

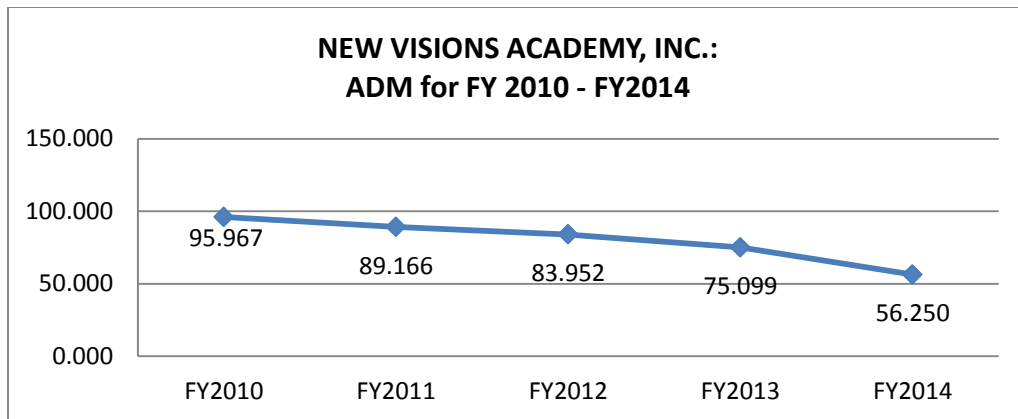
AGENDA ITEM: Transfer Application – New Visions Academy, Inc.

Issue

New Visions Academy, Inc., submitted a complete Transfer Application for transfer of the sponsor from the Arizona State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

Background

New Visions Academy, Inc. was granted a charter in 2000 and opened New Visions Academy in Cottonwood and New Visions Academy-St. John’s Campus in July, 2000. The charter holder also opened New Visions Academy-Star Valley in August, 2002 but closed the school in June, 2012 due to low enrollment. The charter becomes eligible for renewal on January 18, 2014 and expires on July 18, 2015. The charter holder currently operates two schools, New Visions Academy and New Visions Academy – St. John’s Campus, serving grades 9-12. According to the curricular emphasis narrative, the alternative schools operated by the charter holder serve at-risk high school students. The graph below shows the charter holder’s actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2010-2013 and 40th day enrollment for FY2014 as of December 11, 2013.



The dashboard representations of academic outcomes for New Visions Academy and New Visions Academy – St. John’s Campus, based upon the indicators and measures adopted by the Board, are provided below.

New Visions Academy CTDS: 13-86-54-001 | Entity ID: 10856

Academic Performance							
General Site Contact Inspections Grades Governing Body FY Data Site Visits Member Campuses Amendments							
Academic Performance							
Edit this section. New Visions Academy							
		2012 Alternative High School (9-12)			2013 Alternative High School (9-12)		
		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1. Growth							
1a. SGP	Math	15	25	2.5	NR	0	0
	Reading	22	25	2.5	NR	0	0
1b. Improvement	Math	19	25	12.5	28.2	50	15
	Reading	33.5	50	12.5	58.1	100	15
2. Proficiency							
2a. Percent Passing	Math	32 / 19.8	75	10	15 / 20.2	50	10
	Reading	50 / 54.7	50	10	56 / 56.6	50	10
2b. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2b. Subgroup FRL	Math	33 / 18.8	75	5	16 / 19.3	50	5
	Reading	54 / 52.6	75	5	54 / 55.2	50	5
2b. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
3. State Accountability							
3a. State Accountability		D-ALT	25	5	D-ALT	25	5
4. Graduation							
4a. Graduation		Not Met	50	15	Not Met	50	15
4b. Academic Persistence		92	100	20	91	100	20
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		59.38		100	66.25		100

New Visions Academy-St. John's Campus CTDS: 13-86-54-004 | Entity ID: 79597

Academic Performance							
2012 Alternative High School (9-12)							
2013 Alternative High School (9-12)							
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
1b. Improvement	Math	0	25	30	100	100	15
	Reading	NR	0	0	25	25	15
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	NR	0	0	52 / 19.4	75	10
	Reading	NR	0	0	53 / 46.3	75	10
2b. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2b. Subgroup FRL	Math	NR	0	0	56 / 20.5	100	5
	Reading	NR	0	0	62 / 46.8	75	5
2b. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		D-ALT	25	5	B-ALT	75	5
4. Graduation		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
4a. Graduation		NR	0	0	NR	0	0
4b. Academic Persistence		88	75	35	95	100	35
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		50		70	81.25		100

