

### **Issue**

Sierra Summit Academy, a charter school operated by Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. is unable to open for the 2011-2012 school year. The charter holder has requested a suspension of the school's operation pursuant to the [Board Policy Regarding Temporary Suspension of Charter School Operation](#). The Charter Holder's submission is located in Appendix A and further communication with staff is located in Appendix B. The charter holder's submission did not sufficiently address all of the required items indicated in the Board's policy. The charter holder did not submit a plan to resume operation of the charter school, including any efforts that will be undertaken to remedy the reason for the suspension request.

### **Background**

Sierra Summit Academy Inc., a non-profit corporation, entered into a charter contract with the Board on July 9, 2001 to operate one school site – Sierra Summit Academy. The charter contract is for grades 8-12. The school had an ADM of 31.403 in FY2011. The closure of the school impacted 24 students. According to the charter representative, records requests for students seeking enrollment at other schools are being fulfilled.

Communication between staff, the charter holder, and Arizona Department of Education (ADE) staff is summarized below. Full e-mail documents are located in Appendix B.

- **August 5, 2011**
  - An e-mail was sent by staff to the charter representatives requesting confirmation of the operational status of the school. This communication was initiated by staff as a result of information received from other schools in the area that were enrolling students previously enrolled at Sierra Summit Academy.
- **August 8, 2011**
  - An e-mail was received from the charter holder with an explanation of the status of Sierra Summit Academy that addressed the loss of location due to insufficient revenues to support high mortgage payments, the unexpected announcement by the principal that the school would close and his subsequent resignation. The full document is provided in Appendix C.
  - Staff responded with guidance to submit a School Closure Notification and to make arrangements for the repayment of funds received for operations in FY12.
- **August 15, 2011**
  - Staff sent an e-mail providing additional information to the charter holder, including a deadline of August 19 for submitting documents and information in order for the request to be considered on the September agenda, and a link to Board policy for Temporary Suspension.
- **August 19, 2011**
  - The charter holder submitted a Request for a Temporary Suspension of Operation.
- **August 31, 2011**
  - Staff notified the charter holder by e-mail that additional information was still needed including a timeline related to plans to resume operation of the charter school, documentation that discusses the organization's commitment to the area, commitment to the submission of a startup and operating budget prior to March 2012 that demonstrates the capacity to open, and documented repayment of funds totaling \$15,713.50 to the ADE.
- **September 15, 2011**
  - The charter holder sent an e-mail to staff requesting an extension and that the Request for a Temporary Suspension of Operation be placed for consideration on the October agenda. The

charter representative stated that they were in an information gathering phase and would consider moving forward with surrendering the charter if after working out a plan they felt the plan did not portray a promising outlook for opening a school site for the 2012 school year.

- Staff responded to the charter holder with a confirmation that the request would be placed on the October agenda. Staff also established a deadline for the charter holder of September 23. The deadline applied to the outline and timeframes of the plan to reopen for the 2012 school year. Staff also requested clarification as to whether any officers or directors of Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. reside in Arizona and what involvement they would have in the implementation of the plan.
- The charter holder claimed that repayment of FY2012 funds had not occurred due to a “catch-up from a non-payment of 1 month during the previous school year” and that a payment plan would be worked out for return of funds to ADE. The charter holder also stated that Sierra Summit Board President has worked solely in Arizona since 1995.
- Staff provided clarification to the charter holder regarding funds received in FY2011. Staff reviewed the CHAR64-1 Report for Sierra Summit and confirmed that 12 payments were received for FY2011. Two payments to the charter holder were made in June 2011 and there was no evidence to support the claim of a non-payment as stated by the charter holder. Staff also informed the charter holder that the only documentation regarding Simak Khadjenoury, Sierra Summit Academy Board President, that staff have been able to locate indicates that he resides in Utah.
- The charter holder sent an e-mail informing staff that Ray Lange, the business manager for Sierra Summit Academy, is in communication with Lyle Friesen, Director of School Finance at ADE, to establish a payment plan for the amount owed.
- ADE School Finance sent an e-mail to the charter holder indicating that on August 9 an e-mail was sent from Wendi Trudell, Interim Director of School Finance, requesting funds be sent to the School Finance Unit. The e-mail also described a September 6 conversation with Mr. Lange regarding the possibility of a payment plan, but no final decision was made, and no communication has occurred since that date.

