

AGENDA ITEM: New School Site and Enrollment Cap Notification Requests – E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc.

Issue

E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc., a non-profit entity, submitted complete notification requests to add two new school sites. A complete notification request for the increase of the enrollment cap was also submitted. Notification Requests are generally reviewed and, if complete, signed by the executive director without Board consideration. Because the schools currently operated by the Charter Holder do not meet or demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board’s level of adequate academic performance, the executive director has not signed the requests.

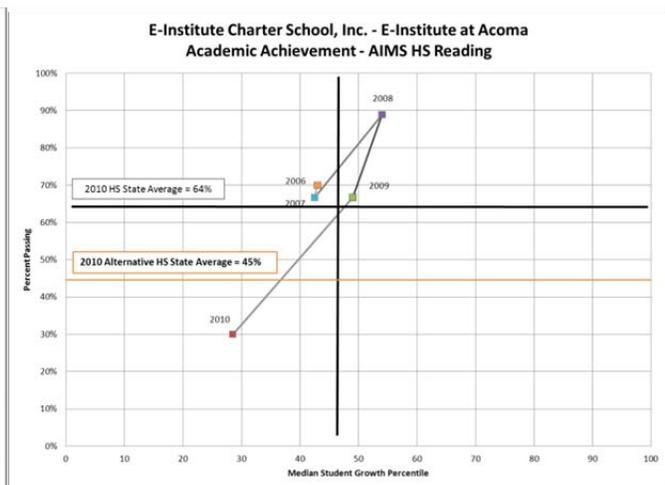
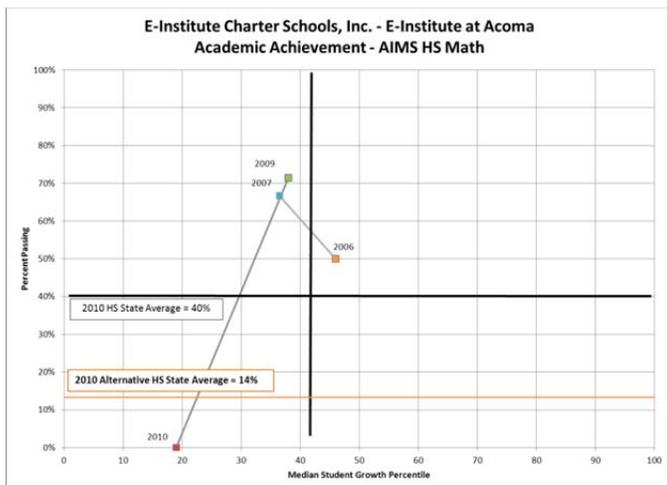
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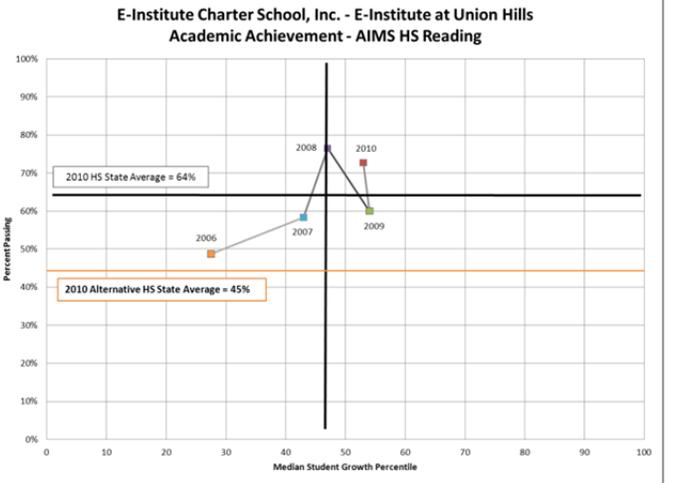
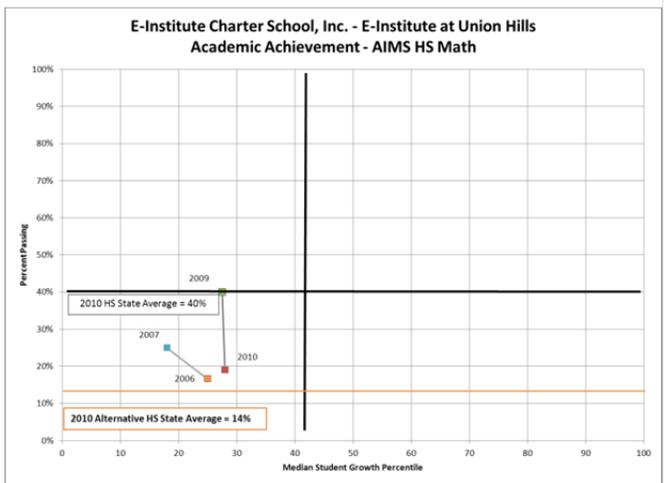
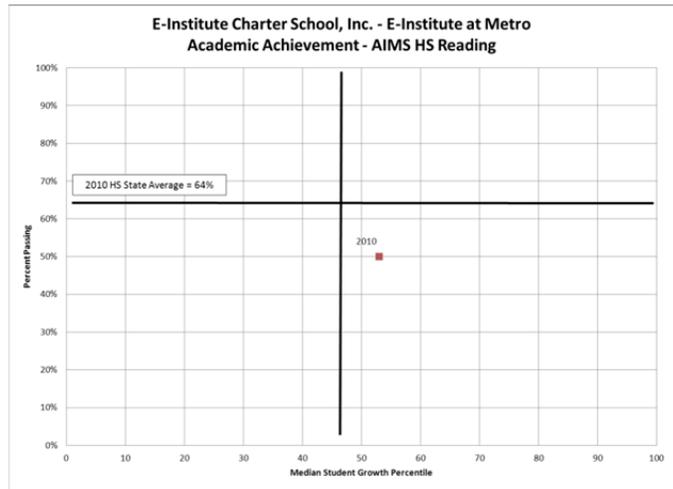
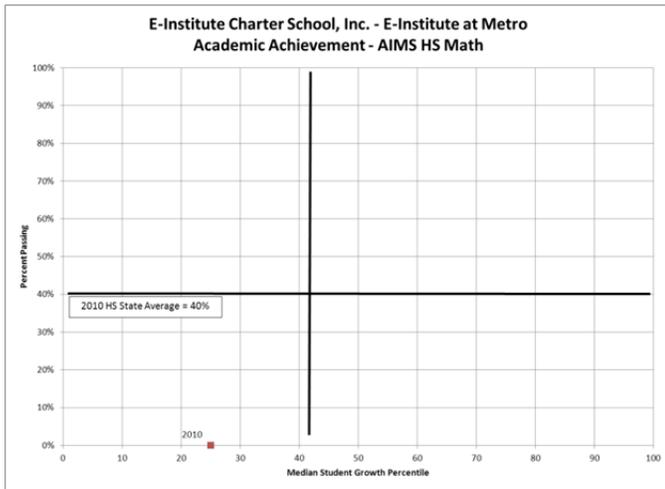
E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. was granted a charter in 1999. New sites were added in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The initial enrollment cap of 300 was increased to 550 in October 2008, and increased again to its current 700 in May 2009. Two of the schools operated by the Charter Holder are designated as Alternative Schools for the purpose of AZ Learns.

