Mountain Rose Academy, Inc. - Entity ID 10879
School: Mountain Rose Academy

Renewal Executive Summary

Sources of Evidence for this Document

Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-183.I, a charter may be renewed for successive periods of twenty years. The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Board) has established a process for the renewal of a charter that is based on affirmative evidence in three areas:

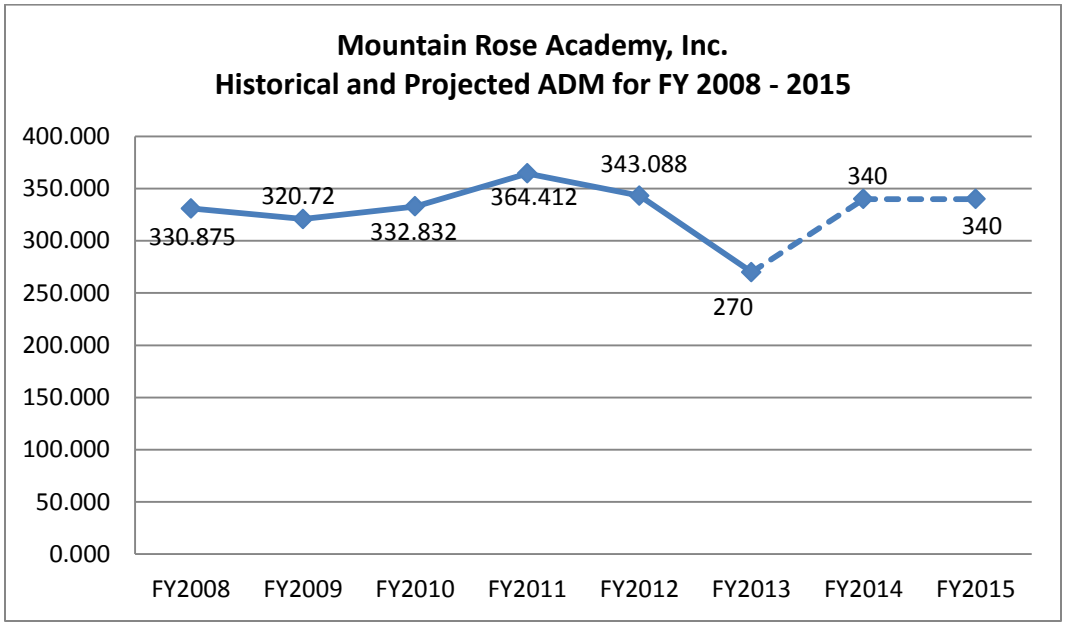
I. Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
II. Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
III. Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

Evaluation of the charter holder's success in these three areas is based on a variety of information that will serve as sources of evidence in determining renewal of a charter. These sources include, but are not limited to:

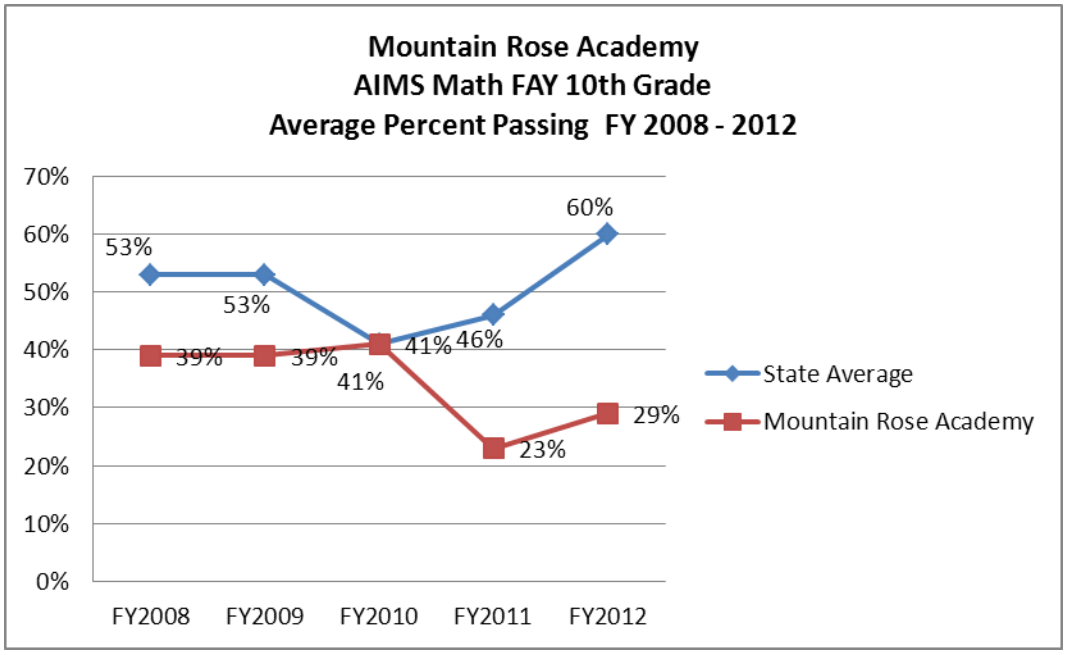
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

Profile

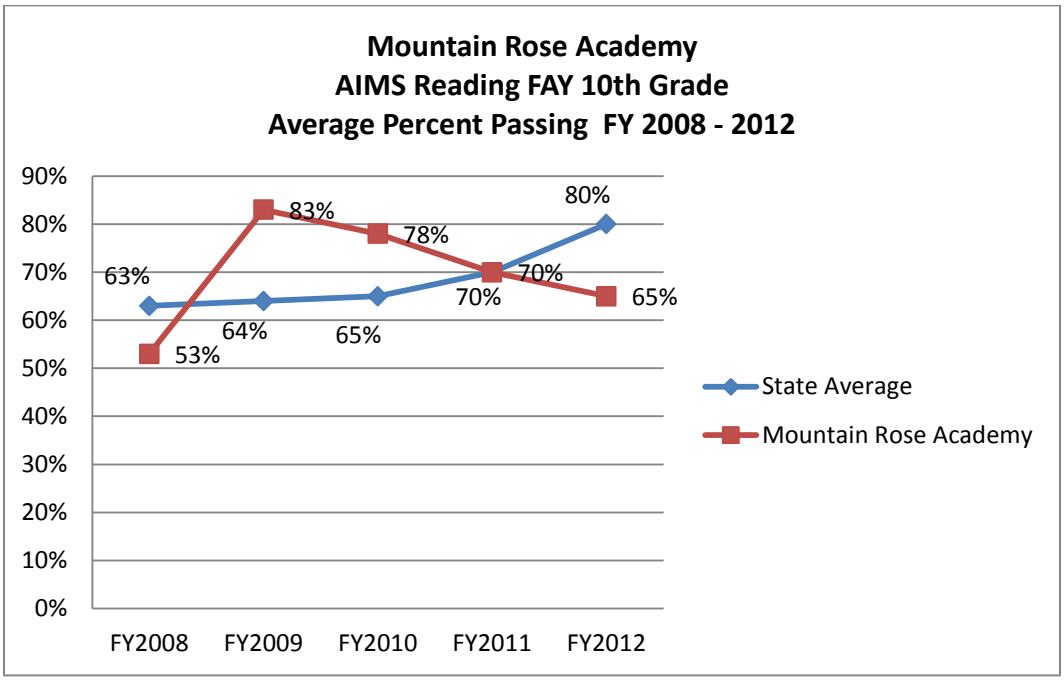
Mountain Rose Academy, Inc. operates one school serving grades 9-12. Mountain Rose Academy is designated as an alternative school. The graph below shows the charter holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2008-2012 and the fiscal year 2013 estimated count as of September 13. Projections were provided by the charter holder as part of the submitted Renewal Budget Plan.



Charts displaying the academic achievement for the past five years are provided below.



