

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007
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www.asbcs.az.gov

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Champion Schools (CTDS) 078785

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 1313 N. 2nd Street, Suite 18

(City, State) Phoenix, Arizona (Zip) 85004

(Charter Representative's Name) Carolyn Sawyer

(Phone Number) 602 595-0195 (Fax Number) 602 252-7729



Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed. Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

Check appropriate box

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Mastery of coursework for additional grades
- Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition
- Timeline for implementation
- Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified.

For K-8

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

For 9-12

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A math course description and a completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Language Arts - A language arts course description and a completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Graduation requirements (number of credits in each content area and electives)
- Course level proficiency required for credit and acceptance of transfer credit

Decreasing grade levels served for charter

Included is the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Champion Schools (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: ~~School Year 2009-10~~ K-6

TO: ~~Term of Charter and Renewal~~ K-8

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 5th day of January, 2009, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 200__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.

Carolyn Sawyer
Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING OF
GOVERNING BOARD OF SUMMIT ELEMENTARY

July 14, 2008 at 10:00am
At 1313 North 2nd Street, Suite #17

Board of Directors present: Carolyn Sawyer, Melissa Sawyer

- I. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.
- II. Approval of Minutes from April 11 , 2008 Board Meeting
Motion made and carried unanimously
- III. Approval of all disbursements for Summit Elementary
January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008
Motion made and carried unanimously
- IV. Approval of New Facility to be built by US Charter
Development and relocation to new campus SY 2009-10
Motion made and carried unanimously
- V. Approval of intent to submit to Arizona State Board for
Charter Schools Notification Request to increase
Enrollment Cap from 240 to 540 for SY 2009-10
Motion made and carried unanimously
- VI. Approval to add 7th and 8th Grade Levels to be served
By Charter in new location beginning SY 2009-10
Motion made and carried unanimously
- VII. Approval of Proposed School Budget for SY 2009-10
Motion made and carried unanimously
- VIII. Approval of ADOPTED SCHOOL BUDGET
for Summit Elementary FY 2008-09
Motion made and carried unanimously
- IX. Call to the Public
- X. Meeting Adjourned

Dated this 14th day of July, 2008.

Narrative describing how the additional Grade Levels support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter school.

Philosophy

Our plans to build a campus, and increase our capacity by adding 7th and 8th grade supports our philosophy to implement a rigorous curriculum and prepare students to enter high school with accelerated progress in all subject areas including: developing critical thinking, complex reasoning and problem-solving skills. Each year we have many parents who express the desire that we add 7th and 8th grade, which has not been possible in the limited space we currently occupy.

Methods of Instruction

Our methods of instruction include teaching students in collaborative learning groups with a constructivist approach to building knowledge through exploration and discovery by making connections between school activities that are relevant to students' lives outside the classroom. Providing 7th and 8th grade will allow us to continue these types of learning experiences and make a seamless transition to high school programs. The entire curriculum is enriched and emphasizes language development in all subjects, math and science included. Examples of schoolwide instructional events include science and social fairs, performances based on literature, art projects that demonstrate math/science/reading and social studies concepts i.e.: graphing, statistics and probability; characters encountered in novels and current events. Our approach with 7th and 8th grade students will combine relevant curriculum, powerful and diverse instructional techniques to accelerate the progress of ALL students.

MARK 2 3 2009

Special Emphasis

We have served and will continue to serve students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and a variety of ethnic group, including Hispanic (38%), African American (19%), Caucasian (32%), Native American (9%) and Asian (2%). Our goal of achieving high academic performance applies to ALL students, regardless of their experiential background, capabilities or developmental learning differences. Classrooms typically include students with a wide range of abilities who may pursue multiple pathways to learn effectively, participate meaningfully and work toward attaining curricular standards. We believe in every student's natural desire to learn and we plan to create a learning environment for 7th and 8th grade that is conducive to achieving that goal. Our instructional approach includes cultural diversity, interest and curiosity in and through artistic expression enhanced by the use of manipulatives used in "hands-on" projects, problem-solving exercises and an interpretive approach to curriculum.