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the amendment approval process. This included an assessment of whether E-Institute at Acoma, E-Institute at Metro, E-Institute at Grovers, E-Institute at Union Hills, E-Institute Charter School at Buckeye and Taylion Virtual H. S. of Arizona met or demonstrated sufficient progress toward the Board’s level of adequate academic performance. As shown in the graphs below, two of the E-Institute schools have not met the Board’s level of adequate academic performance based on 2010 academic data. 2011 data is not yet available. As schools that just completed their first year of operation, data was not available for E-Institute Charter School at Buckeye, E-Institute at Grovers, and Taylion Virtual H. S. of Arizona.

As provided by the Charter Holder in the submission, E-Institute Charter Schools has a goal of opening two additional sites for the 2011-2012 school year. One site will be located in Avondale, the other in Tempe. The additional sites will utilize the same hybrid approach of instructional delivery that is present at the existing E-Institute schools. The Charter Holder also discussed the findings of a comparative data study completed in 2008 that compared E-Institute schools with other district and charter alternative schools. The findings described by the Charter Holder indicate that E-Institute schools have a graduation rate above both district and charter alternative schools serving students fitting the same demographic profile and within the same geographic area as E-Institute Schools, Inc.

According to the Charter Holder, student enrollment has increased yearly and currently is at a combined enrollment of 790, which exceeds the current enrollment cap of 700. The Charter Holder attributes higher than normal growth in enrollment at the existing sites to the existing 365 days per year open enrollment access to online high school. With the addition of Taylion Virtual High School in the fall of 2010 and the possible addition of two sites to open in the fall of 2011, the Charter Holder anticipates a significant increase in enrollment.





The Charter Holder has provided a narrative and documents to support their case for the additional sites and increase in enrollment cap which can be found in Appendix A.

Board Options

1. Accept the notification request to increase the enrollment cap and add two sites to the E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. charter.
2. Deny the increase in the enrollment cap and the addition of two sites to the E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. charter.

Staff Recommendation

Option 1.

Suggested Motion

Based on the information provided by the Charter Holder, including narrative describing increases in enrollment as well as discussion of graduation rates I move to approve the request for E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. to add two new sites and increase the enrollment cap from 700 to 2000.

APPENDIX A

April 6, 2011

Mrs. Deanna Rowe, Executive Director
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 164
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Rationale for Student Enrollment Cap Increase Request

Dear Mrs. Rowe,

E-Institute Charter Schools (EICS) has experienced steady student growth since first opening in 2000 and significant growth in the last three years. This network of schools has accomplished many goals and has demonstrated not only growth in attendance numbers, but growth in academic achievement and in other school accountability measures.

EICS has averaged an annual student increase of 47 students over the last ten years and has averaged a 110 student increase over the last two years. According to the ADMS 45-1 report, EICS had a combined Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 264 students in 2007-08. This number rose to 369 students in 2008-09 and 483 students in 2009-2010.

EICS currently has five school sites. In 2008, EICS established a goal to add one additional site each year for the next five years. It is our goal for 2011-12 to add two sites; one in Avondale and one in Tempe. In 2010-11 EICS has a combined enrollment of 540 students at the five locations with an additional 250 students from Taylion Virtual High School (TVHS) creating a combined enrollment of 790 students.

The current student enrollment cap for EICS is 700 students. We are currently above this cap by 90 students. With the additional two locations and the addition of TVHS we anticipate the overall student enrollment to increase significantly for 2011-12 and into the future.

EICS campuses typically start with 100 students in the first year and then grow to 180-200 students in subsequent years. We feel that this average of 100-200 students allows us to maintain a 25:1 student teacher ratio and also allows our teachers to know each child personally so that each student can have their own personalized educational plan.

Online high schools in Arizona have experienced rapid growth historically. With the addition of TVHS to the EICS network we anticipate that we could very reasonably grow to 2000 students. The open-enrollment 365 days per year access to online high schools causes higher growth rates particularly in the Summer to allow for summer school.

EICS has also shown growth in student achievement. I have included a comparative data study that was done in 2008 comparing EICS with other district and charter schools serving alternative high school students. Both EICS campuses that had graduation data showed graduation rates above the Arizona statewide average and significantly higher than other alternative schools for the same time period.

These two EICS school sites also compared favorably in AIMS reading scores for 2007. Both schools were close to the statewide average and were well above the other schools serving alternative students.

