

Issue

Skyline Schools, Inc. (SSI), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete Site Specific Change in Grade Levels Served Notification request for Sonoran West Academy, adding grades K-8 to the current grades 9-12. The SSI charter authorizes grades K-12.

Background

SSI was granted a charter in 2000. It operates two schools: Skyline Prep High School (SPHS, serves 9-12 in Phoenix since 2002); and Sonoran West Academy (SWA, serves grades 9-12 in Peoria since 2002). One school formerly operated by SSI, Skyline District 5, was transferred to a separate charter in May 2009. SSI has also closed two schools: Skyline Junior High School (SJH, served grades 6-8 in Peoria 2004-2007); and Skyline Prep and Arts Academy (SPAA, served grades K-8 in 2006-2009, and grades 5-8 2009-2010, in Chandler). The Charter Representative of SSI is Ronda Owens.

Narrative

According to the narrative, this request is due to the school facility being large enough to accommodate more grade levels, and requests from the community for an elementary school to be offered by the charter holder.

The facility blueprints submitted with the request indicate a site capacity of 451. SSI has an enrollment cap of 1000. According to ADE, the 100th day enrollment was 186 students at both campuses (SWA was 97, SPHS was 89).

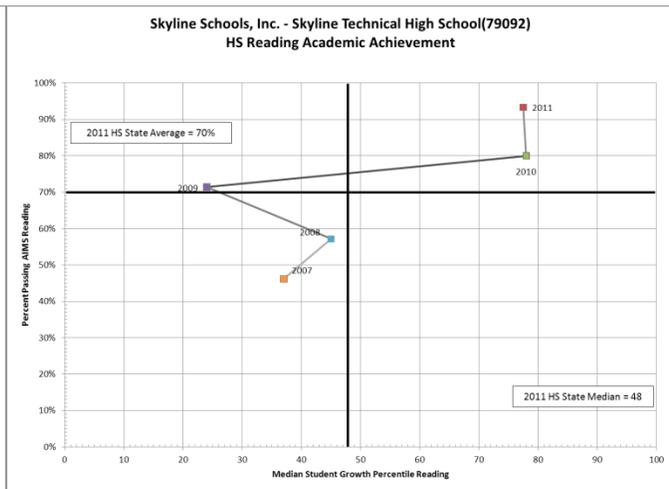
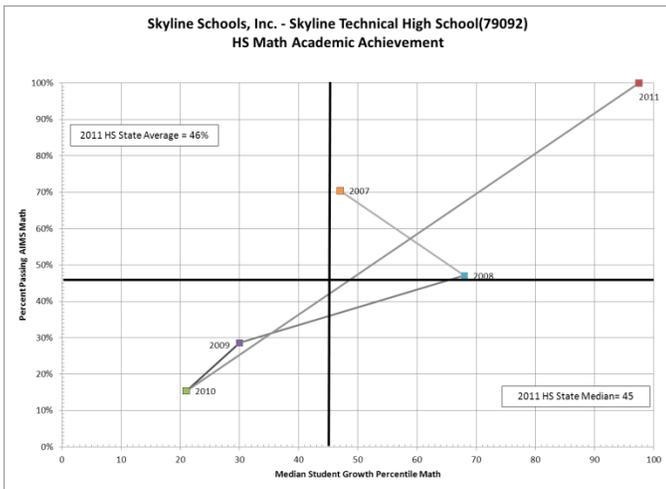
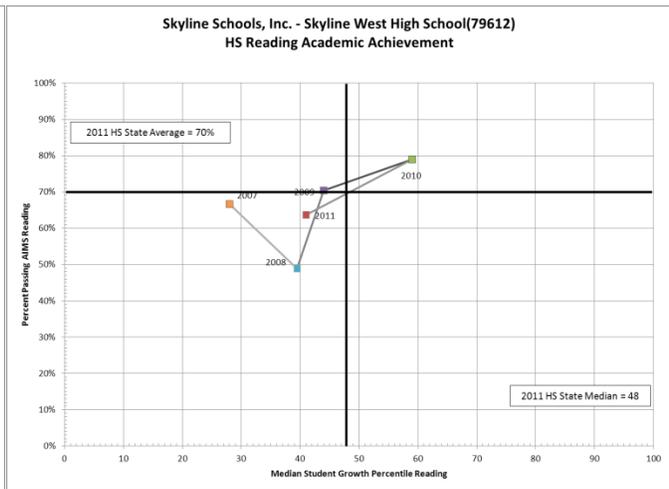
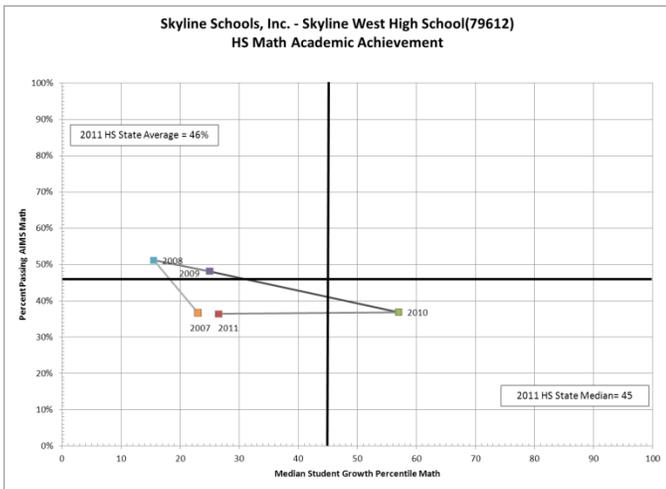
Board staff notified SSI that issues were preventing the processing of the request, including a compliance issue, and that based on 2011 AIMS data, SSI did not meet the eligibility requirements for a Site Specific Change in Grades Served.

