Acclaim Charter School - Entity ID 4325
School(s): ACCLAIM Academy

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

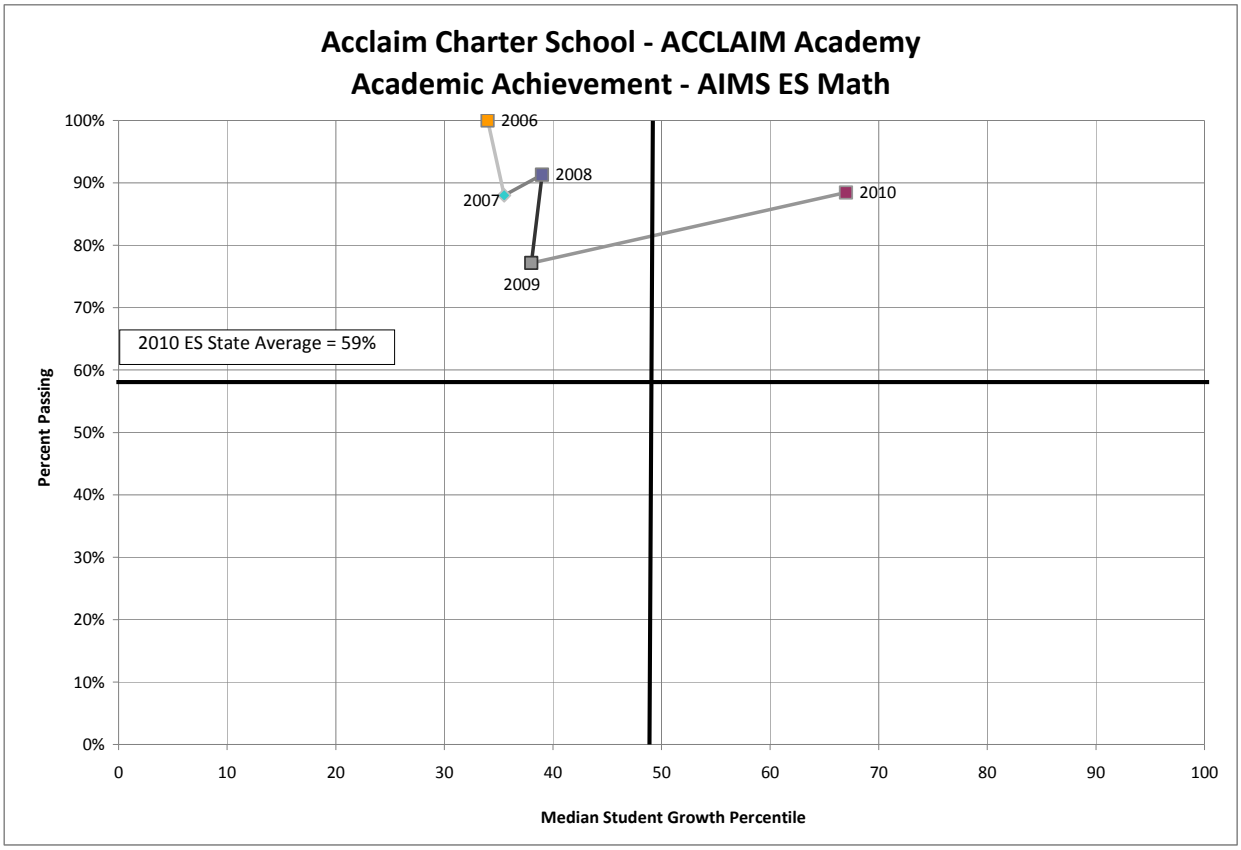
Evaluation of the Charter Holder's success in these three areas is based on a variety of information that will serve as sources of evidence in determining renewal of a charter. These sources include, but are not limited to:

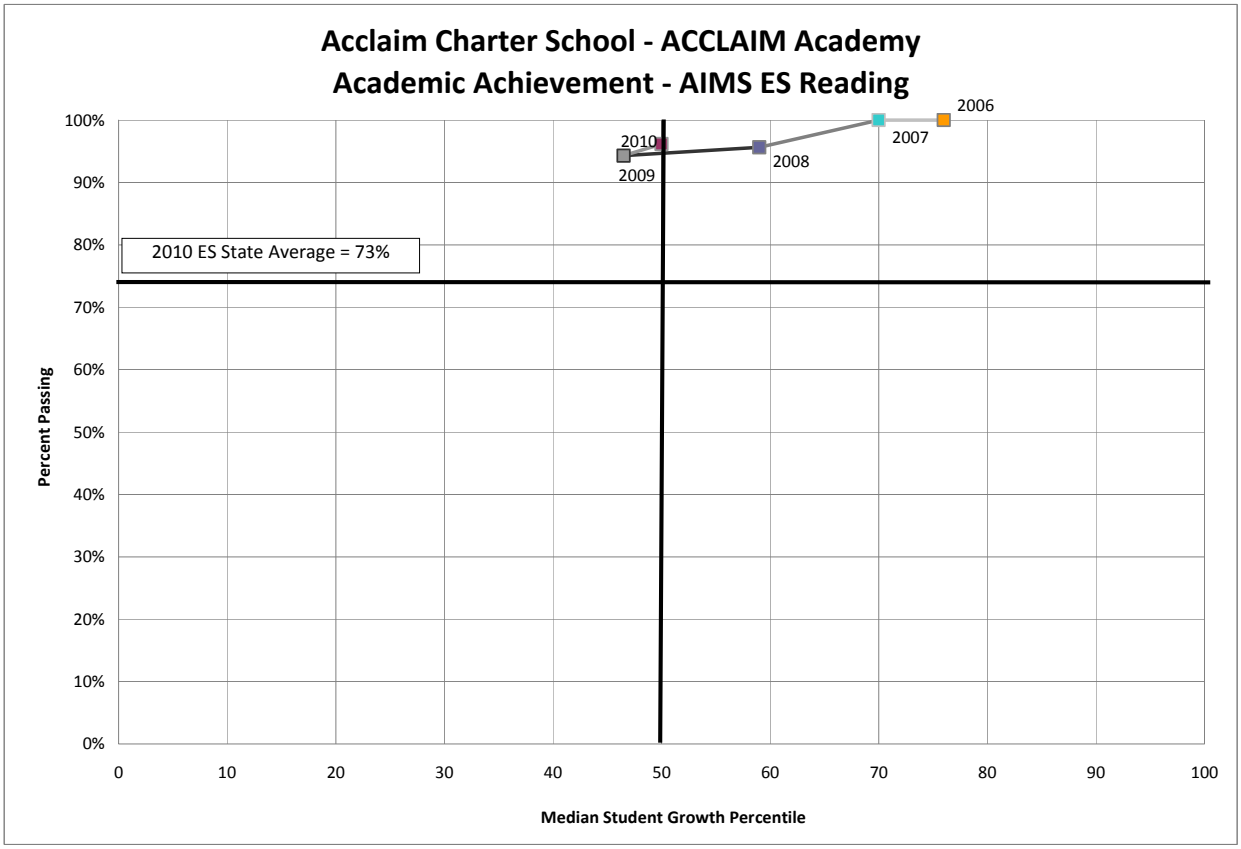
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

Profile

Acclaim Charter School operates one (1) school serving grades K-8 with a total FY11 average daily membership (ADM) of 389.625. 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.


Acclaim Charter School - ACCLAIM Academy
Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Math
2006
2008
2007
2010
2009
2010 ES State Average = 59%
Percent Passing
Median Student Growth Percentile
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100


Acclaim Charter School - ACCLAIM Academy
Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Reading
2006
2007
2010
2008
2009
2010 ES State Average = 73%
Percent Passing
Median Student Growth Percentile
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(s) operated by the Charter Holder meets or demonstrates sufficient progress toward the Board's level of adequate academic performance. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit a Performance Management Plan.

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]

In November 2008, the Board voted to withhold 10% of the charter holder's monthly State aid apportionment for failure to timely submit the fiscal year 2008 audit. The issue was resolved prior to the December payment, so no withholding occurred.

B. Other Compliance Matters[2]

In April 2010, the results of an on-site review of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), State Johnson-O-Malley (JOM), Migrant, and Neglected or Delinquent programs identified deficiencies in some areas. The deficiencies were reported by ADE as resolved in July 2010.

In January 2007, ADE Academic Achievement Division identified noncompliance items in the NCLB Programmatic Monitoring Cycle 1 Packet for 2006-2007. The noncompliance items were reported by ADE as resolved in April 2007.

In March 2006, ADE Academic Achievement Division (ADE/AAD) identified noncompliance items in the NCLB Programmatic Monitoring Cycle 6 Packet for 2005-06. The noncompliance items were reported by ADE as resolved in May 2006.

The fiscal year 2008 audit identified an issue that required a corrective action plan (CAP). Specifically, the audit indicated that the designated project manager for the school's construction project made unauthorized charges to two draw requests by increasing the amounts due to his company by $10,000 for each of the two draws. Further, the audit indicated that upon discovery of the unauthorized charges, the school implemented additional procedures. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP, which addressed the school's hiring of a new project manager and the school's efforts to recoup the funds.

Two repeat issues were identified in the fiscal year 2009 audit. First, the audit indicated that management was not comprised of individuals that possess the competencies required to prepare full disclosure financial statements in accordance with GAAP.[3] Second, the audit

[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".
[3] Acclaim's charter contract requires it to comply with GAAP.

indicated that timecards or other attendance records did not include documentation of time allocated to federal programs. This issue relates to time and effort reporting for federal grants. As indicated in the Renewal Summary Review, these issues were not repeated in the fiscal year 2010 audit.

For the previous five fiscal years, the charter holder has failed to timely submit its annual audit for one or more years.

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.

Staff Recommendation

Based upon the academic performance, fiscal compliance, legal and contractual compliance, and the information in the renewal application package, I move to approve the request for charter renewal and grant a renewal contract to Acclaim Charter School.