

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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FEB 14 2011

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (CTDS) 11-87-08-001

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 459 N. Gilbert Road, A#140

(City, State) AZ (Zip) 85234

(Charter Representative's Name) Ron Body

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

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-8

TO SERVING GRADES: K-12

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 14 day of Feb, 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

Minutes

February 14, 2011

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
Board of Directors

The Leading Edge Academy Maricopa Charter School Board of Directors was held at Leading Edge Academy District Office, 459 N Gilbert Road, Gilbert, AZ Arizona. The meeting commenced at 11:05 AM.

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

CALL TO ORDER 11:05 AM

Present: Ron Body, Jonathan A. Johnson (via phone), Mathew Reese (via phone)

It was noted a quorum was present.

It was noted no Public were present.

GENERAL SESSION

1. **Approval of Board Minutes from December 15, 2010:** The Board minutes were reviewed. Mat motioned to accept the Minutes, Jonathan seconded. Carried 3-0.
2. **Discussion and adoption of adding additional grades (9-12) at Leading Edge Academy Maricopa**
 - o From serving Grades K-8 to serving grades K-12: It was asked what interest we know of for adding additional grades. Johnathan informed us that the other Charter school in town is discontinuing their High School program, which would give us prospects and fill a need in the community. Mat said that all of our current 8th graders and several new candidates have already shown interest. There was a question regarding hiring Highly Qualified Teachers. Informed that we would hire Highly Qualified Teachers and that most times the Highly Qualified teachers could be shared from 7th up as long as we hired teachers HQ for both middle and high school. Discussed adding just one grade or all four; Ron shared our experiences at the Gilbert campus and how we added through 12th grade there and that it did work well. After further discussion, Mat motioned we request to extend offering grades served from K-8 to K-12 for the 2011-2012 school year. Mat seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. **Discussion and adoption of a fee schedule for Leading Edge Academy extra-curricular activities.**

The Extracurricular Tax Credit policy and activity fee schedule was reviewed and discussed. Several items were discussed, including specifics regarding authorizing the Principal to waive all or part of the activity fee for students with economic hardships. Mat motioned to adopt the policy and fee schedule. Ron Seconded, carried 3-0.

Mat mentioned that there is not sufficient outdoor play equipment in his opinion and that several parents were also inquiring regarding this. Ron reminded that as this item is not on the agenda we could not discuss and take action, but that we could put it on the agenda of the next Board meeting and that Mat could do preliminary research on this if he chose to.

4. **Adjournment:** There being no public present and no further business, Ron motioned to adjourn at 11:25 AM. Mat seconded. 3-0. Adjourned at 11:25 AM

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 served grades K-6, and then in the spring of 2010 we were approved to amend 7th and 8th grade.

We are now requesting to add grades 9 – 12 for several reasons. First, we have received recent community interest regarding a high school. Parents have requested that we offer high school grades, and we've even had parents submit enrollment forms for high school. We also believe we will pick up students as a result of Legacy Traditional School (Maricopa campus) discontinuing their high school program. Currently, Legacy is the only site-based charter high school with regular school hours, and they are discontinuing their high school program after this school year. While Sequoia Pathway Academy offers a 9th – 12th grade online hybrid program with two sessions (8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:15 pm to 4:15 pm), we believe many parents are still attracted to a charter high school with regular school hours. Finally, last year we held many community meetings to receive input from the community. Parents expressed concern that if we were to only offer K-8 grades that there wouldn't be a charter high school with the same structure and values for their children once they graduated from 8th grade.

For the past several months, the Corporate Principals of LEAM have thoroughly discussed the advantages and disadvantages of adding grades 9 – 12 for the 2011/2012 school year, and the decision was made to request adding grades 9 – 12. On Feb. 14 2010, the Governing Board of Leading Edge Academy Maricopa unanimously approved the change.

It has been our experience that starting grades 9 – 12 at one time can be a positive approach rather than starting a high school one grade at a time each year. At our sister school, Gilbert Early College - a Leading Edge High School, had 50 students in grades 9 – 12 its first year, and since then the program has grown and proven to be very successful. We believe there is ample time to market and advertise and are confident of recruiting more than 50 students to begin in the fall.

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

The philosophy of the school, the methods of instructions, the school's special emphasis of academic excellence and character education also apply to high school grades.

Our Educational Philosophy applies to all grades. We 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.

3. Timeline for implementation.

February 2011

- Gather names of potential students for grades 9 – 12
- Governing Board of LEAM approves adding grades 9 – 12
- Submit “Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request” to ASBCS for adding grades 9 - 12

March 2011

- Gather names of potential students for grades 9 - 12 at Community Information Meeting

April 2011

- Gather names of potential students for grades 9 - 12 at Community Information Meeting

May 2011

- Receive application for potential candidates for teachers
- ASBCS approves “Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request”
- Begin advertising and marketing campaign for grades 9 – 12 once ASBCS approves high school grades

June 2011

- Contact the parents of students who have indicated interest in grades 9 - 12
- Enroll students
- Hire teachers

July 2011

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

August 2011

- School begins August 4, 2011

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

LEAM will require 80% mastery of state standards and subject specific goals in each course to award credit for course completion. Students will demonstrate mastery through assessments, traditional final exams, and state assessments to ensure each credit earned will be transferable should the student transition to a different high school.

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).

To accept credit from another public or private school, credits will be evaluated by the registrar. If a school is accredited, all credits where students earn at least a C or higher will be accepted. If the student is transferring from a non-accredited school or has been homeschooled, a teacher generated mastery level assessment may be administered prior to all credit acceptances at the principal's direction.