On June 4, SSI submitted additional materials for the Board's consideration that provided school-generated academic data to provide evidence of making progress towards the Board's level of adequate academic performance (LAAP). All of the submitted information is included in [Appendix A](#):

- Reference to the Certificate of Good Standing from the ACC provided in a separate document.
- A narrative describing the charter's student achievement plan and background history of other charters associated with charter representative, Ronda Owens.
- Graphs titled, "Sonoran West – Galileo Trends" for grade 10 in Math and Reading
- Graphs titled, "Vector – Galileo Trends" for grades 3-6 in Math and Reading
- Graphs titled, "Vector – DIBELS Trends" for grades 3-6
- Graphs titled, "AZ Compass – Galileo Trends" for grades 7-8 in Math and Reading
- Graphs titled, "D5 – Galileo Trends" for grades 5-8 in Math and Reading
- Graphs titled, "D5 – DIBELS Trends" for grades 5-6

Eligibility

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the notification approval process. This compliance check included a review of the FY2011 academic graphs to determine whether SSI met or demonstrated sufficient progress towards LAAP.

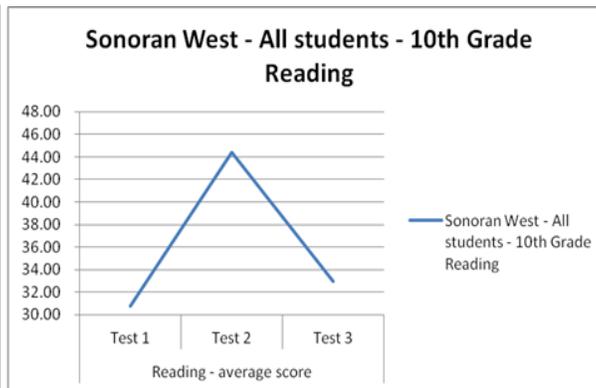
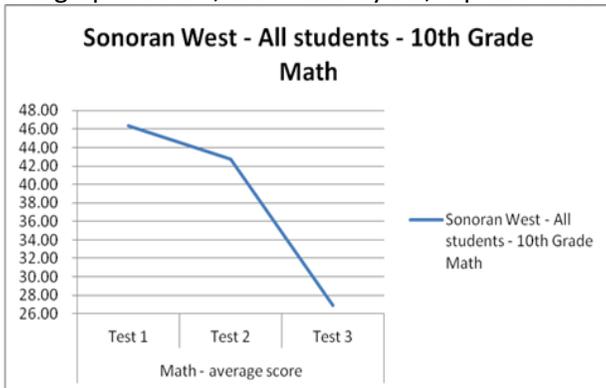


The graphs indicate that in 2011, SWA (formerly Skyline West High School) did not meet LAAP in Math and Reading. SPSH (formerly Skyline TECH High School) met LAAP in both areas.

