

Instructional Days Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Sonoran Desert School

CTDS:
07-87-86-000

Mailing Address:
6724 S. Kings Ranch Road
Suite 102
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Patricia Dalman

Phone Number:
480-396-5463

Fax Number:
480-396-4980

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Contractual Days

144

To
180


Fiscal Year Effective Date
2012-2013

Type of Change
Permanent Change

Attachment

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

School Calendar —  [Download File](#)

Daily Instructional Schedule —  [Download File](#)

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*
No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Patricia Dalman 04/30/2012

Sonoran Desert School
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/16/2012

Time: 9:00

Place: 4448 E. Main Street, Suite

A. Board Members Present: (underline the applicable answer)

Patricia Dalman Present or Absent

Shawn Dalman Present or Absent

Don Tucker Present or Absent

Jean Tucker Present or Absent

Charlotte Zulkowski Present or Absent

Note: The required quorum of three board members was present

B. A general description of the matters discussed or considered were:

1. Review of minutes
2. Review of the financials
3. Review of the bank statements

Annual Business:

1. Discuss and vote on 2012-13 contracts.
2. Discuss and vote on Instructional Days Amendment from four to five day week for the next fiscal year of 2012-2013
3. Discuss and vote on Form 990

C. A description of all legal actions proposed, discussed or taken and the names of members who proposed each motion:

1. Minutes unanimously approved
2. Financial review and bank statements unanimously approved
3. 2012-13 contracts unanimously approved
4. Instructional Days Amendment approved for five day week for 2012-2013 and for future years

Names of persons making statements or presenting material to the public body and a reference to the specific legal action addressed by the person:

None



Shawn Dalman, Secretary



Date

Narrative

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for an Instructional Days Amendment for our charter. Please find below the Rationale, Mission, Philosophy, and Instruction behind this request for adding additional instructional days.

Rationale

We would like to change our current instructional days from 144 to 180 to increase the amount of instructional time during the year. We are adding grades 7-12, and a five-day school week is required for these grades. We want to ensure that these middle school students are fully prepared to perform in grades 9-12 and make a successful transition toward their postsecondary goals.

We are requesting this change for grades 9-12 as well. We believe this increase is needed to allow students to achieve higher AIMS scores. The additional instructional time will be used to complete periodic performance assessments to monitor each student's mastery of state standards prior to participating in any high-stakes tests. The additional instructional days will also be used to ensure that our instructional activities are given enough time to be successful.

Mission, Philosophy, and Instruction

Sonoran Desert School's mission is "to uphold as its highest priority each student's right to achieve meaningful academic success, and therefore the right to prosper emotionally and to prepare intellectually for adult roles. SDS offers a self-paced, challenging curriculum featuring computer applications and individualized instruction to meet the needs students who would benefit from learning in an innovative, personalized school setting." Increasing the number of instructional days will support our mission by helping students achieve a meaningful academic success through increased time dedicated to effective instruction, measuring achievement, and preparing for the transition into the adult world.

Our philosophy of instruction is based on the personal and social needs of every student. We are dedicated to helping each student with individual needs by assisting them with meeting course requirements, providing individualized instruction, monitoring individual progress toward mastering standards, and preparing for postsecondary activities. We are also dedicated to supporting interactive needs whereby students learn vital communication and socialization skills while participating in engaging cooperative activities.

Our model of instruction is designed to address both the individual and the social needs of students. We will be using the Education 2020 curriculum as an instructional framework for assisting students with individual educational needs; this highly customizable and standards-based digital curriculum supports a highly individualized approach to learning that integrates a variety of performance-monitoring assessments.

Although it can be used for distance learning, at SDS Education 2020 will only be used in the classroom under the supervision of teachers, who will be using it for its ability to help them integrate standards, instruction, and assessment while managing the individual needs of students.

To meet the instructional need for social learning, we will be using daily interactive activities that support educational priorities such as test preparation, character education, and college preparation to meet the social needs of students. These activities are predicated upon two beliefs: 1) teaching socialization skills is fundamental responsibility for schools, and 2) structured interactive activities are highly engaging, resulting in higher retention of knowledge and transfer of skills. Because we believe in both the importance of meeting individual needs and the benefits of interactivity, increasing instructional days will enable us to ensure both priorities are met.

Achieving a high school diploma is a crucial rite of passage as well as a stepping-stone to future success. Adding instructional days will help us to help our students become fully prepared as self-disciplined learners who understand and act upon the reality that education is crucial to improving their lives as individuals as well as contributing to society as a whole.