Another significant accomplishment for EICS in 2009 was to achieve accreditation with NCA and AdvancED. A team of reviewers analyzed the EICS operations and interviewed several teachers and administrators. They were very happy with what they saw and approved EICS as an accredited school.

This fall Taylion Virtual High School was approved as an Arizona Online Instruction school site of EICS. Since the opening of this school site, enrollment has increased significantly. We currently have 250 students and anticipate that things will continue to rapidly increase for the summer and into the future.

We are committed to maintaining a high-quality academic environment for students who want to successfully finish high school. We plan to continue our commitment to giving our students a personalized education well into the future. This growth plan will allow us to serve more students and give them a future path to success.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

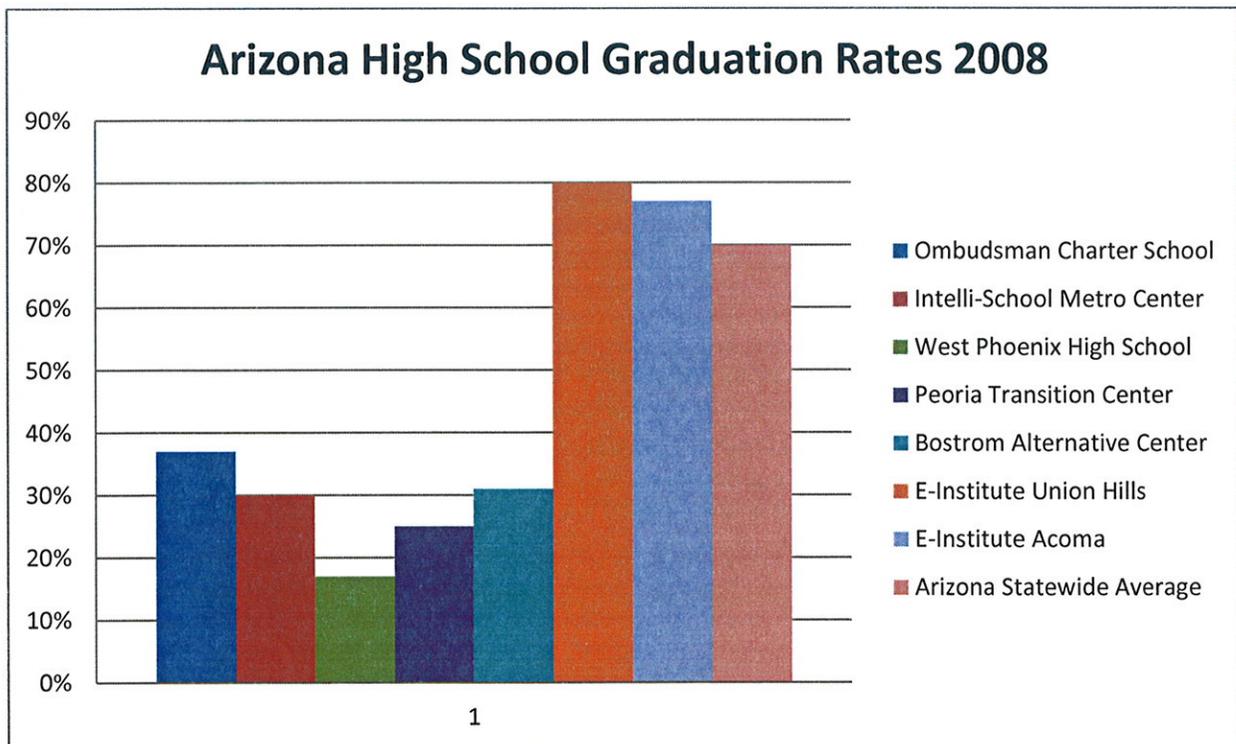


Timothy A. Smith
Executive Director, E-Institute Charter Schools

E-Institute Charter High School Comparative Data

E-Institute Charter High School has a proven track record of successfully serving alternative high school students that may be “at-risk” of dropping out of school or not successfully completing school. E-Institute utilizes a hybrid approach of instructional delivery combining computer based learning with teacher led instruction. Each E-Institute student develops a personalized learner plan in combination with teachers and parents. This plan identifies academic goals, completion deadlines and benchmarks in order to keep the student on the proper path to successfully passing the Arizona AIMS test and graduating with an Arizona high school diploma.

