

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089
www.asbcs.az.gov

RECEIVED JAN 12 2010

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Academy Del Sol, Inc. (CTDS) 108734000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 8379 W. AVECENNA ST.

(City, State) Tucson, AZ (Zip) 85757

(Charter Representative's Name) Sara Riegert

(Phone Number) (520) 325-2800 (Fax Number) (520) 325-2811

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.

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Timeline for implementation
- Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies

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:

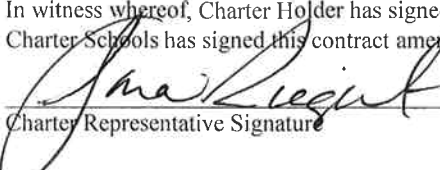
- Math - A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

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

FROM SERVING GRADES: K-6

TO SERVING GRADES: K-7 (addition of 7th grade beginning 2010-2011)

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 12 day of January 12, 2010 and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 20__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.


Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Academy Del Sol
Jan 5, 2010
4525 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85711

Members Present-

Sara Riegert, President/Chairperson
Jason Riegert, Secretary/Treasurer
Joe Riegert, Member
Jackie Riegert, Member
Dan Jitaru, Member

Members Absent

Gabrielle Lee, Member
Kyle Johnston, Member

Meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item A: Call to Order (Sara Riegert)

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Jason Riegert called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Agenda Item C: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item D: Reading of the Academy Del Sol mission statement

Academy Del Sol's mission is to provide all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity; with a superior quality education that will instill students with the "essentials" of academic knowledge that will have infinite importance to people everywhere. This education is not only limited to nurturing a student's intellect in teaching them how to think, but it also nurtures their body and spirit while allowing students to "learn by doing."

Agenda Item E: N/A

Agenda Item F: Information Item

Sara Riegert outlined the amendments that Academy Del Sol will be filing with the state charter board this January. These amendments included the exemption to USFRCS, Procurement, and adding 7th grade. She also mentioned there would be additional added depending on the evenings votes.

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Jason Riegert then briefly discussed some of the pending entitlement grants: NCLB allocation, IDEA charter school expansion, ARRA. Sara Riegert then informed the board about the process to submit and the process for review of the AZCSIP Grant that the school is applying for currently.

Agenda Item G: Consent Agenda

N/A

Agenda Item H: Action Item

The board discussed the importance of adding an additional 15 minutes onto Academy Del Sol's already extended school day. This would allow for additional teaching time for Science, Social Studies, and Practical life, and would allow the students to continue receiving 60 minutes of Art during the school day. The board discussed any disadvantages, or perhaps hardships that this might cause families.

The board then discussed testing students for grade level placement for grades 7 and above. Students entering ADS from other schools would have to take a placement test in order to ensure that they are up to taking on the rigorous academic demands of the school and to ensure their success at ADS. The board discussed how the students who are continuing with ADS would already show proficiency in 2 of the 3 core content areas (reading, writing, math), or they would have been placed in 6th grade. ADS will not test K-5 students, but would continue to support students who are struggling with remedial programs and support.

MOTION

Joe Riegert made the motion to apply for the amendment to add 15 minutes to the instructional day. Dan Jitaru seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

MOTION

Joe Riegert made the motion to apply for an amendment to add the requirement of placement testing for new students entering ADS from other schools in grades 7 and above. Jackie Riegert seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

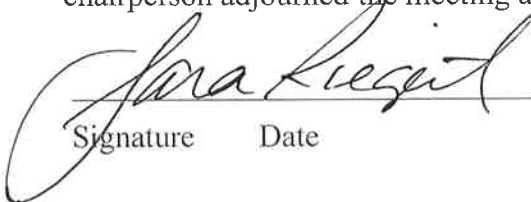
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Item I: Announcements

Sara Riegert announced the next meeting will be held on the regular board meeting day of January 12th at 4525 E. Broadway Blvd. At 6:30p.m.

Agenda Item J: Adjournment

Being there was no further business, the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

 1/12/10

Signature Date

**Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request:
Academy Del Sol, Inc.**

1. *Narrative:*

a) *Background and Support for Expansion*

When Academy Del Sol, Inc. originally submitted and had its charter approved in January of 2009, it was their intention of serving grades K-6 for year one and then implementing 7th grade beginning year two, August 2010. As a result, mention of these plans were included in the original charter. The owners of Academy Del Sol would like to proceed with the original plan proposed in 2009.

At present, Academy Del Sol serves students in 6th grade who are anticipating continuing their education at Academy Del Sol and this can only be done with the addition of 7th grade.

Additionally, in its first year of operation, Academy Del Sol received four students mid-year from traditional middle schools that serve grades 6-8. As a result, it has been concluded that an Academy Del Sol education is in demand when compared to other school choices at the middle school level.

b) *How Additional Grades Support Philosophy, Methods of Instruction, Special Emphasis, and Charter Mission*

Additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and charter mission in the following ways:

Philosophy Supported:

Philosophy:

While there are several definitions, aims and purposes of education, the founders of Academy Del Sol have ideas that are ever changing and constantly developing. Our founders believe that all students, regardless of socio-economic status, race, or ethnicity, have the right to receive a superior quality education. Currently, Academy del Sol's philosophy is comprised components from the *perennialism, essentialist, and progressivism philosophies*.

