of traditional elementary and middle school.
Socio-Economic Status	Free/Reduced Lunch: 16%
Corporate Principals	William Coats and Michele Kaye
Governing Body	<u>1 Charter Organization Member:</u> William Coats

Board Options

1. The Board may grant the Transfer Application for Arts Academy of Mesa Public Elementary School, Liberty Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School, and Gilbert Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School.
2. The Board may deny the Transfer Application for Arts Academy of Mesa Public Elementary School, Liberty Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School, and Gilbert Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School.

Staff Recommendation

Staff’s recommendation is option 1 above.