E-Institute has been successfully serving high school students since 2000 and has demonstrated effective gains in academic achievement and high school graduation. According to the Alliance for Excellent Education graduation rates are a fundamental indicator of whether or not the public school system is doing what it is intended to do: enroll, engage, and educate youth to be productive members of society. Since almost 90% of the fastest-growing and highest-paying jobs require some postsecondary education, having a high school diploma and the skills to succeed in college and the workplace are essential.



Source: Arizona School Report Card 2008, Arizona Department of Education

High School Graduation Rates

The graduation rate of public high schools is a “cohort” measure of four-year graduation; that is the share of students who comprise a 9th grade class, plus transfers in, minus transfers out and deceased students, who graduate by the fourth year. For example, those entering 9th grade in the 2000-01 school year comprise the cohort measured by the 2004 data. The four-year graduation rate is calculated for each high school in the determination of their adequate years progress (AYP).

- Source: Arizona Department of Education, Research and Evaluation Section

Based on the above chart a comparison can be made between Arizona high schools. E-Institute Charter High School is considered an alternative school for the purposes of determining Adequate Years Progress under NCLB and under the Arizona Learns interpretation of NCLB.

The Arizona Department of Education has determined that a school meeting the alternative label criteria serves a population of students that are: credit deficient, in need of remediation, students who are in poor academic standing, or have a demonstrated pattern of failing grades. In order to make an adequate comparison of schools that serve a similar student population, we have compiled data from other alternative schools in the area, both charter and district.

Ombudsman Charter School is an alternative charter school located on the west side of phoenix. They had a four year graduation rate in 2008 of 37%. Intelli-School Metro Center is another alternative charter school on the west side of Phoenix. They had a four year graduation rate in 2008 of 30%. West Phoenix High School is another alternative charter school on the west side of town. Their four year graduation rate in 2008 was 17%.

Included in this comparison are two alternative high schools that are school sites operating as part of the local school districts. The first school is Peoria Transition Center, part of the Peoria Unified School District. Peoria is a city northwest of Phoenix and considered part of the Northwest Valley. Peoria Transition Center had a four year graduation rate in 2008 of 25%. Another district alternative school is the Bostrom Alternative Center, part of the Phoenix Union High School District. They serve students on the west side of Phoenix and had a four year graduation rate in 2008 of 31%. The Arizona Statewide Four Year Graduation Rate is included at 70%.

