

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (CTDS) Not Yet Issued

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 459 N. Gilbert Road, #A140

(City, State) AZ (Zip) 85234

(Charter Representative's Name) Ron Body

(Phone Number) 480-633-0414 (Fax Number) 480-558-7038

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APR 15 2010 *MC*

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 Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM SERVING GRADES: K - 6

TO SERVING GRADES: K - 8

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 11 day of March, 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

NOTICE

Minutes

March 10, 2010

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
Board of Directors

All items on this agenda are open for discussion and possible action, including reports and action items.

CALL TO ORDER 2:09 PM

ROLL CALL: Ron Body, Matthew Reese and Johnathan Johnson (via phone)

GENERAL SESSION

1. Policies, Plans, and Issues:

- Discussion of and possible action regarding grade levels served for 2010/11 at Leading Edge Academy Maricopa: There was a question regarding hiring Highly Qualified Teachers. Informed that we would hire Highly Qualified Teachers.
 - From serving Grades K-6 to serving grades K-8; It was asked what interest we know of for adding 7th and 8th grades. Johnathan informed us that at the recent two community meetings most everyone showed interest, as well as 5 families requesting in writing for us to consider adding 7th and 8th grades for the 2010/11 school year. After further discussion, Ron motioned we extend offering grades served from K-6 to K-8 for the 2010-2011 school year. Mat seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Call to Public:

Informal Question and Answer Session (if need and time exist). No questions from the public.

3. Adjournment: 2:15 PM

Adding Grade Levels Served for Charter

1. Narrative that provides background and support for expansion.

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (LEAM) is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on June 15, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education. LEAM's charter application was approved at the Jan. 26th AZ State Charter Board Meeting. The charter application states that grades K-6 will be served beginning August 2010. The Charter application also states that LEAM will serve grades K-7 in 2011/2012 and K-8 in 2012/2013.

However, due to several factors, LEAM is requesting to add grades 7 and 8 for the 2010/2011 school year. First, LEAM has held meetings in the Maricopa community to get input regarding the school. A meeting was held Feb. 8th at the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce with local leaders to introduce them to LEAM, allow them to ask questions, and to get their input about the school. Some of the input we received related to LEAM offering 7th and 8th grades this school year. Community leaders expressed concern about the instability of some of the public middle schools. For example, Maricopa Wells Middle School Maricopa had recently fired its Principal, and an interim principal was hired, making her the school's fourth Principal since last May. The Leaders at the meeting requested that we offer grades 7 and 8 immediately. This sentiment was echoed at another meeting that was held in the community on Feb. 22nd. This community meeting, which was advertised as an "Information Meeting," was attended by more than fifty parents. Parents at this meeting also requested that we offer 7th and 8th grade as soon as possible, with several parents putting their requests in writing. During the question and answer time at this meeting, parents stated that another option was needed for middle school students and asked us to consider establishing grades 7 and 8 for 2010/2011.

The target enrollment for 7th and 8th grades is one class for each grade level with 20 students in each class. However, we are prepared to monetarily sustain these classes even if the target enrollment is not hit.

The Corporate Principals of LEAM thoroughly discussed the advantages and disadvantages of adding grades 7 and 8 for the 2010/2011, and the decision was made to request adding grades 7 and 8. On March 10, 2010, the Governing Board of Leading Edge Academy Maricopa unanimously approved the change.

We are requesting to add grades 7 and 8 for the 2010/2011 school year because:

- Members in the community have expressed a need for another option for middle school in Maricopa;
- The facility at LEAM has the space and the capacity to accommodate 7th and 8th grade classes;
- The Governing Board has approved the change.

2. Narrative that describes how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter.

LEAM's Charter includes adding grades 7 for the 2011/2012 school year and grades 8 for the 2012/2013 school year. The philosophy of the school, the methods of instructions, the school's emphasis of academic excellence and character education, and the mission of the charter were all devised with 7th and 8th grade in mind.

Our Educational Philosophy applies to grades K-8. LEAM believe in:

- Educating the whole child
- Parental involvement
- That Character counts
- In a traditional approach to education using scientifically-based curriculum
- In highly trained teachers.

As stated in our charter, LEAM will provide a traditional approach to learning using a variety of instructional methods: direct, small group, collaborative, hands-on, and multi-media. Differentiated instruction will accommodate visual, auditory, read/write, and tactile/kinesthetic learners. Regular assessments will be an integral part of information gathering, serving as a feedback system that assists teachers in lesson planning. Remediation will include a combination of in-class modification, small group instruction, or one-on-one tutoring. LEAM exists to train a generation for excellence using a traditional approach to education that is built upon scientifically-based curriculum in an environment where positive character traits are expected and modeled. This mission was created with students K-8 in mind. The additional two grades (7 & 8) support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter.

3. Timeline for implementation.

February 2010

- Receive strong interest for grades 7 & 8 at two Community Information Meetings
- Gather names of potential students for grades 7 & 8

March 2010

- Governing Board of LEAM approved adding grades 7 & 8
- Submit "Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request" to ASBCS for adding grades 7 & 8
- Gather names of potential students for grades 7 & 8 at Community Information Meetings

April 2010

- Gather names of potential students for grades 7 & 8 at Community Information Meetings

May 2010

- Receive application for potential candidates for teachers

June 2010

- ASBCS approves “Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request”
- Contact the parents of students who have indicated interest in grades 7 & 8
- Enroll students
- Hire teachers

July 2010

- Teacher Training/Professional Development
- Back to School parent/student orientation

August 2010

- School begins August 5, 2010

4. Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies.

A. Proficiency

In line with our traditional approach to learning, determination for students’ promotion or retention will take place at the end of each school year. LEAM will advance students to the next grade level if the student has mastered or is progressing rapidly toward mastery level of Arizona State Standards. Traditional letter grades will be given to 7th and 8th grade students.

Students must demonstrate that they are on pace to master 80% of all content to be promoted to the next grade level. If one or more subjects fall below 80% mastery, a student may still be promoted if 1) the grade below mastery is in the 70 to 79% range, 2) the student has consistently turned in homework and has demonstrated an effort to improve, and 3) the classroom teacher recommends promotion (in compliance with ARS 15-521: Duties of teachers). Final student promotion decisions will be determined by the Governing Board (in compliance with ARS 15-342: Discretionary powers).

B. Credit Transfer Policies:

N/A