

Issue

LEAD Charter Schools, a non-profit entity, submitted a complete Transfer Application for the transfer of the Queen Creek site, Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek to a separate charter contract. LEAD Charter Schools was granted a charter in 2002 and opened Leading Edge Academy – Queen Creek in 2005. LEAD Charter Schools currently operates four (4) sites in East Valley area of Phoenix.

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the approval process. This compliance check included an assessment of whether Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek met or demonstrated sufficient progress toward the Board’s level of adequate academic performance.

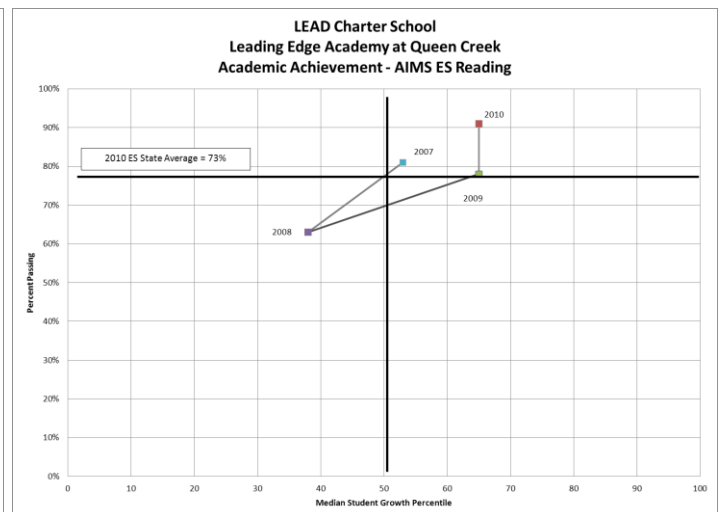
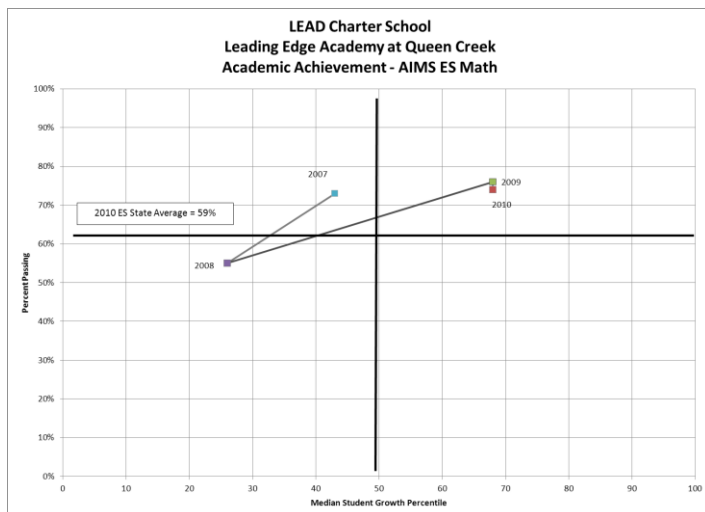
As shown in the graphs that follow, Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek has met the Board’s level of adequate academic performance. The charter holder is also compliant in all other areas.

Curricular Emphasis:

Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek bases its program of instruction around five philosophical principals – educating the whole child, parental involvement, character counts, a traditional approach to education using scientifically-based curriculum, and highly trained teachers. According to the charter holder, a variety of instructional methods including direct instruction, small group, collaborative group, hands-on, and integration of multi-media, are utilized by teachers at Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek. Formative, informal, and summative assessments provide teachers with the opportunity to analyze student performance against the Arizona State Standards. The charter holder describes a remediation plan whereby students testing below grade level in Reading, Writing, and Math receive remediation, in accordance with a designed plan, that includes in-class modification, and pull-out tutoring in small groups or in a one-on-one environment.

Governance Structure:

The Board of Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek will have final responsibility for the school and will be responsible for compliance and fiscal management, except areas specifically reserved to the Governing Board per state requirements. The Corporate Board appoints the Governing Board, and sets the overall vision, direction, and philosophy of the school. The Governing Board is responsible for school policy and performs other duties determined by state requirements. The Governing Board reports to the Corporate Board through the Governing Board President. Leading Edge Solutions Management Company has been contracted to provide the management of the charter school, including providing the Executive Director and the Operations staff. The Executive Director is responsible for the finance, compliance, and operations of the school. The Executive Director reports directly to the Corporate Board.



Board Options

1. Approve the Transfer Application for Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek.
2. Deny the Transfer Application for Leading Edge Academy at Queen Creek.

Staff Recommendation

Option 1.