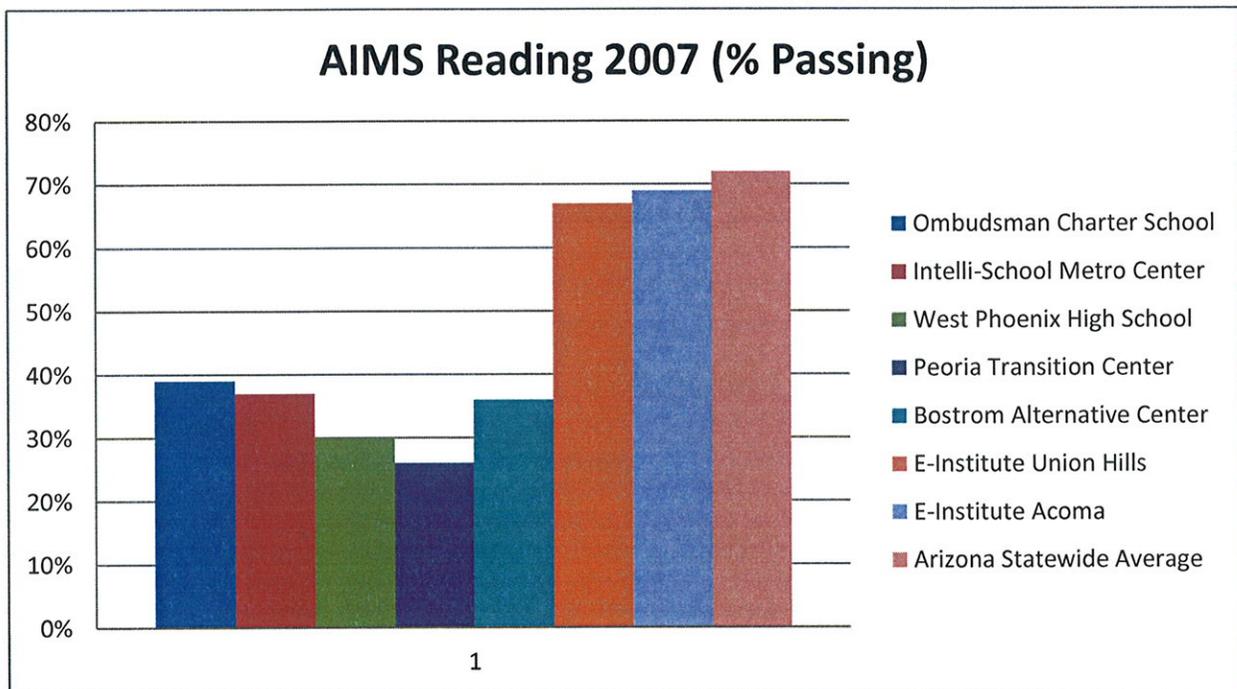
Based on this data a few conclusions can be drawn. The other alternative schools in this comparison had a combined average graduation rate in 2008 of 28% which is well below the Arizona State graduation rate of 70%. Both of the E-Institute Charter High School sites in this comparison were above the Arizona state average graduation rate and well above both of their district and charter school alternative school peers.

It is important to know that these schools are all serving students that fit the same demographic profile and are in the same geographic area. In looking at a comparative sample of academic achievement of these same schools there are similar results.

Arizona AIMS Reading Test Results

Arizona has instituted a mandatory statewide test called the AIMS test. This test is used to assess student mastery of Arizona state standards and is also used as a prerequisite for high school graduation.

The following chart shows a comparison of two E-Institute Charter Schools and other alternative schools serving the same demographic profile of students in the same geographic area of West Phoenix.



Source: Arizona School Report Card 2008, Arizona Department of Education

According to the Arizona AIMS test reading results for 2007, Ombudsman Charter School had 39% of students that passed the 2007 Arizona AIMS Reading test, Intelli-School Metro Center had 37% of students passing, and West Phoenix High School had 30% of students passing the AIMS reading test. Peoria Transition Center had 26% of students passing and Bostrom Alternative Center had 36% passing. E-Institute Union Hills had 67% of students passing and E-Institute Acoma had 69% of students passing the AIMS Reading with the Arizona Statewide Average being 72% of students passing the AIMS Reading test in 2007.

This data shows E-Institute scoring much higher than their district and charter peers and closely approaching the statewide average, while still serving an alternative school population.

Conclusions

E-Institute Charter High Schools effectively serve the needs of alternative high school students at risk of dropping out of or not successfully completing high school. Some of the effective components that allow e-institute to stand out from other alternative schools whether district or charter are the following:

- Combining computer-based instruction with teacher-led instruction;
- using a personalized educational approach with students, allowing them to play a part in identifying academic goals and outcomes; and
- having the flexibility to allow students to go at their own pace, while at the same time being accountable to themselves and to their teacher.