The narrative submitted by SSI states, “However with the plan that has been adopted for all the schools, we are finding that students are improving including some that are improving 1-3% each week.” Board staff was unable to confirm this conclusion from the data provided, which included only the average score per grade level for each benchmark testing, and did not include scale scores or normed percentile rankings that are available through the management tools of Galileo K-12 Online. In an effort to ascertain whether the data submitted provided evidence of improved pupil achievement, Board staff determined that an average increase in test score of 25 percentage points represented an adequate indicator of improvement in pupil achievement, based on the rate of 1-3% per week given by SSI.

SSI submitted graphs of the Galileo benchmark data and provided their results at the bottom of each graph. In this report, Board staff has compiled the data results into one section, which is located below the graphs, for each school. In an effort to determine whether the data submitted provided evidence of improved pupil achievement, Board staff has created a table following each set of graphs that is labeled, “Change in average test score from T1 to T3”.

The graphs below, submitted by SSI, represent Galileo benchmark data from SWA for 10th Grade:



The following data results were provided by SSI:

In Math, 3 of 16 students (19%) increased scores over testing period.
Average Math decrease, 6.24%.

In Reading, 9 of 16 students (56%) increased scores over testing period.
Average Reading decrease, 3.12%.

Table 1. Sonoran West Academy Grade 10-Change in average test score from T1 to T3

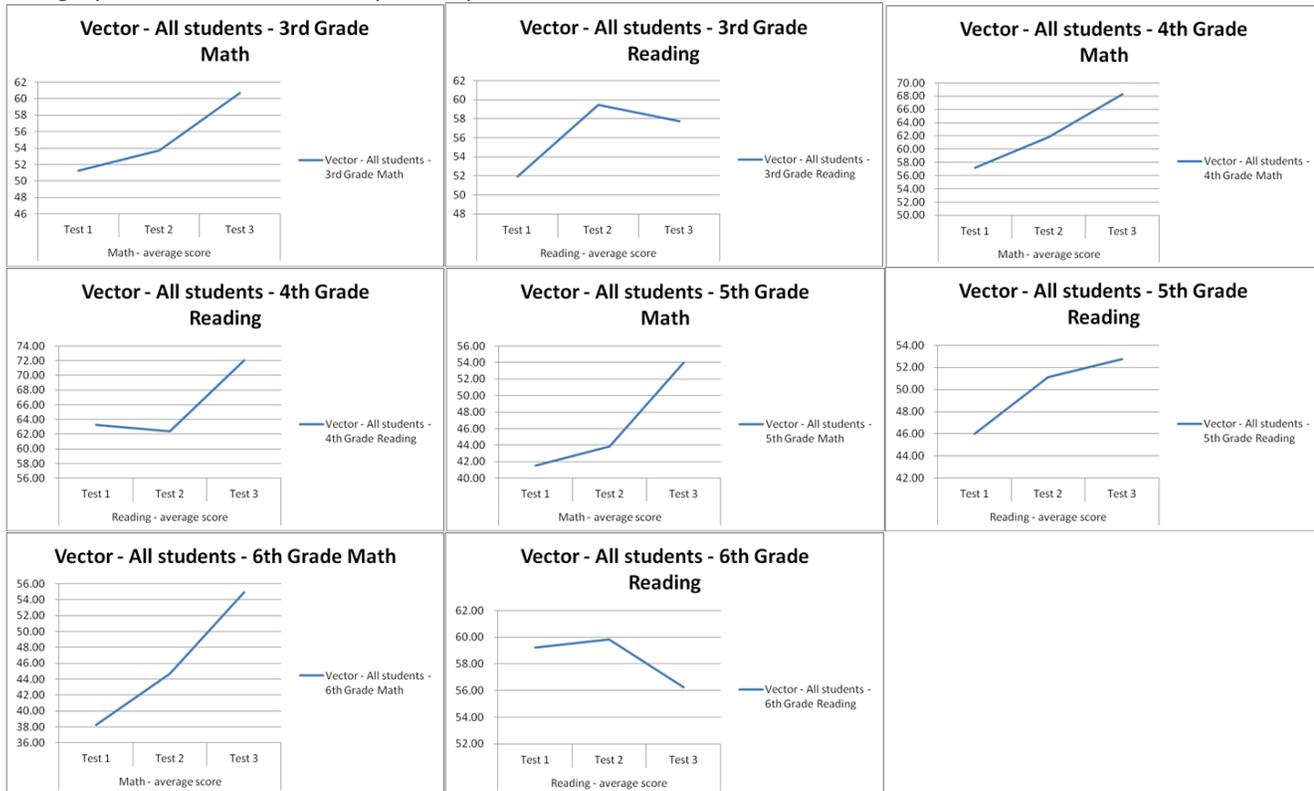
Subject	Test 1 Avg.	Test 2 Avg.	Test 3 Avg.	Change: T1 to T3	% Change
Math	46.	43	27.0	-19	-41%
Reading	31.0	44	33.0	2.0	6%