- **September 29, 2011**

- Staff contacted ADE School Finance for updated information regarding repayment or establishment of a payment plan.
- School Finance informed staff that there has been no further communication from Sierra Summit Academy, Inc.

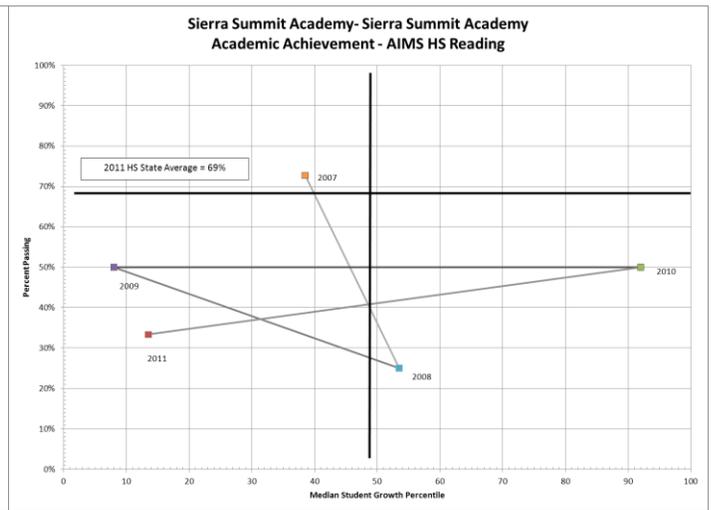
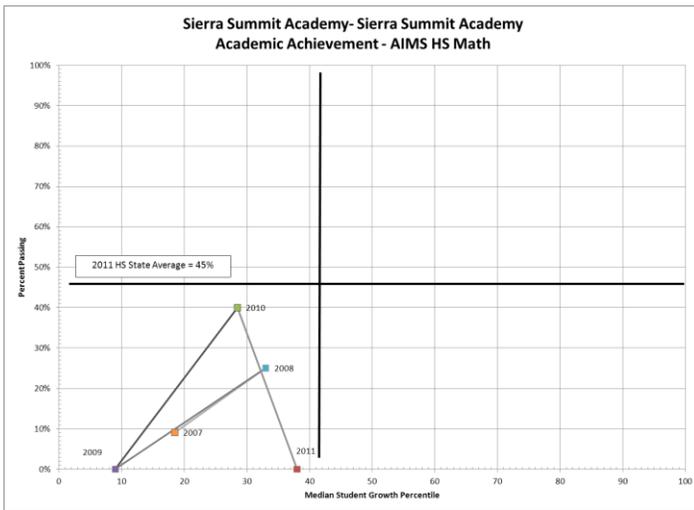
## **Compliance**

Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. is currently not in Good Standing with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for the following reasons:

- Delinquent Annual Report – 2011 Annual Report was due May 20, 2011.
- Undeliverable Address - Current mailing address on file for the statutory agent is undeliverable.

## **Academic Performance**

Graphs displaying the academic achievement of Full Academic Year (FAY) students for the past five years are provided below. The 2011 data is based on information available as of August 2011. School growth percentiles are subject to change pending final growth calculations as the state finalizes its data.



## Board Options

1. Approve the request for a temporary suspension of operation for the 2011-2012 school year for Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. operating Sierra Summit Academy.
2. Deny the request for a temporary suspension on the basis that the charter holder is not in good standing with the Arizona Corporation Commission, the charter holder received and retained state equalization funds for the operation of a charter school in FY 2012 for which it was not entitled, the charter holder failed to provide a plan to resume operation of the charter school as required by the Board's policy for the Temporary Suspension of Charter School Operation, and the academic performance of the charter school does not meet or demonstrate progress toward the Board's level of adequate academic performance. Further the Board directs staff to work with the charter holder on the terms of a surrender agreement to be considered by the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If such an agreement cannot be reached, staff will provide the Board with documentation to consider a Notice of Intent to Revoke the charter at a future Board meeting.

## Staff Recommendation

Option 2

# APPENDIX A



## SIERRA SUMMIT ACADEMY

*A State-Chartered Public High School*

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
1700 W. Washington St.  
Suite 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Ms. Rowe,

Sierra Summit Academy is requesting a temporary suspension of its charter. The temporary suspension is requested for school year 2011-2012. This will affect all grades 9– 12, those approved to serve.

Sierra Summit Academy recently lost the lease of the property at 4200 Ramsey Road, Hereford AZ. This request is made in order to reorganize the school and relocate.

