
AGENDA ITEM: Compliance Matters – Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment

Issue

The following charter holders have failed to submit their Governing Board and/or Superintendent/Charter Administrator Declarations of Curricular and Instructional Alignment for fiscal year 2010, which were due to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) on October 15, 2009:

1. Academy of Arizona (Governing Board and Charter Administrator Declarations)
2. Cesar Chavez Learning Community (Governing Board and Charter Administrator Declarations)
3. Khalsa Family Services (Governing Board and Charter Administrator Declarations)
4. Paramount Education Studies, Inc. (Governing Board and Charter Administrator Declarations)
5. Phoenix Education Management, LLC (Governing Board Declaration)

Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment Background

The State Board of Education adopted the Arizona Academic Standards Articulated by Grade Level (Standards) in the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The purpose of the Declaration is to affirm that the central components of standards-based education are in effect at every level in every school district and charter school in the State. The central components of standards-based education include a curriculum aligned to the Standards, instructional materials aligned to the Standards, and the evaluation of teachers to ensure that the Standards are integrated into instructional practices.

Each of the three documents that comprise the complete Declaration is signed separately by the local governing board as a body, the superintendent/charter administrator, and every school principal. The School Principal Declaration is not due until February 4, 2010.

Board Options

1. The Board may direct staff to monitor each charter holder's progress in submitting the appropriate fiscal year 2010 Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment and provide additional updates as they become available.
2. The Board may find the charter holders are in noncompliance with the requirement to timely submit the Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment and approve withholding 10% of each charter holder's monthly State aid apportionment until the appropriate fiscal year 2010 Declaration(s) of Curricular and Instructional Alignment have been submitted.
3. The Board may vote to issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke the charter contract of each charter holder for failure to submit the appropriate fiscal year 2010 Declaration(s) of Curricular and Instructional Alignment as required by their charter contracts.

Staff's Recommendation

Staff's recommendation is Option #2.