Table 1 shows that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- The average benchmark scores for both Math and Reading show little improvement (≤24 percentage points).
- Scores in Math had a percentage change of -41% over the testing period.
- Scores in Reading improved for Test 2, but declined close to the starting point by Test 3.

In addition to providing school-generated academic data for SWA, SSI provided Galileo benchmark data for three elementary schools associated with the charter representative of SSI, Ronda Owens. The schools are: Vector Prep and Arts Academy (VPAA), AZ Compass Prep (AZCP), and Skyline D5 (D5). In the narrative submitted, SSI states, “We believe the following data for Vector Prep and Arts, AZ Compass Prep School, and Skyline Gila River represent increases in student achievement utilizing data-driven instructional decision making that we currently utilize in our mission to continuously improve.”

The graphs below, submitted by SSI, represent Galileo benchmark data from VPAA for Grades 3-6:



The following data results were provided by SSI:

Math results over testing period:
 3rd grade, 7 of 11 students (64%) increased scores
 3rd grade, average increase, 9.45%
 4th grade, 10 of 13 students (77%) increased scores
 4th grade, average increase, 11.15%
 5th grade, 13 of 15 students (87%) increased scores
 5th grade, average increase, 12.47%
 6th grade, 23 of 27 students (85%) increased scores
 6th grade, average increase, 16.7%

Reading results over testing period:
 3rd grade, 8 of 11 students (73%) increased scores
 3rd grade, average increase, 5.82%
 4th grade, 9 of 13 students (69%) increased scores
 4th grade, average increase, 8.85%
 5th grade, 8 of 15 students (53%) increased scores
 5th grade, average increase, 6.73%
 6th grade, 5 of 27 students (19%) increased scores
 6th grade, average decrease, 2.96%