Mission

The addition of these two grade levels will enhance the mission of our school, "fostering academic excellence through the integration of accelerated content rich curriculum, using powerful and diverse instructional techniques encouraging critical thinking and the development of problem-solving skills. We will also use the community as a laboratory to construct knowledge through exploration and discovery." and accelerated content. Our underlying set of values includes equity, participation, communication, reflection, experimentation, trust and risk-taking. We believe that a democratic education implies faith in the potential of students to understand and shape the world around them. Students in 7th and 8th grades will take an active role in inquiring into shared problems. This collaborative inquiry process serves as a model for curricular, instructional and organizational practices.

Mastery of coursework for additional grades

Mastery of coursework for these additional grades will be 95% accuracy on ALL standards and correspond to ALL of the subjects currently offered and include: Reading and Language Arts, Math, Writing, Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, Physical Education and Technology. Students will be assessed and graded in all of these subjects as well as Citizenship. Skills mastery is measured by a combination of scores on assignments, quizzes and formal testing with percentage grades. Teachers use Easy Grade Pro Software to calculate percentage of mastery and letter grades.

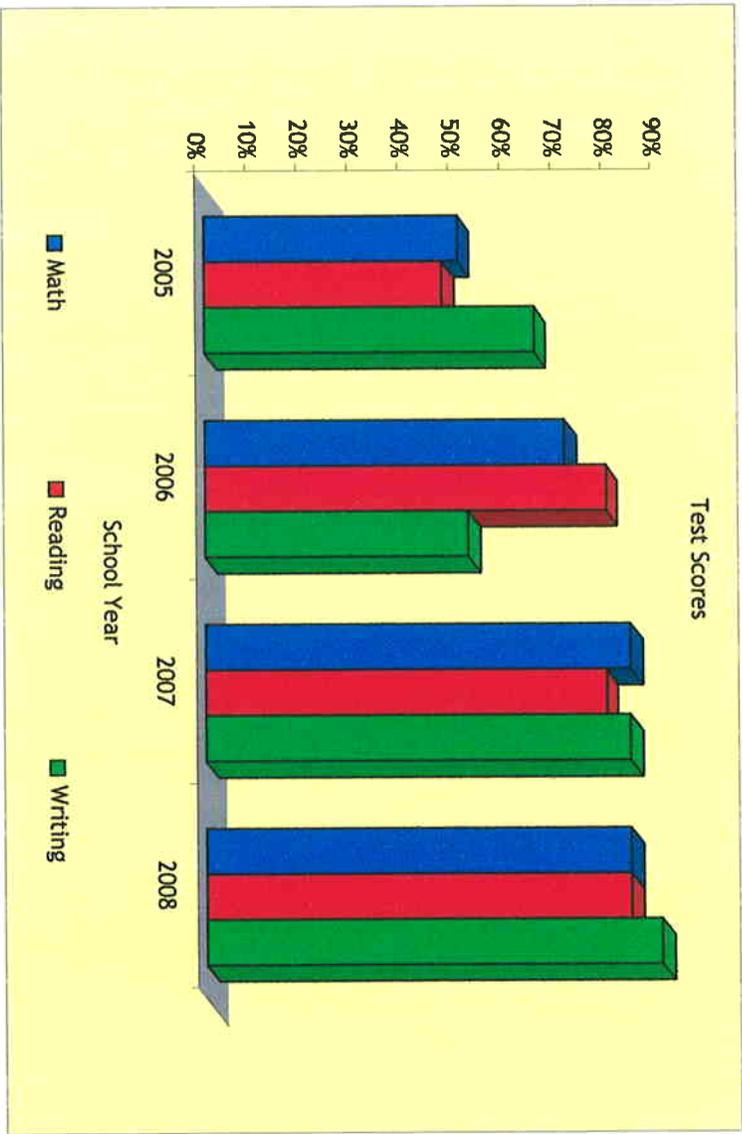
Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition

Expected student performance in 7th and 8th grades will be commensurate with the achievement and gains in performance on state mandated AIMS testing we have accomplished at our current location testing grades 2-6. The chart on the following page shows a summary of our AIMS scores over the last four years. Once a baseline in the first year of adding 7th and 8th grade is established, a 14% gain in each testing area: Reading, Writing, Math and Science when applicable is our goal.

