Academy of Excellence, Inc. - Entity ID 4296
Schools: Academy of Excellence
Academy of Excellence – Central Arizona

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:

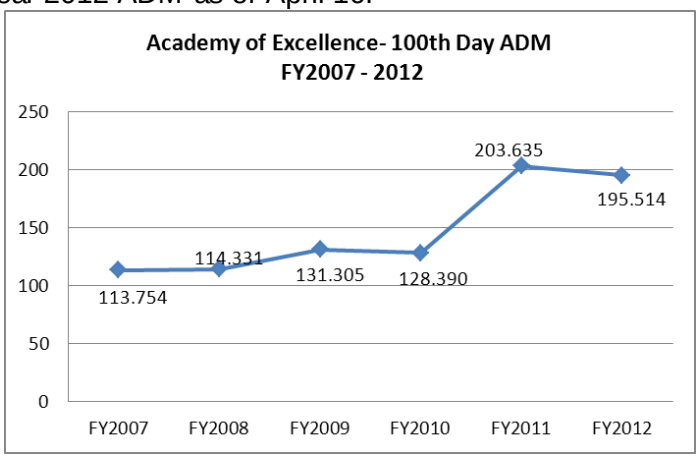
I. Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
II. Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
III. Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

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:

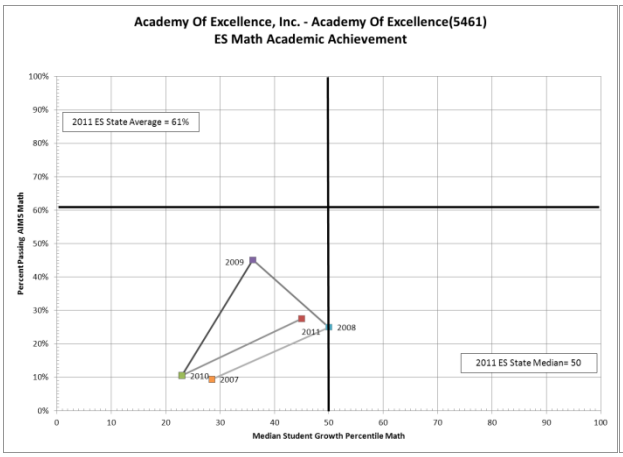
- Pupil achievement data
- Independent financial audits
- Five-year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports
- Application package for renewal

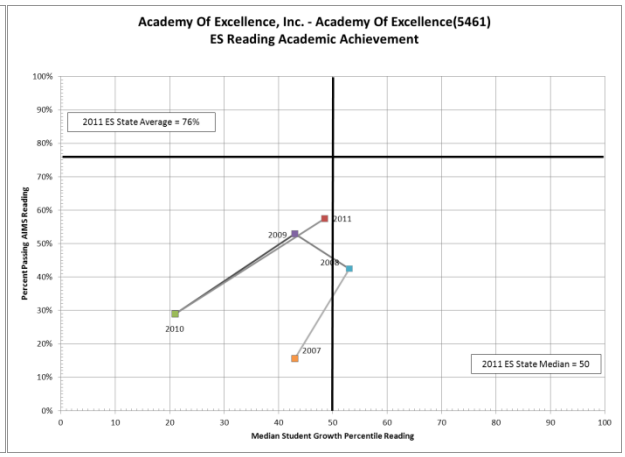
Profile

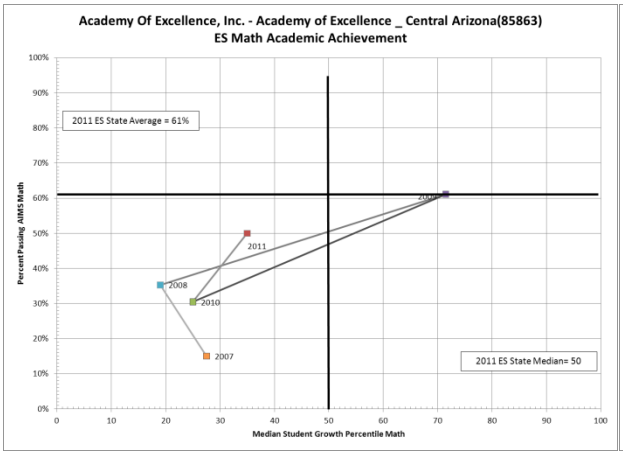
Academy of Excellence, Inc. operates two schools serving grades K-8. The graph below shows the charter holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2007-2011 and the fiscal year 2012 ADM as of April 16.

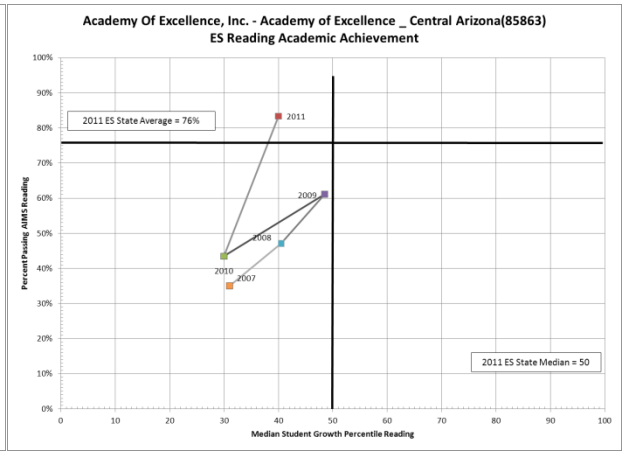


Graphs displaying the academic achievement for the past five years, if available, are provided below.









I. Success of the Academic Program

The academic performance of the schools 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 28, the charter holder submitted the PMP narrative, templates, and oversight documentation. The submitted PMP is an updated version of the PMP submitted as part of a charter transfer application approved in August 2011.

A leadership team discussion took place on April 25 at Academy of Excellence in Phoenix, AZ with Dr. Eula Dean and Brenda Nelson (Charter Representatives). The leadership team explained how the Performance Management Plan submitted for renewal has been updated from its original submission with the transfer application. The school has recently entered into a partnership with ASU Prep Academy to work collaboratively in the development of curriculum

maps based upon the Common Core Standards. The collaboration will include additional professional development for teachers on differentiating instruction. For students, in addition to the 120 minutes of literacy instruction using a balanced literacy approach, the school has implemented a literacy lab which provides small group and one-on-one literacy instruction. In the lab, trained tutors are targeting fundamental literacy skills for students needing additional support. Administrators at the school are increasing the number of classroom observations and focusing on classroom instruction. The information gleaned from the discussion supported the Performance Management Plan narrative and templates submitted.

In November, 2010, the charter holder opened an additional site in Phoenix, Fay Landrum Academy, which closed on December 20, 2011. Additional information regarding this site is included in the Renewal Summary Review.

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]

On October 9th-10th 2007, an on-site review of the English Language Learner (ELL) program at Academy of Excellence was conducted. Based upon the findings of the monitoring visit, corrective action was required. A Corrective Action Plan was developed to meet the requirements and submitted. A closeout letter stating that the Corrective Action Plan sufficiently addressed the requirements was issued on March 4, 2008. No further action was required.

On February 24, 2010, Academy of Excellence received notification that it was required to submit NCLB Cycle 1 compliance activities via ALEAT. The deadline for submission was March 24, 2010. Reminder notices were sent on July 29, 2010 and August 2, 2010. The charter holder

[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".

submitted items on August 10 which were accepted by ADE on August 19. No further action was required.

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 Academy of Excellence, Inc. 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 Academy of Excellence, Inc. 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…