For FY2013, the overall rating for New Visions Academy on the Board's academic performance measures was 66.25 including points received for the letter grade of D-Alt as reported by the Arizona Department of Education. The overall rating for New Visions Academy – St. John's Campus on the Board's academic performance measures was 81.25 including points received for the letter grade of B-Alt as reported by the Arizona Department of Education.

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter holder being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the approval process. With the exception of not meeting the Board's expectation for academic performance, the charter holder is compliant in all other areas. Based on the FY2013 audit, the charter holder meets the Board's financial performance expectations.

The following is a timeline of activities that have occurred related to the submission of the transfer application:

- May 28, 2010** New Visions Academy, Inc. was notified in a letter that the State Board of Education would not proceed with the renewal of current charter contracts and referred charter holders currently sponsored by the State Board of Education and whose charters are due to expire to the State Board for Charter Schools for the consideration of a transfer of the charter. The May 28, 2010 letter served as official written notice that the State Board of Education would not renew the charter contract for New Visions Academy, Inc. due to expire on July 18, 2015, and, in order to be eligible for charter renewal consideration, the charter holder must transfer the charter contract between New Visions Academy, Inc. and the Arizona State Board of Education to another sponsor no later than at least 2 complete fiscal years prior to the expiration of the current charter contract which would be July, 2013.
- June 3, 2013** Board staff notified the charter holder that because the schools operated by the charter holder did not meet the Board's academic performance expectations and because the charter holder had previously been required to submit a Performance Management Plan, the charter holder was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress as an annual reporting requirement by September 3, 2013.
- August 6, 2013** New Visions Academy, Inc. was notified in a letter that, because the charter for New Visions Academy, Inc. would expire in less than two years, if the charter holder intended to request the transfer of its charter contract to the Charter Board, a statement of intent to transfer would need to be received by the Board by August 30, 2013, or the contract would expire on July 18, 2015.
- August 7, 2013** New Visions Academy, Inc. notified the Board, in writing, of its intent to transfer sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the State Board for Charter Schools.
- August 30, 2013** New Visions Academy, Inc. submitted a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) as required in the June 3 letter. Because the charter holder did not meet the Board's expectations at the time it requested to transfer, the charter holder's transfer application included a requirement to submit a DSP. Because the August 30 submission coincided with the transfer application process, the DSP required for the annual report was applied to the transfer application.
- September 26, 2013** Board staff conducted a site visit to New Visions Academy in Cottonwood to meet with leaders of both schools for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the Demonstration of Sufficient Progress.
- November 18, 2013** New Visions Academy, Inc. submitted a complete transfer application.

Curricular Emphasis:

According to the Curricular Emphasis portion of the transfer application package, both New Vision's Academy and New Visions Academy – St. John's Campus use teacher-guided instruction based on

fundamental elements of Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards. The schools have not completed the transition to the new standards so some instructional materials are based upon the previous standards. Both schools use the A+ computer curriculum for skills remediation or credit recovery. As stated in the transfer application, math teachers at the Cottonwood site are using Laurus Math, a web-based math program aligned to the standards, to create benchmark assessments for measuring student achievement. According to the narrative for Curricular Emphasis section of the application package, because many students are credit-deficient when they enroll, they may be fifth or sixth year seniors before they have met the graduation requirements. Summer school is offered as a five-week program each summer to provide computer-based credit recovery and math tutoring. Information from the site visit conducted by Board staff on September 26 confirmed the information in the Curricular Emphasis narrative.

Board Options

1. Approve the Transfer Application for New Visions Academy, Inc. Staff recommends the following language: I move to approve the request of New Visions Academy, Inc. for transfer of the charter from the Arizona State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.
2. Deny the Transfer Application for New Visions Academy, Inc. The following language is provided for consideration: I move to deny the request for transfer of New Visions Academy, Inc. from the Arizona State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools for the following reasons:
 - (Specify reasons the Board may have found during its consideration)