Vicki A. Romero High School- Entity ID 6370
School: Vicki A. Romero High 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:

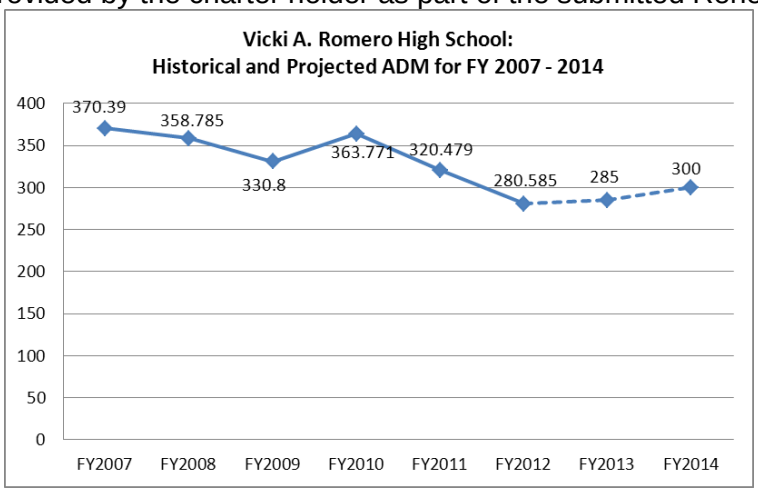
I. Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
II. Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
III. Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

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:

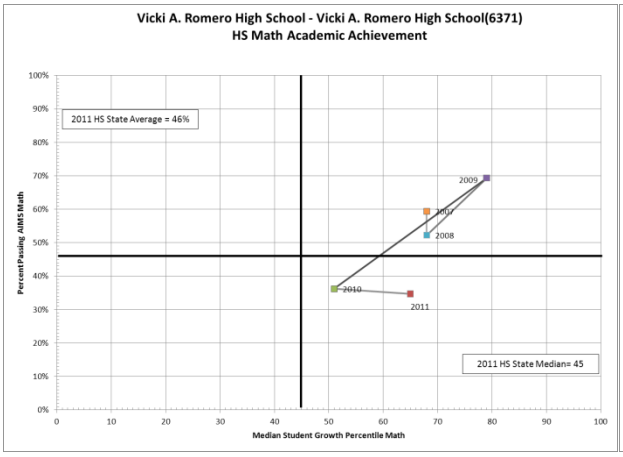
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

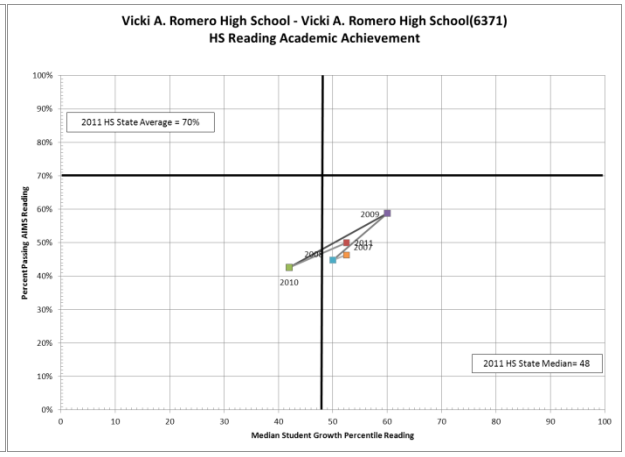
Profile

Vicki A. Romero operates one school serving grades 9-12. 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 2014. 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 30, 2012 the charter holder submitted a PMP narrative and templates. Academic oversight documentation was not submitted.

A leadership team discussion took place on May 2 at Vicki A. Romero High School administrative office with Roger Romero (Charter Representative/Community Relations Director) and Jane Juliano (Curriculum Director). Approximately half of the information submitted in the PMP narrative was not required for the PMP and was not evaluated. The information in the narrative that met the requirements of the application was evaluated. As identified in the Performance Management Plan and confirmed during the leadership team meeting, the school has experienced repeated principal turnover in the last several years. The current principal was placed in the position in February and had been employed as a teacher with the school since 2005.

The leadership team discussion confirmed that the school uses Galileo benchmark assessments to measure readiness for the AIMS test and for teachers to determine adjustments to the curriculum. The team discussion also confirmed information in the narrative that stated the school started using ACT Quality Core and teachers received training by ACT on aligning curriculum to the Common Core Standards at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. According to the leadership team discussion, teachers at the school recently received additional training from ACT on using assessments in the program.

According to the leadership team discussion, some of the technology that is included in the PMP, such as iPads and student responders, is part of the school's effort to increase student

engagement and motivate students to attend school. The leadership team stated during the discussion that there has been some consideration of changing to alternative school status.

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]

In November 2011, the Board voted to withhold 10% of the charter holder's monthly State aid apportionment for failure to timely submit the fiscal year 2011 audit. The withholding occurred for one month.

An Open Meeting Law complaint has been filed against the charter holder. The complaint is currently being investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

B. Other Compliance Matters[2]

In November 2007 the charter holder was notified by the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) of non-compliance and partial compliance issues to be addressed by a Corrective Action Plan. The 2007 monitoring was closed out on November 14, 2008.

The fiscal year 2011 audit identified an issue that required a corrective action plan (CAP). Specifically, the audit indicated that the school did not have a fingerprint clearance card for one teacher. The charter holder submitted a satisfactory CAP.

Additionally, the fiscal year 2011 audit indicated that the school recorded make-up time from subsequent days to reduce students' prior day absences although the school was not approved to operate on an alternative calendar. Because the Board approved an Alternative Calendar Notification Request on September 20, 2011, a CAP was not required.

[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".

Further, the fiscal year 2011 audit identified that board members were receiving a stipend. The charter holder timely provided the requested information.

For the previous five fiscal years, the charter holder has failed to timely submit its annual audit for one or more years. Please see the " Compliance Matters Requiring Board or Other Agency Action" section of this report for more information.

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. The following language is provided 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 Vicki A. Romero High School that incorporates the performance management plan.

Option 2: The Board may deny the renewal. Staff recommends the following language 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 Vicki A. Romero High School. 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…