Hermosa Montessori Charter School, Inc. - Entity ID 4426
School(s): Hermosa Montessori Charter School

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

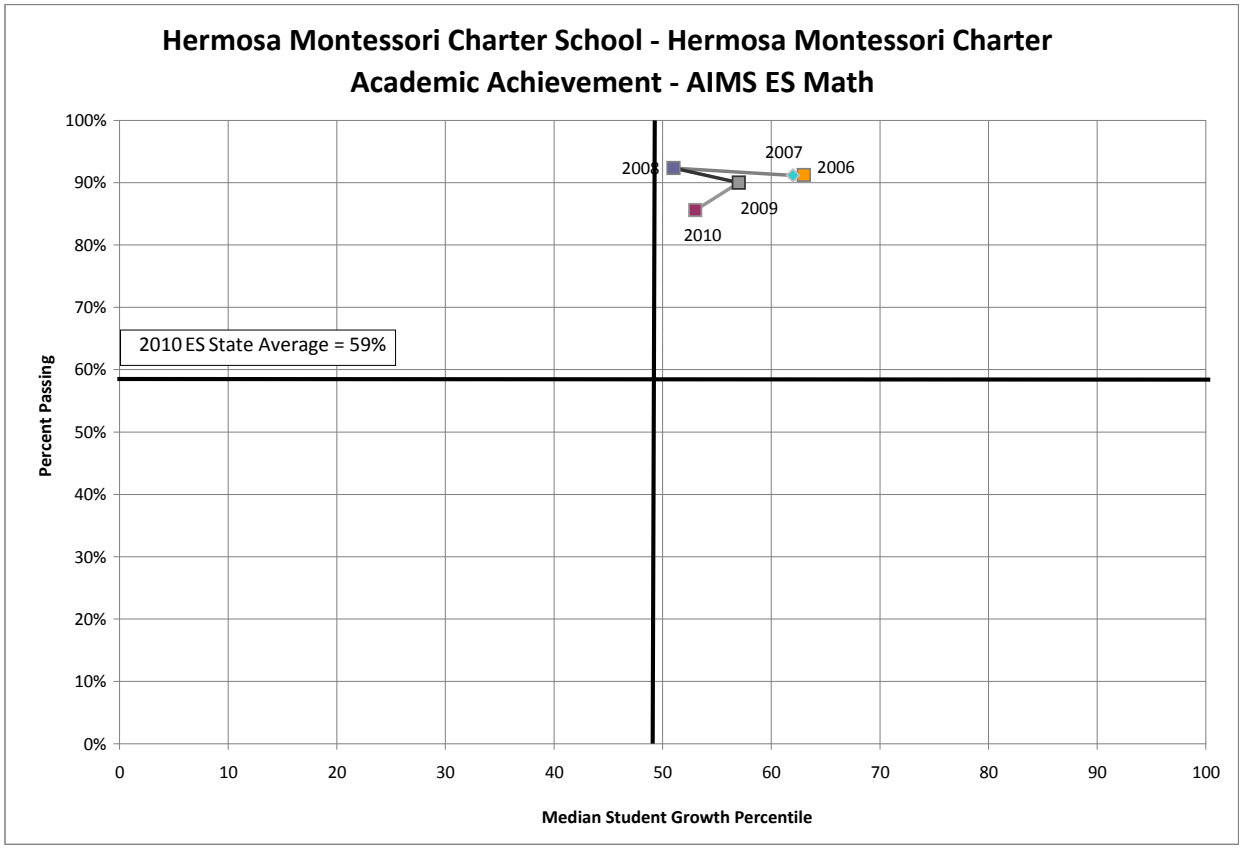
Evaluation of the Charter Holder's success in these three areas is based on a variety of information that will serve as sources of evidence in determining renewal of a charter. These sources include, but are not limited to:

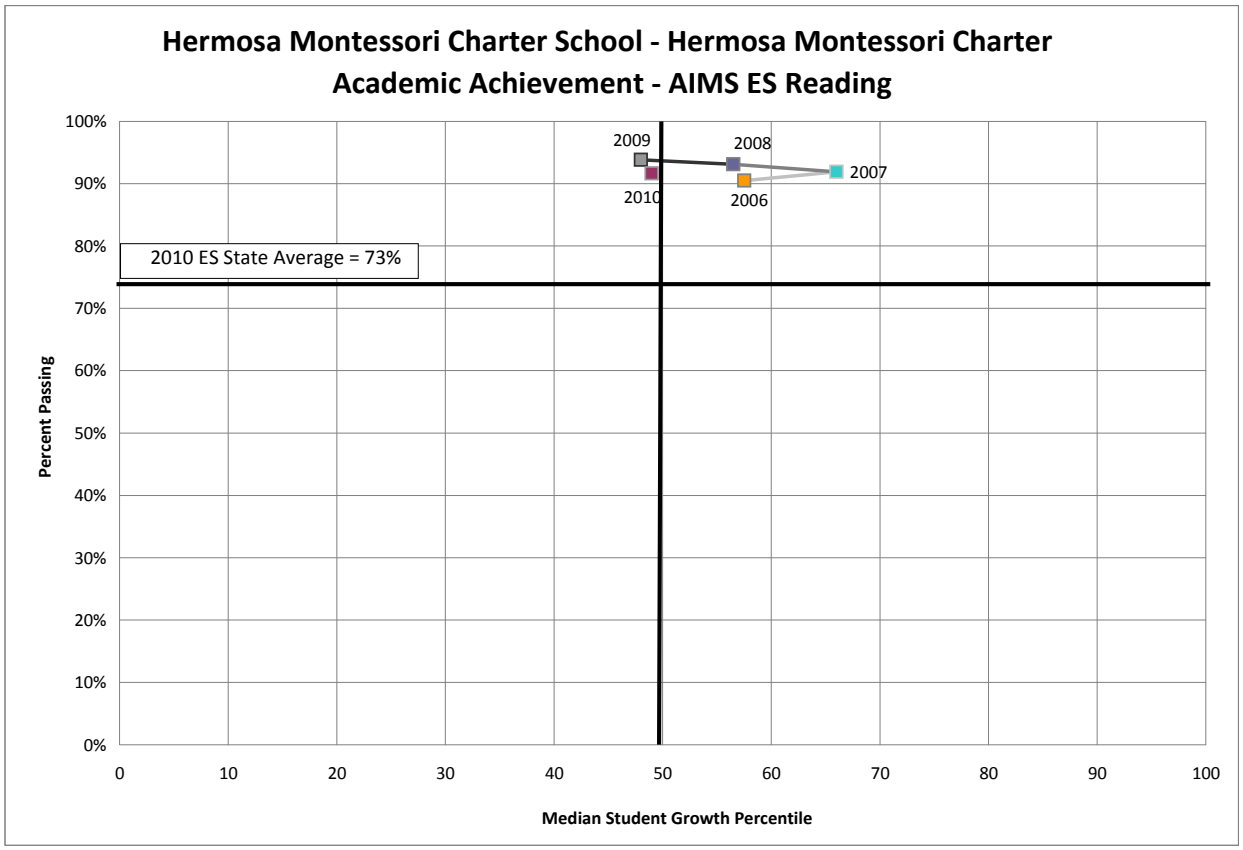
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

Profile

Hermosa Montessori Charter School, Inc. operates one (1) school serving grades K-8 with a total FY10 average daily membership (ADM) of 224.113. 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.


Hermosa Montessori Charter School - Hermosa Montessori Charter
Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Math
2008
2007
2006
2009
2010
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


Hermosa Montessori Charter School - Hermosa Montessori Charter
Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Reading
2009
2008
2007
2010
2006
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]

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, as of the testing date, two individuals required to be fingerprint checked pursuant to A.R.S. §15-512 were missing fingerprint checks. Additionally, for an instructional employee, the school did not complete all of the items required by law prior to placing an emergency hire in the classroom. The school complied with the provisions requiring the fingerprint clearance card application to be received by the Arizona Department of Public Safety prior to the hire date, documenting the necessity for hiring/placing the individual prior to receiving a fingerprint clearance card, and obtaining references, but failed to obtain statewide criminal history information for the employee. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

Additionally, the fiscal year 2007 audit noted that there was a lack of segregation of duties with respect to the cash disbursement function. The audit stated that several employees issue checks, have access to and routinely utilize a signature stamp, and have access to the accounting system. To remedy the situation, the auditor recommended that the school discontinue use of the signature stamp, which the school did on the same day the concern was raised by the auditors. Since subsequent to the testing date and prior to the audit report's release, the charter holder addressed the matter, a corrective action plan was not required.

For the previous five fiscal years, the charter holder has failed to timely submit its annual audit, Annual Financial Report and Budget 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

[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".

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 Hermosa Montessori Charter School, Inc.