The addition of 7th and 8th grade support this philosophy by allowing Academy Del Sol to continue in its development of their philosophy. Additionally, it allows for a greater number of students to be served regardless of socio-economic status, race, or ethnicity. It opens up a superior quality education to all students, including those at the middle school levels. This education will teach students *how* to think, provide them with knowledge so they can live productive lives today, and allow them to learn by doing.

Methods of Instruction Supported:

Methods of Instruction:

Traditional/Teacher Centered

Direct Instruction
Lecture/Presentation
Concept Teaching

Constructivist/Student-Centered

Cooperative Learning
Problem-Based Instruction
Classroom Discussion

Implementing grades 7th and 8th grade support the methods of instruction, however, more importantly, the methods of instruction support students in 7th and 8th grades. The methods are varied, and include both teacher and student centered methods. As a result, providing mixed methods of instruction will provide for the motivational needs students, as motivation is often a factor with students in these grade levels. As a result, students will be more likely to continue their education to the high school level.

Special Emphasis Supported:

There are three foci at ADS.

- 1: academics (reading, writing, math, science)
- 2: fine arts (art-disciplined based art education, drama, dance, music)
- 3: practical life

At the elementary level, reading is already emphasized with a daily 45-minute enrichment beyond the 90-minute core reading block. Writing is emphasized with a 60 minute block, and with the instruction of the 6-traits of writing and the writing process. Math is emphasized with daily intervention time embedded within the 60 minute math core. Fine arts is emphasized with the requirement that all students and classes to perform or produce displays throughout the year during various school wide and community events. Practical life is emphasized with in-class and school-wide activities that include but are not limited to: care of self, grace and courtesy, control of movement, care for the environment, *basic* nutrition and food preparation, budgeting, shopping, interviewing, greeting and introducing people, personal time management, and order (organization).

Adding additional grades would support these foci already in place by allowing middle schoolers to select "electives" for fine arts and practical life content areas. However, the special emphasis continues to be supported in the areas of reading and other academics as well because these content areas will take the place of electives should reading, writing, and math need to be further developed.

Charter Mission Supported:

Academy Del Sol's mission is to provide all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity; with a superior quality education that will instill students with the "essentials" of academic knowledge that will have infinite importance to people everywhere. This education is

not only limited to nurturing a student's intellect in teaching them *how* to think, but it also nurtures their body and spirit while allowing students to "learn by doing."

With the addition of 7th and 8th grade, Academy Del Sol is able to serve a greater quantity of students with this mission and extend the mission to older students who will have already gone through the Academy Del Sol system and would like to continue.

2. Timeline of Implementation:

Academy Del Sol plans to implement 7th and 8th grade at the beginning of their second school year to begin in August, 2010.

3. Proficiency Level Required for Credits and/or Promotion AND Credit Transfer Policies

Mastery Levels

READING:

Students will be able to orally read and comprehend text at grade level or above grade level for any given year. Categories of reading such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, will be demonstrated with the administration of the DIBELS assessment and mostly at the elementary level. As a result, this assessment will only be utilized in extreme situations where middle schoolers are not demonstrating skill in these three areas. Comprehension and reading skills and vocabulary will be assessed using a school wide quarterly written assessment in which students will score a 75% or above on these summative assessments.

WRITING:

Students will score an average of 3.7 or higher on their quarterly writing prompts based on the 6-traits of writing. (See table below)

4.7-6.0: Exceeds

3.7-4.6: Meets

2.7-3.6: Approaches

1.0-2.6: Falls Far Below

MATH:

Students will score a 75% or above on in-class summative assessments and quarterly benchmark assessments.

Mastery Levels for Promotion and Retention

A.D.S will use the 1, 2, 3, 4 grading scale. The scale is as follow:

4-Exceeds the standard	95-100%
3-Meets the standard	75-94%
2-Approaches the standard	60-74%
1-Falls far below the standard	59% and below

A.D.S will implement standards based grading, based on *each* of the strands indicated in the AZ State Standards. For example, there are four strands of reading. Thus, there will be four different grades in the area of reading.

A promotion recommendation shall be made to all students demonstrating *proficiency* in two of the three content areas (reading, writing, and math) as indicated by district quarterly assessments, grades, and overall academic achievement. Exceptions will be made on a review basis by the school board in conjunction with support personnel, administration, teachers, and parents.

A.D.S will identify by means of academic indicators, students who may be retained. These indicators include, but are not limited to district quarterly assessments, grades, previous overall demonstrated academic achievement, social factors, attendance, teacher and/or parent recommendation. However, a student's social, physical, and emotional growth shall also be taken into consideration before retention is recommended.

Credit will be transferred for courses "passed" with requirements indicated above for reading, writing, and math.