We are preparing to meet challenges in our new location located in the Roosevelt School District which has been designated Under Performing/Failing for the past five years. We expect to have students enrolling with a need for tutoring, mentoring and remediation. Our current staff of highly qualified teachers will be continuing with us at the new school and new highly qualified teachers will be recruited, trained and mentored using the techniques that we have found successful with our current population.

Starting with our initial planning for the school and modified regularly throughout the next three years we will build a system whereby school personnel engage in an on-going process of assessing students' needs, developing instructional plans to address those needs and a system for examining students' work to monitor progress in meeting identified needs throughout the academic year. We will use a systematic process encompassing collaborative and informed decision-making to support the mission of the school.

Examining students' work on an on-going basis is an essential component of our process. It is cyclical in informing instruction, modifying that instruction for each student accordingly and communicating with families and presenting our achievements to the community at events, presentations and performances. This process of constantly evaluating and modifying teaching strategies to meet students' needs pursues our ultimate goal of each and every student meeting or exceeding the Arizona Academic Standards.



Timeline for implementation

This endeavor to re-locate the school site has been anticipated and planned over the last three years. Approximately 54% of our current student population resides in the South Mountain neighborhood. Some of our students will be able to walk to school. Our location will be next door to the South Mountain YMCA which will give our students additional resources and opportunities. This neighborhood is in dire need of good schools. We will be located in the Roosevelt School district boundaries which has over 14,000 school age children in grades K-8. We are poised and ready to take on the move and expansion after ten years in our current location.

Our timeline is as follows:

1. We plan to break ground for the new campus in March 2009 with construction completed by July 31, 2009, with 7th and 8th grade included in our first year of operation at the new site.
2. Upon groundbreaking, a billboard announcing the new campus will be erected on-site.
3. A temporary office in a 'construction trailer' will be on-site to process registration throughout the summer.
4. We plan to hold monthly community events to inform the families in the neighborhood about the new school.
5. Flyers have gone out to the neighbors adjacent to the new school site already and there is full support for the new school in the neighborhood.
6. The City of Phoenix approved the land use for a school on January 21, 2009 at a Public Meeting.
7. We will be advertising the new school site in South Mountain News, Kids n Sports and Raising Arizona Kids and through direct mail to residences in zip codes 85041 and 85042 to promote enrollment.

Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified

Currently all of our teachers are Highly Qualified K-6. We are planning to hire new teachers to meet our planned increased enrollment and capacity serving additional grade levels 7th and 8th who meet the required criteria for Highly Qualified. We planning to have 2 classes of 7th grade with 25 students each and 1 class of 8th graders with 25 students the first year (09-10), expanding to 2 classes of 8th graders with 25 students each the second year (10-11). We will be adding three Highly Qualified classroom teachers the first year (09-10) and an additional Highly Qualified teacher for the additional 8th grade class the second year (10-11). Our primary strategy in recruiting teachers is to hire teachers who have completed a teacher preparation program in elementary education from an accredited university. A number of our support staff i.e.: teaching assistants, are working toward Arizona Teacher Certification for K-8. Upon completion, they can apply for lead classroom teaching opportunities and already have experience with our school's policies and procedures and methods of instruction. They make a smooth transition to a lead classroom teaching position.

In recruiting new teachers for 7th and 8th grade teaching positions, we plan to continue to recruit Highly Qualified teachers who hold at least a bachelor's degree and have demonstrated a high level of competency in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher will be providing instruction. This includes a passing score on both Professional Knowledge and Subject Knowledge Elementary portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEP A).

All of our teaching staff have completed state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training, Arizona Constitution and U.S. Constitution. New teachers will have the same requirements.

Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Cards issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety are required of ALL of our employees.

Our 7th and 8th grade classes will be designed to include Smartboard Technology and we plan to provide additional training in the use of this equipment.

Tuition for Graduate Level Classes in subject areas applicable to teachers' class responsibilities is reimbursed as part of our commitment to professional and career development.