The Sierra Summit Academy board of directors has been working diligently since Aug. 1 to meet the needs of every one of the 24 students impacted. Without board notification or a board meeting the principal took it upon himself to notify parents of closure before proper action could be taken. We had every intention of opening but the lease fell through at the end of July. Every record request is being met for the 24 students impacted as well as students who have graduated as many colleges have been in contact as well. Many parents have stated they have been sad to see the doors close this year as Sierra Summit Academy was unique and a perfect fit for their student.

The board hopes that given a year to reorganize, we will be able to find a better location, hire a new educational staff, affording us the opportunity to grow in the future. It has been a struggle to maintain operations with the low numbers of enrollment and a principal not willing to follow board directives. We hope to maintain the small numbers but reach up to 100 students with a new facility and faculty.

As of this date only the August Equalization payment of \$15,713.50 have been the only funds received. Sierra Summit Academy intends to return \$15,713.50 to the Arizona Department of Education due to the suspension of operations. The school has been in critical financial shape with the lack of July payment in 2010 and is working to make arrangements for repayment as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa Cohne

Charter Holder

# APPENDIX B

## Deanna Rowe

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**From:** Friesen, Lyle <Lyle.Friesen@azed.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 2:51 PM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Deanna,

I have not heard back from Sierra Summit, nor has Chris on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor here.

Lyle

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 1:20 PM  
**To:** Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** FW: Sierra Summit Academy

Hi Lyle,

Have you heard any more from this charter holder? Have the funds been returned or has a payment plan been established?

DeAnna

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**From:** Friesen, Lyle [mailto:Lyle.Friesen@azed.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** 'Lisa Cohne'; SIAMAK KHADJENOURY  
**Cc:** Deanna Rowe  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Lisa, Siamak,

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 an e-mail from Wendi Trudell, Interim Director of School Finance, was sent to you indicating that repayment of \$15,713.50 should be sent to the School Finance Unit here at the Department of Education.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, I spoke very briefly with Ray Lang in regards to the possibility of payment plan. However, I do not recall any communication since the 6<sup>th</sup>. If I have overlooked or forgotten any communication, please let me know. If an official request for a repayment plan has been made, please forward a copy to me.

Until a official request is submitted in writing and has been approved, I must request that the \$15,073.50 be returned to the department of education.

Please send a check payable to the "Arizona Department of Education" for the total amount owed (\$15,713.50) and mail it to:

Arizona Department of Education  
School Finance, Attn: Lyle Friesen  
1535 W Jefferson Street, Bin 13  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Thank-you

Lyle

Lyle Friesen  
Director, School Finance  
Arizona Department of Education  
(602) 542-8250  
[lyle.friesen@azed.gov](mailto:lyle.friesen@azed.gov)

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:43 AM  
**To:** 'Lisa Cohne'  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Hi Lisa,

Your request will be placed on the October agenda. If, by September 23, I receive evidence of the funds having been returned or an ADE approved payment plan, the staff report will include such information. Whether ADE agrees to a payment plan is their prerogative. It is the position of the Board that because a charter holder is funded to educate students and that no students will be educated during the 2011-12 school year, the charter holder was not entitled to receive any funds for FY12.

For further clarification with regard to your plans, if you provide the outline and timeframe for your plan by September 23, it will be provided to the Board for its consideration of your request. As I understand it, at this time none of the officers or directors of Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. reside in Arizona. Is that correct? It would be helpful to have information included in the plan as to what involvement the leadership of the charter holder will have in the implementation of the plan.

DeAnna

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**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:16 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY  
**Subject:** Sierra Summit Academy

Dear Ms. Rowe,

It is my understanding that discussions with Lyle Friesen regarding the Sierra Summit Academy repayment to ADE has been postponed to the October Charter Board Meeting.

I am requesting the same extension regarding our efforts to confirm plans and documents for a more detailed outline of our intentions for a Temporary Charter Suspension for Sierra Summit Academy during the 2011/2012 school year. At this time we are in an information gathering phase and need more time to put forth specifics for the 2012 school year.

We plan to have details of a plan outlined as requested in the next few weeks. If the plan does not portray a promising outlook we will go forward with a motion to surrender Sierra Summit Academy's Charter at that time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with this matter.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Cohne

## Deanna Rowe

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**From:** Lisa Cohne <lcohne@media.utah.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 10:01 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

DeAnna,  
Yes, this is what I meant and understand.