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

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Arizona State Board of Education

1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089

www.asbcs.az.gov

APR 13 2011

ENROLLMENT CAP NOTIFICATION REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. (CTDS) 07891100

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 4744 W. Grovers

(City, State) Glendale, AZ (Zip) 85308

(Charter Representative's Name) Timothy Smith

(Phone Number) 602-439-5026 (Fax Number) 602-889-0351

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

 Changes in enrollment cap (A.R.S. §15-184)

Included is the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Documentation that current facilities can accommodate requested capacity
- Narrative describing the staffing changes and recruiting efforts that will be made to reach capacity.

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

FROM: 700

TO: 2000

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 4th day of April, 2011, 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

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Arizona State Board of Education

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APR 13 2011

NEW SCHOOL SITE NOTIFICATION REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) E-Institute Charter Schools, Inc. (CTDS) 078911000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 4744 W. Grovers

(City, State) Glendale, AZ (Zip) 85308

(Charter Representative's Name) Timothy Smith

(Phone Number) 602-439-5026 (Fax Number) 602-889-0351

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

 Adding a school site

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)
- Certificate of Occupancy approved for educational use
- Current Fire Marshal's Report approved for educational use
- Lease agreement or proof of purchase for facility
- Copy of Fingerprint Clearance Card for school site administrator
- Copy of liability insurance coverage
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional school site supports the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter

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

Name of school: E-Institute - Avondale

Grade levels to be served: 9-12

Physical address: 1435 North Eliseo C. Felix Way, Avondale, Arizona 85323

Mailing address: N/A

Phone number: 602439-5026 **Fax number:** 602-889-0351

First day of operation: August 1, 2011

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 4th day of April, 2011, 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

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Arizona State Board of Education

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(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 4744 W. Grovers

(City, State) Glendale, AZ (Zip) 85308

(Charter Representative's Name) Timothy Smith

(Phone Number) 602-439-5026 (Fax Number) 602-889-0351

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

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- Current Fire Marshal's Report approved for educational use
- Lease agreement or proof of purchase for facility
- Copy of Fingerprint Clearance Card for school site administrator
- Copy of liability insurance coverage
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional school site supports the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter

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

Name of school: E-Institute - Tempe

Grade levels to be served: 9-12

Physical address: 3122 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe 85282

Mailing address: N/A

Phone number: 602439-5026 **Fax number:** 602-889-0351

First day of operation: August 1, 2011

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 4th day of April, 2011, 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



4744 West Grovers Ave. Glendale, AZ. 85308
PH 602-439-5026 FAX 602-889-0351

E-Institute Charter Schools Governing Board
Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2011

I. Call to order

Timothy Smith called to order the regular meeting of **E-Institute Charter Schools Governing Board** at 10:15 AM on **April 19, 2011** at **Carden Traditional School of Glendale**, located at **4744 W. Grovers Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85308**.

II. Roll call

Laurel MacDermott conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Timothy Smith, Dennis Arend and Laurel MacDermott Secretary to Tim Smith. The following Board Members attended via teleconference, Will Griffin, Sergio Guillen.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Laurel MacDermott read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

IV. Open issues

a) None discussed at this time.

V. New business

a.) Enrollment Cap 700-2000

Mr. Timothy Smith began the discussion of the proposed Enrollment Cap from 700 to 2000. He stated that with the opening of two new E-Institute campuses and the online students the enrollment is growing.

Mr. Smith then asked if there were any questions, there were no questions from the board members regarding the Enrollment Cap from 700 to 2000.

Sergio Guillen made a motion to approve the Enrollment Cap. Will Griffin seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion to approve the Enrollment Cap.

b.) Name of Two New Schools – Avondale and Tempe

Mr. Smith began discussion of the name of the two new schools. He stated that the names are E-Institute-Avondale and E-Institute-Tempe.

Mr. Smith then asked if there were any questions, there were no questions from the board members regarding the name of the two new schools, E-Institute-Avondale and E-Institute-Tempe.

VI. Adjournment

Timothy Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM

Minutes submitted by: Laurel MacDermott

Minutes approved by Timothy Smith, Board President