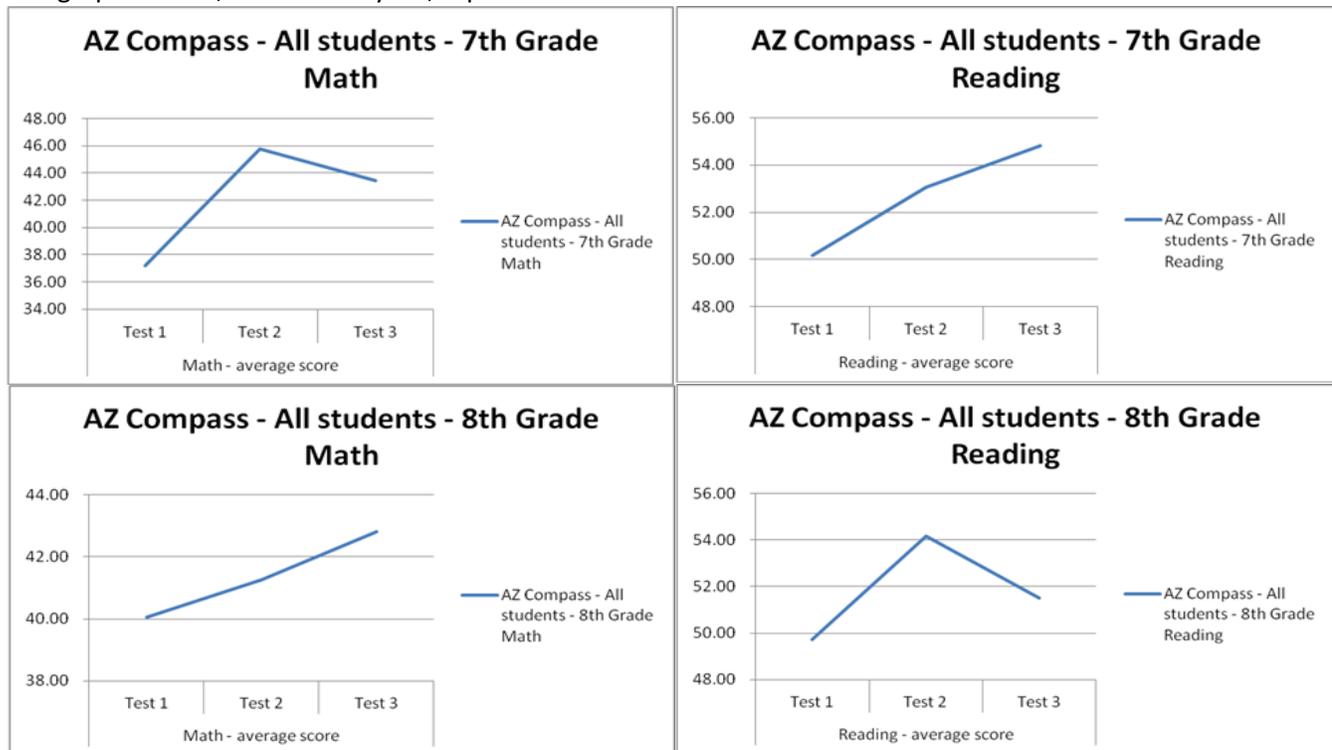
Table 2. Vector Prep and Arts Academy Grades 3-6-Change in average test score from T1 to T3

	Test 1 Avg.	Test 2 Avg.	Test 3 Avg.	Change: T1 to T3	% Change
3 Reading	52	59	58	6	12
3 Math	51	54	61	10	20
4 Reading	63	62	72	9	14
4 Math	57	62	68	11	19
5 Reading	46	51	53	7	15
5 Math	41.5	44	54	12.5	30
6 Reading	59	60	56	-3	-5
6 Math	38	45	55	17	45

Table 2 shows that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- The average benchmark scores for both Math and Reading show little improvement (≤ 24 percentage points).
- Scores in Math improved by an average of 13 percentage points for grades 3-6 over the testing period.
- Scores in Reading improved by an average of 5 percentage points for grades 3-6 over the testing period.

The graphs below, submitted by SSI, represent Galileo benchmark data from AZCP for Grades 7-8:



The following data results were provided by SSI:

In Math:
 11 of 17 students (65%) increased scores over testing period.
 Average increase, 6.24%.
 13 of 23 students (57%) increased scores over testing period.
 Average increase, 2.65%.

In Reading:
 11 of 17 students (65%) increased scores over testing period.
 Average increase, 3.12%.
 14 of 23 students (61%) increased scores over testing period.
 Average increase, 1.04%.