*The August 2011 payment was for the education of students in FY12. As you are not operating in this current year, you are not entitled to those funds.*

We are working with Dr. Lange who is working with Mr. Friesen to help us establish a payment plan payable to the "Arizona Department of Education" for the total amount owed (\$15,713.50).

Sierra Summit Academy is doing the very best it can with the financial hardships endured.

Thank you,  
Lisa

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 10:43 AM  
**To:** Lisa Cohne  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Lisa, when you say "this year" I want to be sure you are referring to FY2012. In looking at the CHAR64-1 Report for Sierra Summit, the charter did, in fact receive 12 payments. If you look at the report you will see that there were 2 payments in June. One for \$20,389 and another for \$15,646. Your statement, "The only problem with the 1 month of distribution has been the *catch-up* from a non-payment of 1 month during the previous school year – when students were educated by Sierra Summit Academy without receiving any money from ADE." is not accurate. Sierra Summit Academy did receive 12 payments in FY11.

The August 2011 payment was for the education of students in FY12. As you are not operating in this current year, you are not entitled to those funds.

Thank you for the clarification regarding Siamak. All documentation I have found indicates he resides in Utah.

DeAnna

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**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:13 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Thank you Deanna,  
There is no question about the money and that the August 2011 payment was allocated to educate students this year. The only problem with the 1 month of distribution has been the *catch-up* from a non-payment of 1 month during

the previous school year – when students were educated by Sierra Summit Academy without receiving any money from ADE. I assure you a payment plan will be worked out.

Sierra Summit Academy Board President, Siamak Khadjenoury has worked solely in Arizona since 1995 and he continues to work across the state. His leadership and commitment to the rural communities across the state has been extremely significant to Sierra Summit Academy. While rural communities bring unique and difficult challenges to them, we are hoping to address not only the challenges but create a plan that outlines the opportunities Sierra Summit Academy hopes to bring to Arizona students in the future. The leadership of the school is key and will be addressed in the plan.

Thank you again,  
Lisa

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:43 AM  
**To:** Lisa Cohne  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Hi Lisa,  
Your request will be placed on the October agenda. If, by September 23, I receive evidence of the funds having been returned or an ADE approved payment plan, the staff report will include such information. Whether ADE agrees to a payment plan is their prerogative. It is the position of the Board that because a charter holder is funded to educate students and that no students will be educated during the 2011-12 school year, the charter holder was not entitled to receive any funds for FY12.

For further clarification with regard to your plans, if you provide the outline and timeframe for your plan by September 23, it will be provided to the Board for its consideration of your request. As I understand it, at this time none of the officers or directors of Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. reside in Arizona. Is that correct? It would be helpful to have information included in the plan as to what involvement the leadership of the charter holder will have in the implementation of the plan.

DeAnna

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**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:16 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY  
**Subject:** Sierra Summit Academy

Dear Ms. Rowe,  
It is my understanding that discussions with Lyle Friesen regarding the Sierra Summit Academy repayment to ADE has been postponed to the October Charter Board Meeting.

I am requesting the same extension regarding our efforts to confirm plans and documents for a more detailed outline of our intentions for a Temporary Charter Suspension for Sierra Summit Academy during the 2011/2012 school year. At this time we are in an information gathering phase and need more time to put forth specifics for the 2012 school year.

We plan to have details of a plan outlined as requested in the next few weeks. If the plan does not portray a promising outlook we will go forward with a motion to surrender Sierra Summit Academy's Charter at that time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with this matter.

Sincerely,

## Deanna Rowe

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**From:** Deanna Rowe  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:43 AM  
**To:** 'Lisa Cohne'  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY ; Friesen, Lyle  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Hi Lisa,  
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For further clarification with regard to your plans, if you provide the outline and timeframe for your plan by September 23, it will be provided to the Board for its consideration of your request. As I understand it, at this time none of the officers or directors of Sierra Summit Academy, Inc. reside in Arizona. Is that correct? It would be helpful to have information included in the plan as to what involvement the leadership of the charter holder will have in the implementation of the plan.

DeAnna

**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:16 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** SIAMAK KHADJENOURY  
**Subject:** Sierra Summit Academy

Dear Ms. Rowe,  
It is my understanding that discussions with Lyle Friesen regarding the Sierra Summit Academy repayment to ADE has been postponed to the October Charter Board Meeting.

I am requesting the same extension regarding our efforts to confirm plans and documents for a more detailed outline of our intentions for a Temporary Charter Suspension for Sierra Summit Academy during the 2011/2012 school year. At this time we are in an information gathering phase and need more time to put forth specifics for the 2012 school year.

