Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School, Inc. - Entity ID 78966
School(s): Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh (3rd-5th)

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:

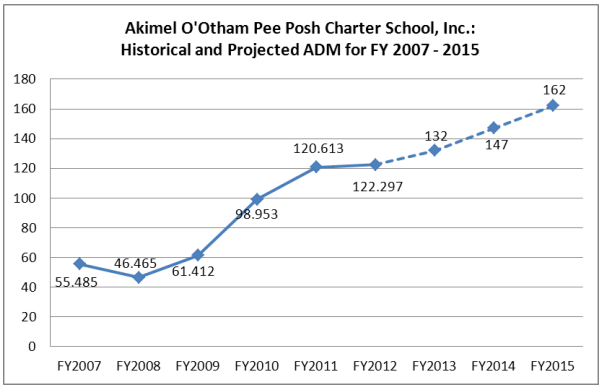
I. Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
II. Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
III. Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

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:

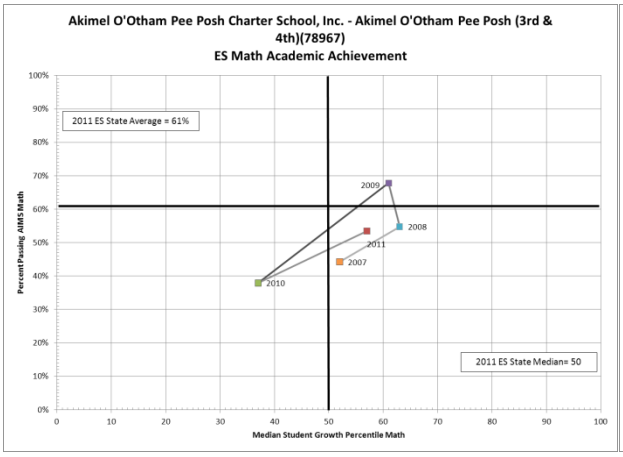
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

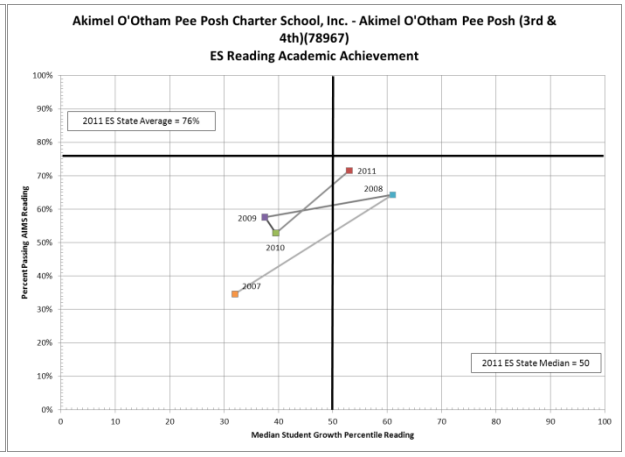
Profile

Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School, Inc. operates one school serving grades 3-5. The graph below shows the charter holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2007-2011 and the fiscal year 2012 ADM or estimated count as of April 16, 2012, and projected ADM through 2015. Projections were provided by the charter holder as part of the submitted Renewal Budget Plan.



Graphs displaying the academic achievement for the past five years, if available, are provided below.





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 March 14, 2011 the charter holder submitted a PMP narrative and templates. Academic oversight documentation was not submitted.

A leadership team discussion took place on April 18 at the school with Jacquelyn Power (Charter Representative), Richard Hull (Curriculum Director), Henry S. Pino (Board President), Suzanne Acuña (Board Member), Debbie Martinez (Behavior Specialist), Harriet West (Counselor), Annette Barnes (K-2 Instructional Coach), Misty Lopez (3-5 Instructional Coach), Colleen Sulzer (Counselor), Doug McCarthy (CPA), and Joel Brice (Business Consultant). The school was recently recognized as a National Title 1 Distinguished School. The school's PMP for both reading and math is focused on implementing the Common Core Standards, is tightly aligned across strategies, and provides a high level of support for teaching staff to make the transition. The information gleaned during the leadership team discussion 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]

In May 2010, ADE Exceptional Student Services notified the charter holder of findings of noncompliance 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 on April 25, 2011.

The fiscal year 2010 audit identified an issue that required a corrective action plan (CAP). Specifically, the school did not maintain written documentation to support the completion of goals supporting the performance pay distributions of Classroom Site Funds to employees. Additionally, two individuals who were not eligible to receive Classroom Site Funds were paid $225 and $209 from these monies. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

Additionally, the fiscal year 2008 audit identified an issue that required a CAP. Specifically, a current fingerprint clearance card was not on file for one substitute teacher. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

Further, the same issue was identified as repeated in the fiscal years 2007 through 2009 audits. In each fiscal year, the charter holder did not properly fingerprint its governing board members.

C. Charter Holder's Organizational Membership

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.

Board Options

[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".

Option 1: The Board may approve the renewal. 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 Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School, Inc. (Entity ID 78966) that incorporates the performance management plan.

Option 2: The Board may deny the renewal. The following language is provided for consideration: Based upon a review of the information provided by the representatives of the charter holder and the contents of the application package which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the charter holder over the charter term, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract for Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School, Inc. (Entity ID 78966). Specifically, the charter holder, during the term of the contract, failed to meet the obligations of the contract or failed to comply with state law when it:

1. Failed to provide a learning environment to improve pupil achievement in accordance with A.R.S. § 15-181(A).
2. Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including…