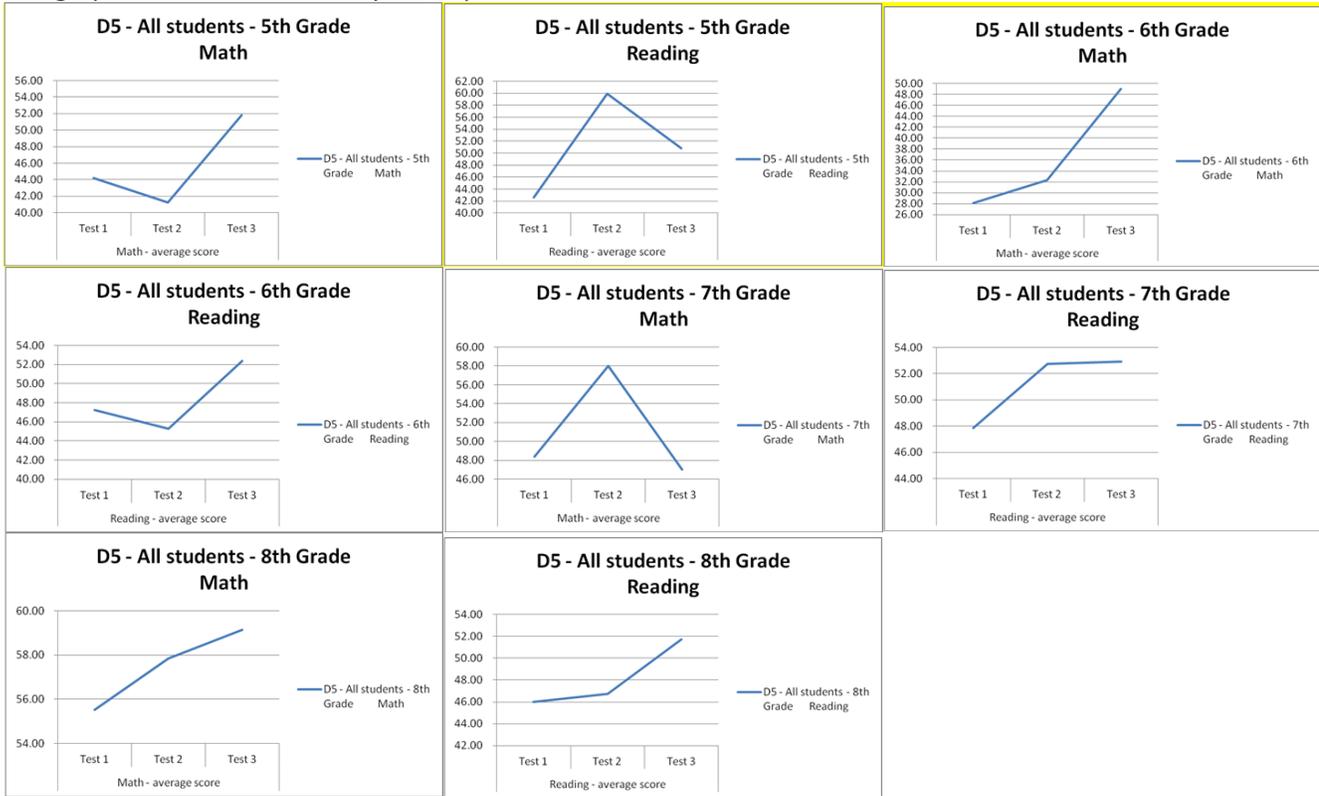
Table 3. AZ Compass Prep Grades 7-8-Change in average test score from T1 to T3

	Test 1 Avg.	Test 2 Avg.	Test 3 Avg.	Change: T1 to T3	% Change
7 Reading	52	59	58	6	12
7 Math	51	54	61	10	20
8 Reading	63	62	72	9	14
8 Math	57	62	68	11	19

Table 3 shows that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- The average benchmark scores for both Math and Reading show little improvement (≤ 24 percentage points).
- Scores in Math improved by an average of 11 percentage points for grades 7-8 over the testing period.
- Scores in Reading improved by an average of 8 percentage points for grades 7-8 over the testing period.

The graphs below, submitted by SSI, represent Galileo benchmark data from D5 for Grades 5-8:



The following data results were provided by SSI:

<p>Math results over testing period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th grade, 19 of 29 students (66%) increased scores 5th grade, average increase, 7.52% 6th grade, 17 of 18 students (94%) increased scores 6th grade, average increase, 20.11% 7th grade, 11 of 17 students (33%) increased scores 7th grade, average decrease, 1.06% 8th grade, 19 of 31 students (61%) increased scores 8th grade, average increase, 4.29% 	<p>Reading results over testing period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th grade, 22 of 29 students (76%) increased scores 5th grade, average increase, 5.93% 6th grade, 10 of 18 students (56%) increased scores 6th grade, average increase, 4.72% 7th grade, 21 of 33 students (64%) increased scores 7th grade, average increase, 4.06% 8th grade, 18 of 31 students (58%) increased scores 8th grade, average increase, 4.55%
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Table 4. Skyline D5 Grades 5-8-Change in average test score from T1 to T3

