
AGENDA ITEM: Transfer Application – Ventana Academic Charter School

2009-2010 Transfer Application Summary Report

Ventana Academic School filed a transfer application to transfer their current charter contract which operates Ventana Academy from the State Board of Education to sponsorship with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. The transfer includes a change in the corporate name to Ventana Academic Charter School and a change in the mission as reflected in this report. Ventana Academic School is a non-profit corporation that was organized on February 19, 1992. Ventana Academic School was chartered with the State Board of Education with a contract effective date of September 5, 1995.

According to the Arizona Department of Education’s ADMS Report 45-1, Ventana Academic School had a reported Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 64.97 students in 2007. The ADM rose to 93.02 students in 2008 and has grown to 112.43 students in 2009.

Ventana Academic School has experienced the following academic success:

Ventana Academy

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Annual Yearly Progress
2007-2008	Performing	Met
2006-2007	Performing Plus	Met
2005-2006	Performing Plus	Met

Curricular Emphasis:

To support the school’s emphasis on science and technology, the school regularly schedules learning outside the classroom through their garden club and field trips to such places as veterinarian clinics, animal rescue organizations, The Heard Museum and The Challenger Space Center. Students are offered a wide variety of software options to advance them within today’s educational environment. Software includes math and reading skills instruction and support.

Governance Structure:

The school has a single governing entity, namely the Ventana Academic Governing Board. The major responsibilities include oversight of all financial matters, establishment of school policy and the employment and removal of the principal and all paid employees and contractors/vendors of the Academy. The application state that the Board shall at all times, recognize that in addition to establishing school policies, its duty is to support the principal in the overall administration of the school.

The mission of the charter is as follows:

Ventana Academy, a K-8 school of choice, provides a superior quality educational experience that instills students with a love of learning and imbues them with the essential academic skills and knowledge relevant to both today and tomorrow. Ventana uses rigorous, innovative, data-driven instruction with a focus on science and technology in small class sizes that nurture their intellect and spirit while surrounding them in a secure, cooperative environment rich with the contributions from our parents and extended community.

Ventana Academic School	
Grade Levels	K-8
Special Emphasis	Science (horticulture, environmental, equine/animal studies) and Technology
Methodology	Differentiated instruction, progress monitoring, remedial and accelerated opportunities, research-based trends and methodologies, small class sizes (15-20)
Location	6424 E. Cave Creek Rd. Cave Creek, AZ 85327
Target Community	K-8 students living in Cave Creek, Desert Hills, and surrounding areas.
Corporate Principals	Dorothy Tucker, Reggie Monachino, Robert Chartier, Sandra Casady,

	Dana Gonder, Bryce Molloy
Governing Body (same individuals)	<u>3 Charter Organization Members:</u> Dorothy Tucker, Reggie Monachino, Robert Chartier <u>1 School Staff Members:</u> Sandra Casady <u>1 Community Members:</u> Bryce Molloy <u>1 Parent Member:</u> Dana Gonder

Board Options

1. The Board may grant the Transfer Application for Ventana Academic School to include the change in the charter holder name and mission.
2. The Board may deny the Transfer Application for Ventana Academic School.

Staff Recommendation

Staff's recommendation is Option 1 above.