For FY 2012, the 10th grade average percent passing in math for alternative schools was 22.62%.



For FY 2012, the 10th grade average percent passing in reading for alternative schools was 53.73%.

I. Success of the Academic Program

The academic performance of the school operated by the charter holder did not meet or demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board's level of adequate academic performance. Therefore, the charter holder was required to submit a Performance Management Plan in the academic section of the renewal application and to complete the Renewal Budget Plan.

On July 20, the charter holder submitted a PMP narrative, templates, and oversight documentation. The FY 2012 letter grade for Mountain Rose Academy is a C-Alt, as reported by the Arizona Department of Education.

A leadership team discussion took place on August 24 at Mountain Rose Academy with Cathleen Capen (COO), Catherine Kinghorn (CEO), Kelly Hurtado (Superintendent), and Amy Schlessman (Research, Innovation, and Outreach). The team confirmed that their focus is on math. At the time of the meeting, the team provided additional information on efforts to improve the math program by implementing the Carnegie Learning online curriculum for all math courses. The leadership team demonstrated how the Carnegie Learning curriculum and assessments provide for strategic interventions and systematic individualized instruction for their students. The school has a full-time math specialist who works with individual teachers twice a week to focus on professional development based upon data collected through the

program. Teachers' schedules are structured to provide for two hours of professional development each day.

The leadership team discussed their teacher accountability model (APAT), as well as their individualized professional development, and protocol for data discussions. The information gleaned supported the Performance Management Plan narrative and templates submitted.

Required submissions for the Academic Performance Section and the Renewal Budget Plan, as well as the applicable evaluation instrument and checklist, are included in the charter holder's portfolio. The evaluation instrument completed by staff identifies whether the required information provided included a Full Description, a Partial Description, or a Very Limited Description. The checklist completed by staff identifies whether the required elements of the Detailed Business Plan were addressed.

II. Viability of the Organization

The charter holder meets the standards specified in the *Renewal Application Instructions*. Therefore, the charter holder was not required to submit the charter holder's Financial Sustainability portion of the Detailed Business Plan Section.

III. Adherence to the Terms of the Charter

A. Compliance Matters Requiring Board or Other Agency Action[1]

Over the past six years, there were no items to report.

B. Other Compliance Matters[2]

The fiscal year 2010 audit identified an issue that required a corrective action plan (CAP). Specifically, the response to one of the compliance questionnaire's student attendance reporting questions indicated that students were allowed to make up time missed, thereby negating absences that would have otherwise been reported to the Arizona Department of Education. A.R.S. §15-797(D) permits charter schools operating on approved alternative calendars to count pupils as having attended full time in any week for which the pupil was enrolled in and physically attended at least 20 hours of instruction during that week. However, the charter holder had not been granted alternative calendar status by the Board and therefore was not permitted to allow students to make up time in order to possibly reduce the number of absences reported. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP. The Board approved the charter holder's request for alternative calendar status on January 18, 2011.

C. Charter Holder's Organizational Membership

[1] For more information about the areas of compliance reviewed for this section, please see the "Renewal Guide".
[2] For more information about the areas of compliance reviewed for this section, please see the "Renewal Guide".

Because the organizational membership on file with the Board was consistent with the information on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission, the charter holder was not required to submit the charter holder's Organizational Membership portion of the Detailed Business Plan Section.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the following language for consideration: Renewal is based on consideration of academic, fiscal and contractual compliance of the charter holder. In this case, there is a record of academic performance below the Board's level of adequate academic performance, which has been addressed by the charter holder through the inclusion of a performance management plan as part of the renewal application package and can be incorporated in the charter contract. There is also a record of past contractual noncompliance which has been reviewed. With that taken into consideration as well as all information provided to the Board for consideration of this renewal application package and during its discussion with representatives of the charter holder, I move to approve the request for charter renewal and grant a renewal contract to Mountain Rose Academy, Inc. that incorporates the performance management plan.