	Test 1 Avg.	Test 2 Avg.	Test 3 Avg.	Change: T1 to T3	% Change
5 Reading	43	60	51	8	19
5 Math	44	41	52	8	18
6 Reading	47	45.5	52.5	5.5	12
6 Math	28	32	49	21	75
7 Reading	48	53	53	5	10
7 Math	48	58	47	-1	-2
8 Reading	46	47	52	6	13
8 Math	55.5	58	59	3.5	6

Table 4 shows that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- The average benchmark scores for both Math and Reading show little improvement (≤ 24 percentage points).
- Scores in Math improved by an average of 8 percentage points for grades 5-8 over the testing period.
- Scores in Reading improved by an average of 14 percentage points for grades 5-8 over the testing period.

Overall, the results of the benchmark assessments in both subjects indicate that the average test scores of all the schools represented in this staff report improved less than 25 percentage points over the testing period.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification to the charter held by Skyline Schools, Inc. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification to the charter held by Skyline Schools, Inc. adding grades K-8 to Sonoran West Academy.

Option 2: The Board may deny the Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification to the charter held by Skyline Schools, Inc. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification to the charter held by Skyline Schools, Inc. adding grades K-8 to Sonoran West Academy, for the reasons that:

- The academic data and documentation provided by Skyline Schools, Inc. to support the addition of grade levels to Sonoran West Academy does not provide sufficient evidence that the Charter Holder has provided a learning environment that has resulted in improved student achievement as measured through AIMS.
- (Specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration.)

Arizona Corporation Commission

06/04/2012

State of Arizona Public Access System

4:13 PM

Corporate Status Inquiry

File Number: -0939478-7

Corp. Name: SKYLINE SCHOOLS, INC.

This Corporation is in Good Standing

This information is provided as a courtesy and does not constitute legally binding information regarding the status of the entity listed above. To obtain an official Certificate indicating that the entity is in good standing click on [Print Certificate](#) and follow printing instructions. To re-print a previously generated Certificate of Good Standing click [Reprint Certificate](#).

[Print Certificate](#)

[Reprint Certificate](#)

[Return to Corporate Inquiry](#)

Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Skyline Schools, Inc.

CTDS:
07-89-14-000

Mailing Address:
17667 N. 91st Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Ronda Owens

Phone Number:
4807792000

Fax Number:
480-705-9045

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Current Grade Levels Served

Sonoran West Academy: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

New Grade Levels

New Grade Levels Served

Kindergarten
1st Grade
2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade
6th Grade
7th Grade
8th Grade

Effective Date
08/01/2012

Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Facility Documentation –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Ronda Owens 01/11/2012

Skyline Schools, Inc
15220 N 50th Street, Suite 109
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Board Meeting
December 19, 2011 at 1:00 PM

Ted Chiarello, President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 1:03 P.M. Board members present during roll call were Molly Ryan, Swen Anderson, Ronda Owens, Ted Chiarello and Zyzick Owens. Ex-Officio, Jeff Thornburg and Brian Duguid ; absent Carl Hill; Rudy Dolfo - public

Call to the Public: None

Minutes from the July 5, 2011 were reviewed. Ronda Owens motioned to approve minutes from October 21, 2011 with the correction changing Chart to Charter and post on website. Zyzick 2nd the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

Skyline West Prep School discussion and possible action:

- a. Brian Duguid gave a synopsis on what is happening at Skyline West Prep School as follows:
We would like the Board to allow Skyline West Prep to be its own entity for the 2012 school year and will be adding a K-8 grade school to the 9-12 already in place. A team met to discuss the pros and cons regarding the new addition and found pros out weighted the cons. The school needed to be a K-12 for 2012.
- b. The team also decided it would be beneficial to change the name to Sonoran West Academy which has the same lettering as Skyline West Prep. Brian Duguid will be the K-6 principal and he is currently a certified principal and worked 20 years for the Peoria School District. Zyzick asked where the name came from? Brian said his team came up with the name which they felt represented Arizona and gave the school a new start.
Ted asked if the sports, academics and arts will change. Brian stated no. They are planning on some changes including a playground for the younger grades in the back that will be in a safe environment.
Ronda read attached name change information that is produced from the AZ Charter Board for schools information.(see attached). The School architectural plans will be sent to Swen and Ronda for State Board approval. Ronda will then send to the Chartered Board showing current changes to school.
- c. The rationale for the grade change and name change for Charter Board is the facility is large enough to accommodate a K-12 and Skyline overall mission was and to have a K-12 and the team feels it is time to expand. Mission/Vision/Goals reflect this rationale.
- d. Student CAP for Skyline West was 1000 and for the K-8 will be 1000 students.