We plan to have details of a plan outlined as requested in the next few weeks. If the plan does not portray a promising outlook we will go forward with a motion to surrender Sierra Summit Academy's Charter at that time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with this matter.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Cohne

## Deanna Rowe

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**From:** Deanna Rowe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lisa Cohne  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Lisa,

In reviewing the information and in determining a staff recommendation for the request, there is some information that is still needed. Please provide more specifics with a timeline related to your plan to resume operation of the charter school, including any efforts that will be undertaken to remedy the reason for the suspension request. Your letter indicated you needed a year to reorganize, find a new location and hire an educational staff. More detail is needed in all of these areas.

As part of the requested information above, it would be helpful to have documentation that discusses the organization's commitment to the area and the required timing for the identification of a new location in order to open in the fall of 2012, as well as a timeline and plan for hiring qualified individuals and the minimum number of student that will be necessary to open in the fall. A commitment to the submission of a startup and operating budget demonstrating the capacity to open prior to March of 2012 would also be helpful and a deadline for which, if you determine the school cannot open in the fall, that the charter will be surrendered.

If the funds are returned to ADE and the above information is provided, staff will use the information to craft a favorable recommendation for the suspension. If that does not occur, staff will recommend a denial of the request and that the Board proceed with revocation if the charter is not surrendered.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will need the information requested and the repayment of funds for operation in FY2012 by September 6<sup>th</sup>.

DeAnna

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

*Working to improve public education in Arizona by sponsoring charter schools that provide quality educational choices.*

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**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:[lcohne@media.utah.edu](mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 6:04 PM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** [siamakk@msn.com](mailto:siamakk@msn.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Dear Ms. Rowe,  
Thank you again for your patience. All documents will be mailed.  
Lisa Cohne

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 3:37 PM  
**To:** Lisa Cohne  
**Cc:** siamak khadjenoury  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

You can certainly scan all documents and mail the originals as well.

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**From:** Lisa Cohne [mailto:lcohne@media.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 2:10 PM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** siamak khadjenoury  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Dear Ms. Rowe,

I have the documents necessary for the request for a temporary suspension, but need to fax them to you in order for you to receive them today. I understand faxed copies will not be accepted for the school *closure notification request document*. I will mail that post-marked today as well and should arrive Monday.

Thank you,  
Lisa Cohne

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** 'siamak khadjenoury'; Lisa Cohne  
**Subject:** FW: Sierra Summit Academy  
**Importance:** High

In follow-up to the email below, I'd like to provide some additional information. A request for a temporary suspension must be received by August 19<sup>th</sup> for consideration of the Board at the September 12 meeting. If you would like to file a Temporary Suspension request, please submit the necessary information in writing to this office.

<http://asbcs.az.gov/pdf/Board%20Policies/TemporarySuspension-InternalPolicy.pdf> If you would like to surrender the charter, I would be happy to create the surrender agreement. I will need notification by August 19<sup>th</sup> for this as well. If I do not receive additional information, I will put the charter on the September agenda for consideration of a Notice of Intent to Revoke for failing to comply with the terms of the charter contract.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

DeAnna

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Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

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**From:** Deanna Rowe  
**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** 'siamak khadjenoury'; lcohne@uen.org  
**Cc:** Wendi Trudell (WENDI.TRUDELL@AZED.GOV); Bianca Martinez  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Siamak and Lisa,

We can certainly discuss the filing of a good cause suspension of the operations of Sierra Summit. In order to engage in those discussions, the following needs to occur:

1. The funds received for operations in FY12, specifically the August 1 payment of \$15,713.50, must be returned to the State. Please make arrangements with Wendi Trudell to return the funds. I've copied Wendi on this email.
2. A School Closure Notification signed by Lisa, as the charter representative, along with minutes of the meeting when the decision to close the school occurred must be submitted to this office. The form is available on the Board's website and through the following link: [School Site Closure Notification Request](#).

After that, we'll look at the school's academic, fiscal and contractual performance and determine what, if any, additional information must be received in order for the Board to consider a good cause suspension and the terms of such a suspension.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to receiving confirmation from Wendi that the funds have been returned and the receipt of the site closure notification so that we can proceed with this process.

DeAnna

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

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**From:** siamak khadjenoury [mailto:siamakk@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2011 8:44 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** 'Ray Lange'; lcohne@uen.org  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Good morning Ms. Rowe

I have attached an explanation of the status of Sierra Summit Academy. I look forward to talking to you soon.

