

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools**

**Arizona State Board of Education**

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

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[www.asbcs.az.gov](http://www.asbcs.az.gov)

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**PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT REQUEST**

(Charter Holder Name) Life Skills Center of Arizona (CTDS) 078980201

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 8123 North 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2

(City, State) Phoenix, AZ (Zip) 85051

(Charter Representative's Name) Yvonne Pena

(Phone Number) (602) 242-6400 (Fax Number) (602) 242-8123

**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.**

✦ Changes in instructional methodology, and/or delivery that affects the emphasis, program of instruction or mission as described in the charter

Included are the following:

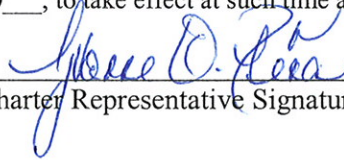
- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing the change, the rationale for the change, and how the change will meet the ASBCS' adequate level of academic performance for student achievement.

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Life Skills Center of Arizona (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

**FROM:** Note: Please see attached related to changes to the graduation requirements.

**TO:**

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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

## High School Graduation Requirements\*

<i>Current Requirements</i>	<i>Class of 2012</i>	<i>Class of 2013</i>
<p>English Mathematics Science Social Studies CTE/Fine Art Electives</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">4 credits 2 credits 2 credits 2.5 credits 1 credit 8.5 credits</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b> 20 credits</p>	<p>English Mathematics<sup>(1)</sup> Science Social Studies<sup>(2)</sup> CTE/Fine Art Electives</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">4 credits 3 credits 2 credits 3 credits 1 credit 7 credits</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b> 20 credits</p> <p><sup>(1)</sup>Mathematics courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry and an additional course with significant mathematics content as determined by district governing boards or charter schools.</p> <p><sup>(2)</sup>Social Studies shall consist of one credit of American History, one credit of World History/Geography, one-half credit of government and one-half credit of economics.</p>	<p>English Mathematics<sup>(1)</sup> Science<sup>(2)</sup> Social Studies CTE/Fine Art Electives</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">4 credits 4 credits 3 credits 3 credits 1 credit 7 credits</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b> 22 credits</p> <p><sup>(1)</sup>Mathematics courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or its equivalent) and an additional course with significant mathematics content as determined by district governing boards or charter schools.</p> <p><sup>(2)</sup>Science courses shall prepare students for the high school AIMS test (life science). A.R.S. § 15-203 prohibits the SBE from adopting changes to these requirements that will impact “capital costs.”</p>

\*This document is a summary of Arizona’s minimum course of study. Please refer to A.A.C. R7-2-302.01 and R7-2-302.02 to view the complete requirements. These rules can be accessed through the Secretary of State’s website at: [http://www.azsos.gov/public\\_services/Title\\_07/7-02.htm](http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_07/7-02.htm)

Life Skills Center of Arizona

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Life Skills Center of Arizona approves and adopts the November 16, 2009 Minutes.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Life Skills Center of Arizona accepts the State of the School Report, as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Life Skills Center of Arizona accepts the Financial Report, as presented.

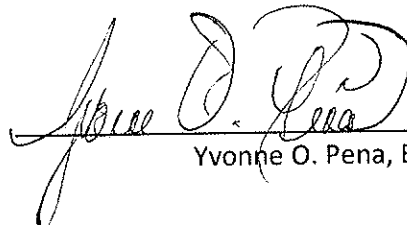
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Life Skills Center of Arizona hereby approves the appointments of Arnita Diggs as Board Member and Bertha Teamor-Lowe as Board Member of the Life Skills Center of Arizona Board of Directors for a term to expire at the annual organizational meeting in 2013.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Life Skills Center of Arizona approves the remittance of payment for Board business travel and lodging and related expenses pertaining to any Board Member who wishes to attend training related conferences from now until June 30, 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Life Skills Center of Arizona approves the Amendment to the Contract regarding the filing of the Life Skills Center of Arizona Graduation Requirements to modify the current graduation requirements to be aligned with the Arizona Department of Education graduation requirements, starting with the class of 2010 and continuing through the class of 2013, as the Arizona Department of Education revises said requirements.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves and authorizes said Amendment to be filed with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

The undersigned representative of Life Skills Center of Arizona hereby certifies that the foregoing resolutions were adopted at the board meeting held on February 1, 2010, the original of which resolution is a part of the governing body's minutes.

  
Yvonne O. Pena, Board President



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February 1, 2010

Dear Board Members:

As many of you know, our current graduation requirements exceed the state requirements in Arizona. Below you will see our graduation requirements in comparison to the state requirements:.

Life Skills Center of Arizona		State of Arizona	
English	4 credits	English	4 credits
<b>Math</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>4 credits</b>	Math	2 credits
<b>Science</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>3 credits</b>	Science	2 credits
Social Studies	3 credits	Social Studies	2.5 credits
Vocational	1 credits	CTE/Fine Art	1 credits
Electives	6 credits	Electives	8.5 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 credits</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20 credits</b>

While the state plans to adopt our current graduation requirements for the class of 2013, the change would not occur until over three years away. Since the implementation of the current graduation requirements during the 2008-2009 school year, we have seen a sharp decline in the number of graduates. Traditionally we have two graduation ceremonies each year in the winter and spring. For the past two school years, we had to cancel the winter ceremony due to a low number of graduates.

The reason is simple. A student in Arizona has a wide variety of choices when it comes to selecting a high school. Currently we invite potential enrollees to enroll in our school and expect the students to earn twice the math credits, more science, and more social studies, and yet the students may earn the same diploma at another surrounding charter school with graduation requirements aligned to the state requirements. We had over 100

students withdraw this school year simply based on the graduation requirements being too aggressive. As the Administrator, I'm knowledgeable that our students love the school, the staff, the culture, but simply can't afford to stay longer than necessary when they could graduate immediately at another high school.

The graduation requirements for the state will increase for the graduating class in 2012, and eventually will move to our current requirements that we have right now in 2013. Our curriculum is capable of handling those requirements when that time comes. The transition will be a smooth one because we already have made it.

The bottom line is we are not benefiting our students with our current requirements. We are not offering them an advanced diploma, simply delaying an important accomplishment that the state says they have the right to. We are losing students because we cannot offer them what they can get elsewhere. I'm confident that our students love the school and it pains me to see them leave when the only reason they cite is the fact that currently our graduation requirements exceed what the state requires.

In light of the foregoing, I ask that the Board approves changing the current graduation requirements to be aligned to state requirements starting with the class of 2010 and continuing through 2013.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If there are any questions you may have about this proposal, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jared S. Kittelson