- e. Splitting of Schools – Splitting the two schools will require a new 501C-3 corporation. Ronda stated this will not be a problem we will do this like we did when we split off Skyline Gila River. All debts will follow Skyline Tech. This new site will be free from debt. We will need a new CTDS number for Sonoran West Academy and there will be a lot of paper work. We will do a transfer application for K-8. Ronda and Ted discussed the money will be tight to start because there will be little funding year one. High School has to go 4 days a week with a recovery on Fridays and K-8 will go 5 days a week. Marketing will work on advertising for the new school and work with Vivian.

Ronda Owens motioned to put a transfer application for Skyline West High School. Swen Anderson 2nd the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

Ronda Owens motioned to change Skyline West High School names to Sonoran West Academy.

Ronda Owens explained that Skyline Schools is already approved as a K-12 for teaching therefore we need to reapply for adding the grades back to our charter. Ronda Owens motioned to add new grades under the Skyline West High School which will add a K-8 school to the newly named Sonoran West Academy. Molly Ryan 2nd the motion. Motion was carried unanimously. Ted mentioned that these changes are for the 2012-13 school year and should be given to the charter Board immediately for marketing purposes.

Skyline TECH High

- a. After a discussion on moving Skyline Tech High to 7500 S. 40th Street, Phoenix for 2012-2013 and having students from District 6 and 7 attend South Valley and students from District 3, 4, 5 attend AZ Compass campus. Ronda would look into replication process and see if it is available for this year.
Swen Anderson tabled this item for the next meeting since no agreement could be made. Ronda Owens 2nd the table of item. Table was carried unanimously
- b. Change name from Skyline Tech High School to Skyline Prep High School.
Ronda Owens tabled this item for the next meeting since no agreement could be made. Molly Ryan 2nd the table of item. Table was carried unanimously

Ted motioned to close meeting at 3:20 PM, Molly 2nd the motion. Motion was carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned.

Rationale for Grade and Name Change: Skyline West Prep School

From Board of Trustee's Minutes:

- a. Brian Duguid gave a synopsis on what is happening at Skyline West Prep School as follows: We would like the Board to allow Skyline West Prep to be its own entity for the 2012 school year and will be adding a K-8 grade school to the 9-12 already in place. A team met to discuss the pros and cons regarding the new addition and found pros out weighted the cons. The school needed to be a K-12 for 2012.
- b. The team also decided it would be beneficial to change the name to Sonoran West Academy which has the same lettering as Skyline West Prep. Brian Duguid will be the K-6 principal and he is currently a certified principal and worked 20 years for the Peoria School District. Zyzick asked where the name came from? Brian said his team came up with the name which they felt represented Arizona and gave the school a new start. Ted asked if the sports, academics and arts will change. Brian stated no. They are planning on some changes including a playground for the younger grades in the back that will be in a safe environment. Ronda read attached name change information that is produced from the AZ Charter Board for schools information.(see attached). The School architectural plans will be sent to Swen and Ronda for State Board approval. Ronda will then send to the Chartered Board showing current changes to school.
- c. The rationale for the grade change and name change for Charter Board is the facility is large enough to accommodate a K-12 and Skyline overall mission was and to have a K-12 and the team feels it is time to expand. Mission/Vision/Goals reflect this rationale.

Student CAP for Skyline West was 1000 and for the K-8 will be 1000 students.

Additionally, we have served Peoria for 10 year in that community and are always getting asked to deliver one of our grade school's to this area. We have people in place and ready to make this accommodation. Please allow this wonderful change for our school.

We want to change the name of the school so that it aligns with a K-12 grade. Our long term plans are to split the schools, but our timeline did not match that of the AZ Charter Board, and we will have to follow up with that next year. However, we will continue to follow through on the name change and grade change. Skyline West Prep School will become to Sonoran West Academy.