Thank you,

Siamak Khadjenoury  
President; Board of Directors  
Sierra Summit Academy  
520-907-6890 c  
[siamak@sierrasummitacademy.com](mailto:siamak@sierrasummitacademy.com)

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 5:49 PM  
**To:** 'lcohne@uen.org'; 'siamakk@msn.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Sierra Summit Academy  
**Importance:** High

Please contact this office immediately to confirm whether Sierra Summit Academy will be operational this year. I have heard from others in the area that the school is closed and they are enrolling Sierra Summit students.

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

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**From:** Deanna Rowe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 4:41 PM  
**To:** 'lcohne@sierrasummitacademy.com'  
**Subject:** Sierra Summit Academy  
**Importance:** High

Please contact this office immediately to confirm whether Sierra Summit Academy will be operational this year. I have heard from others in the area that the school is closed and they are enrolling Sierra Summit students.

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
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## Deanna Rowe

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1. The funds received for operations in FY12, specifically the August 1 payment of \$15,713.50, must be returned to the State. Please make arrangements with Wendi Trudell to return the funds. I've copied Wendi on this email.
2. A School Closure Notification signed by Lisa, as the charter representative, along with minutes of the meeting when the decision to close the school occurred must be submitted to this office. The form is available on the Board's website and through the following link: [School Site Closure Notification Request](#).

After that, we'll look at the school's academic, fiscal and contractual performance and determine what, if any, additional information must be received in order for the Board to consider a good cause suspension and the terms of such a suspension.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to receiving confirmation from Wendi that the funds have been returned and the receipt of the site closure notification so that we can proceed with this process.

DeAnna

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

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**From:** siamak khadjenoury [mailto:siamakk@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2011 8:44 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Cc:** 'Ray Lange'; 'lcohne@uen.org'  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Summit Academy

Good morning Ms. Rowe

I have attached an explanation of the status of Sierra Summit Academy. I look forward to talking to you soon.  
Thank you,

Siamak Khadjenoury  
President; Board of Directors  
Sierra Summit Academy  
520-907-6890 c  
[siamak@sierrasummitacademy.com](mailto:siamak@sierrasummitacademy.com)

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 5:49 PM  
**To:** 'lcohne@uen.org'; 'siamakk@msn.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Sierra Summit Academy  
**Importance:** High

Please contact this office immediately to confirm whether Sierra Summit Academy will be operational this year. I have heard from others in the area that the school is closed and they are enrolling Sierra Summit students.

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

**From:** Deanna Rowe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 4:41 PM  
**To:** 'lcohne@sierrasummitacademy.com'  
**Subject:** Sierra Summit Academy  
**Importance:** High

Please contact this office immediately to confirm whether Sierra Summit Academy will be operational this year. I have heard from others in the area that the school is closed and they are enrolling Sierra Summit students.

DeAnna Rowe  
Executive Director  
State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W Washington St., Room 164  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-364-3080  
<http://asbcs.az.gov>

# APPENDIX C

Good morning Ms. [DeAnna Rowe](#)

Earlier this summer, we lost the property of Sierra Summit due to lack of sufficient revenues to support the high mortgage and because its value had been decreased substantially in the past two years, banks were not keen on refinancing. Additionally, we never fully recovered from Legislative actions reducing equalization significantly in the last two years.

We began negotiations with the new owner of the property in July and until last week, we had plans to fully open today. Last Wednesday we learned that the principal had resigned citing uncertainty with the property and the overall financial picture. He took it upon himself to make public announcements that the school would close. On Thursday we made the heart breaking decision that given the short window to recruit a new principal, it would be in the best interest of our students if we assisted them with placement at other schools in the area.

Our parents have expressed their gracious support for everything we have done for their students in the past ten years and view this development as a huge loss to the community of Hereford.

Since then, we have focused our efforts onto providing support to our students by contacting other schools, sending transcripts and answering question they might have. We have provided contact information for inquiries.

We respectfully request that AZ Charter Board recognize the hardship experienced by our school and grants us one year to fully reorganize, recruit highly qualified staff and return to serving the students of Hereford. We have successfully served a niche of students who will have extreme difficult adapting to traditional public school environments.

We will file all the necessary forms and documentation with the Charter Board indicating our current position.

If I can answer any further questions please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Siamak Khadjenoury  
President,  
Board of Directors  
Sierra Summit Academy