**Edkey, Inc. - Redwood Academy - Entity ID 81043**
School: Sequoia Redwood Charter School

# 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:

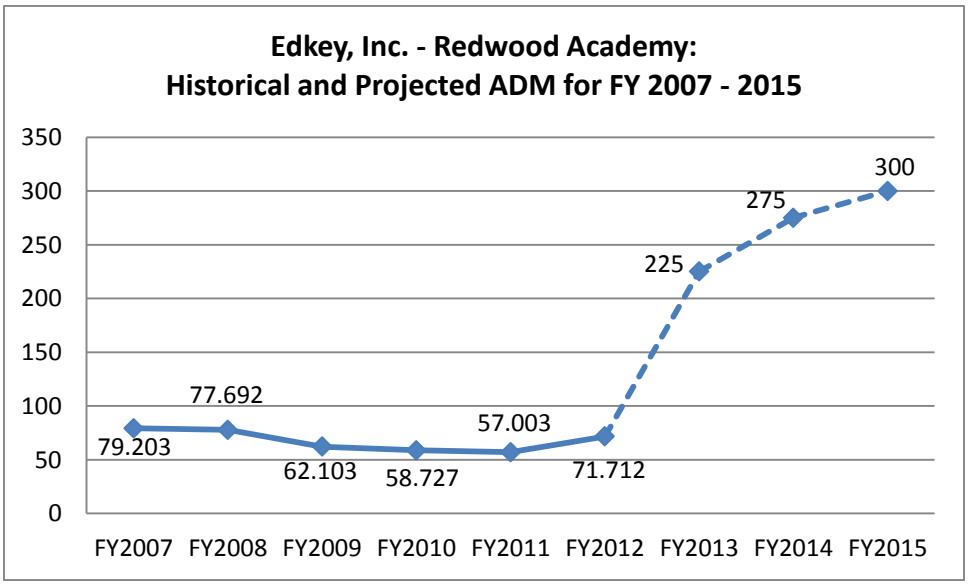
I. Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
II. Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
III. Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

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:

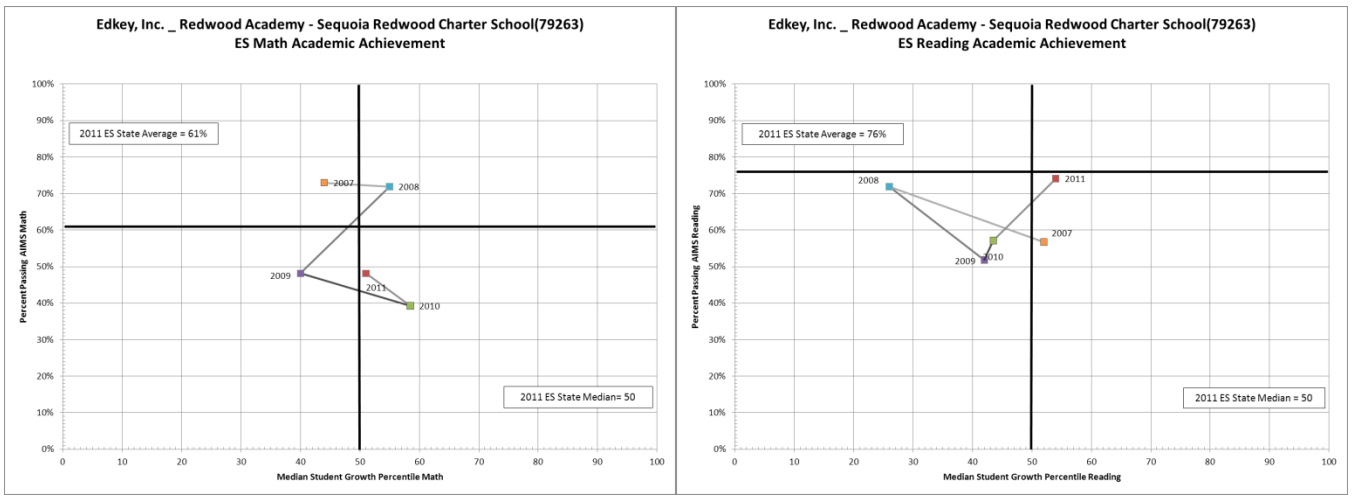
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

## Profile

Edkey, Inc. - Redwood Academy operates one school serving grades K-8. 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 as of May 11, 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 meets 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 30, 2012, the charter holder submitted the PMP narrative, templates, and oversight documentation.

A leadership team discussion took place on May 25 at the district's administrative office with Ron Neil (Superintendent/Charter Representative), Patric Greer (Business Manager/Charter Representative), Curtis Cardine (Assistant Superintendent), Tamara Becker (Assistant Superintendent), Melinda Poit (District Data Analyst), Lori Graham (Principal-Sequoia Arts and Academics), Amy Fraser (Principal-Sequoia Elementary Charter School), and David Blakeley (Principal-Sequoia Secondary Charter School). The leadership team reported that a shift in approach occurred for all schools operated by the charter holder approximately three years ago. At that time, the operators adopted a district-wide model, establishing the same policies and expectations across all schools. Since that time, in addition hiring an assistant superintendent to administer the instructional program, the district has hired a person to oversee professional development for all schools, has hired an analyst and centralized data reporting, and has developed and is implementing a district-wide performance-based teacher supervision and evaluation model. Additionally, the team reported that the role of the principal has changed in the last two years to support district-wide efforts.

Board staff asked about the school site move described in the narrative and the anticipated increased enrollment numbers. Leadership team members discussed the charter holder's plan to move the school from its current location by 68th Ave. and Thunderbird to within close proximity to Arizona Conservatory for Arts and Academics (ACAA) and ACAA Middle School near 29th Ave. and Bell Road in Phoenix as a feeder to the existing middle and high schools. Team members have held several informational meetings regarding the move and feel sufficient interest in meeting the enrollment targets. In a follow-up conversation, the charter representative indicated that the school intends to bus students attending the current location to the new site. The charter holder plans to no longer serve sixth grade at the ACAA Middle School and those students may choose to attend Sequoia Redwood Charter School. The discussion confirmed information presented in 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.

[1] For more information about the areas of compliance reviewed for this section, please see the "Renewal Guide".

B. Other Compliance Matters[2]

The fiscal year 2008 audit identified an issue that required a corrective action plan (CAP). Specifically, the audit indicated that based on the schedules provided by the charter holder, it could not be determined whether base salaries for teachers have supplanted Classroom Site Fund (CSF) monies. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

Additionally, the fiscal year 2007 audit identified an issue that required a CAP. Specifically, the audit indicated that the charter holder received $328,162 in restricted cash donations from Sequoia Choice Schools, LLLP with purpose restrictions equivalent to the restrictions on CSF funds. A.R.S. §15-977 does not permit one charter holder to transfer CSF funds to another charter holder. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

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

## Board Options

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 Edkey, Inc. - Redwood Academy 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 Edkey, Inc. - Redwood Academy.

[2] For more information about the areas of compliance reviewed for this section, please see the "Renewal Guide".

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 that improved pupil achievement in accordance with A.R.S. § 15-181(A).
2. Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including…