Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School - Entity ID 4497
School(s):
Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School-6142

Renewal Executive Summary

Sources of Evidence for this Document

Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-183.I, 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

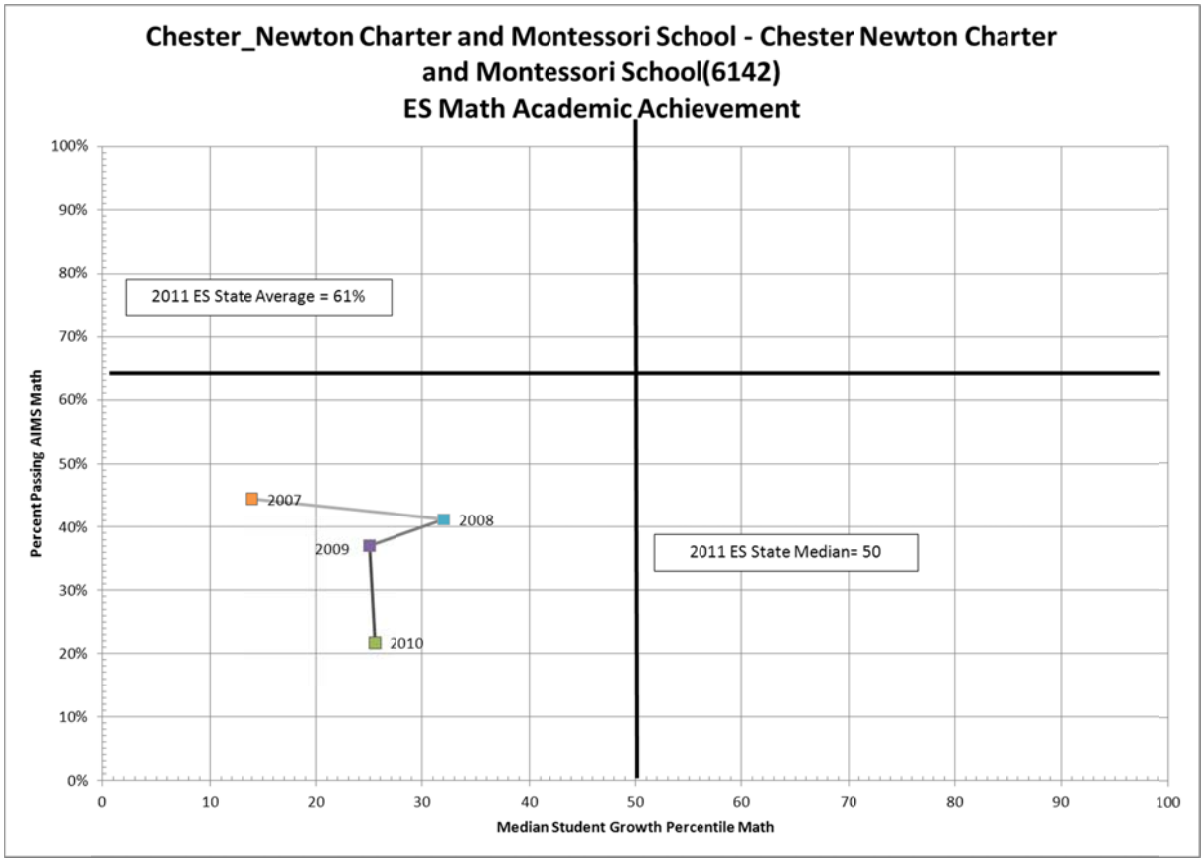
Evaluation of the charter holder's success in these three areas is based on a variety of information that will serve as sources of evidence in determining renewal of a charter. These sources include, but are not limited to:

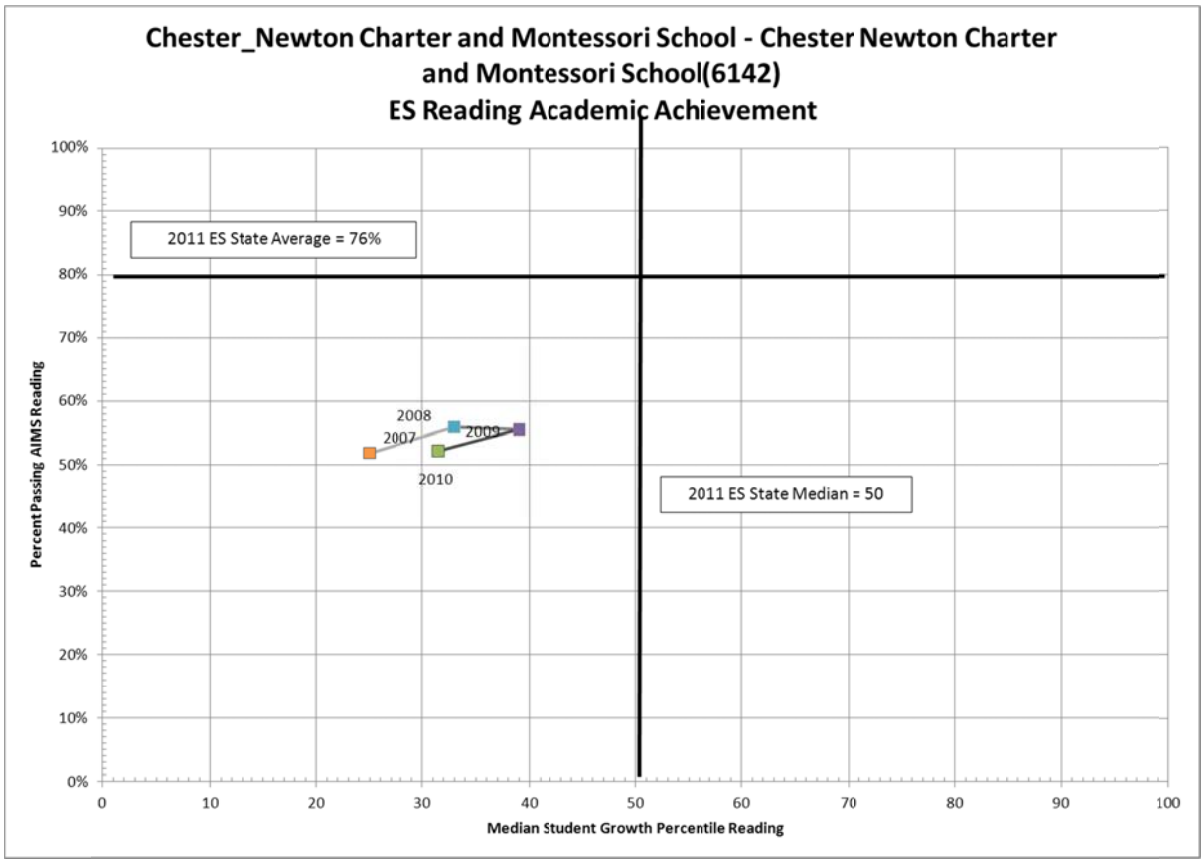
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

Profile

Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School operates one school serving grades K-5 with a total FY2011 average daily membership (ADM) of 62.314. Additional information can be found in the Renewal Summary Review.

Graphs displaying the academic achievement for the past five years, if available, are provided on the next page. The 2011 data is missing from the graphs because the majority of the test data (all grade levels except second grade and a couple of make-up tests) was invalidated by the Department of Education when it confirmed that the tests were improperly administered.


Chester_Newton Charter and Montessori School - Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School(6142)
ES Math Academic Achievement
2011 ES State Average = 61%
2011 ES State Median= 50
2007
2008
2009
2010
Percent Passing AIMS Math
Median Student Growth Percentile Math
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100


Chester_Newton Charter and Montessori School - Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School(6142)
ES Reading Academic Achievement
2011 ES State Average = 76%
2011 ES State Median = 50
2008
2007
2009
2010
Percent Passing AIMS Reading
Median Student Growth Percentile Reading
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100

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.

A PMP narrative and templates were submitted on 09/28/2011.

A leadership team discussion took place on November 8, 2011 at Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School. Members of the leadership team included Dr. Betty Chester, Director and Charter Representative; Dr. Dowling Campbell, Co-Director; Loretta Donovan, principal; Mary Redmon, business administrator; Keven Chester, administrator; David Schmittendorf, food service manager; and Amy Darwin, grant administrator. The discussion was focused on the recent change in principal, the new processes for collecting and evaluating data, and evidence of the implementation of curriculum aligned to the state standards. The team was able to provide evidence of work toward curriculum alignment and data discussions/meetings. It was determined by the team that the work of the current administration is not accurately captured in the PMP and that evidence of implementation, as currently stated in the plan, could be stronger.

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]

In March 2008, ADE Exceptional Student Services notified the charter holder of partial compliance issues in some areas with regard to specific regulations for Part B, Individuals with Disabilities Education act (IDEA), and the Arizona Revised Statutes. The compliance issues were reported by ADE as resolved in October 2008.

[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".

In April 2006, ADE Academic Achievement Division (ADE/AAD) identified noncompliance items in the NCLB Programmatic Monitoring Cycle 2 Packet for 2005-06. The noncompliance items were reported by ADE as resolved in June 2006.

C. Charter Holder's Organizational Membership

Because the organizational membership on file with the Board was not consistent with the information on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission, the charter holder was required to submit the charter holder's Organizational Membership portion of the Detailed Business Plan Section. Required submissions for the charter holder's Organizational Membership portion of the Detailed Business Plan Section of the renewal application and the applicable checklist are included in the charter holder's portfolio.

Staff Recommendation

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. With that taken into consideration and based upon the fiscal compliance and all information provided to the Board for consideration of this renewal application package, I move to approve the request for charter renewal and grant a renewal contract to Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School that incorporates the performance management plan.