VISION CHARTER SCHOOL

Renewal Application Overview

VISION CHARTER SCHOOL – Charter Entity ID 4430

History of Vision Charter School

Vision Charter School, Inc. was chartered by ASBCS in August 1998 to serve the general high school student population (grades 9 – 12). It was designed to provide a providing a cross-cultural comprehensive teaching and learning environment that empowers students to become life-long learners and contributing community members. This is accomplished by providing opportunity in:

Victory

Incentive

Security

Initiative

Opportunity

Nurturing

The intent for establishing Vision Charter School was to fill a gap in the traditional education system by providing an environment that would meet the needs of, predominately, Native Americans and other minority students. These students' potential is often overlooked in the traditional education system, which results in disproportionate graduation rates and thus a decreased opportunity to be successful in higher education. For the students who graduate via social promotion and perseverance, they too experience limited opportunity, and end up in a cycle of entry level employment. Furthermore, they often face barriers that contribute to their inability to successfully complete higher education. This is an ongoing concern, as another generation will experience a diminished quality of life and place a financial burden on society.

Success of the Academic Program

All students are assessed upon enrollment in reading, writing, and mathematics. To no surprise, many of our new students are reading and writing below the 8th grade level and have not mastered simple multiplication. They are or nowhere near proficient in pre-algebra upon entering high school. At Vision Charter School, teachers are required to perform. They must provide mandatory tutoring sessions for all struggling students throughout the school year, as well as teach AIMS classes during the second trimester in preparation for spring testing. Teachers use a variety of methods to teach students: small group work, multi-grade interaction, hands-on activities, lectures, and individual in-class assignments to name a few. The teacher-to-student ratio varies throughout the academic school year from 1:25 to 1:16. The average student shows a growth of two grade levels in their first year with Vision High School. Most significantly, students who enroll at Vision Charter School at the beginning of their freshman year pass all three parts of the AIMS test on their first try as a sophomore. Attendance is closely monitored and parents are contacted in the event of an absence. Student progress reports are sent out six times per year.

The graphs below illustrate the academic achievement for the past five years (2007 - 2011). Chart 1 is the result for all students who have taken the AIMS during spring testing.

Chart 1

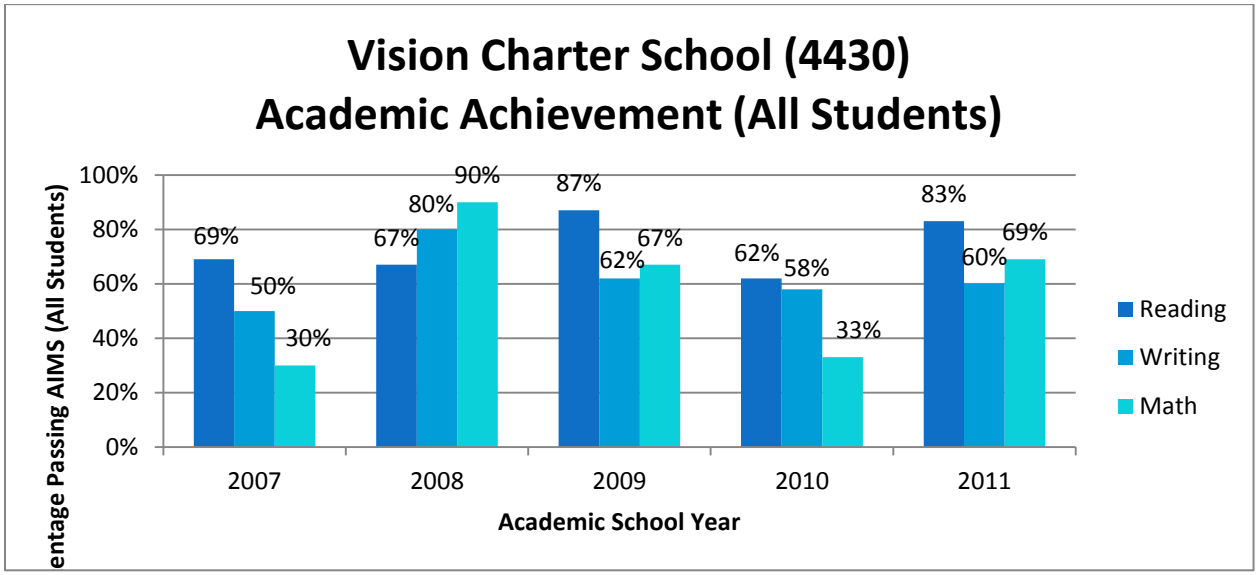
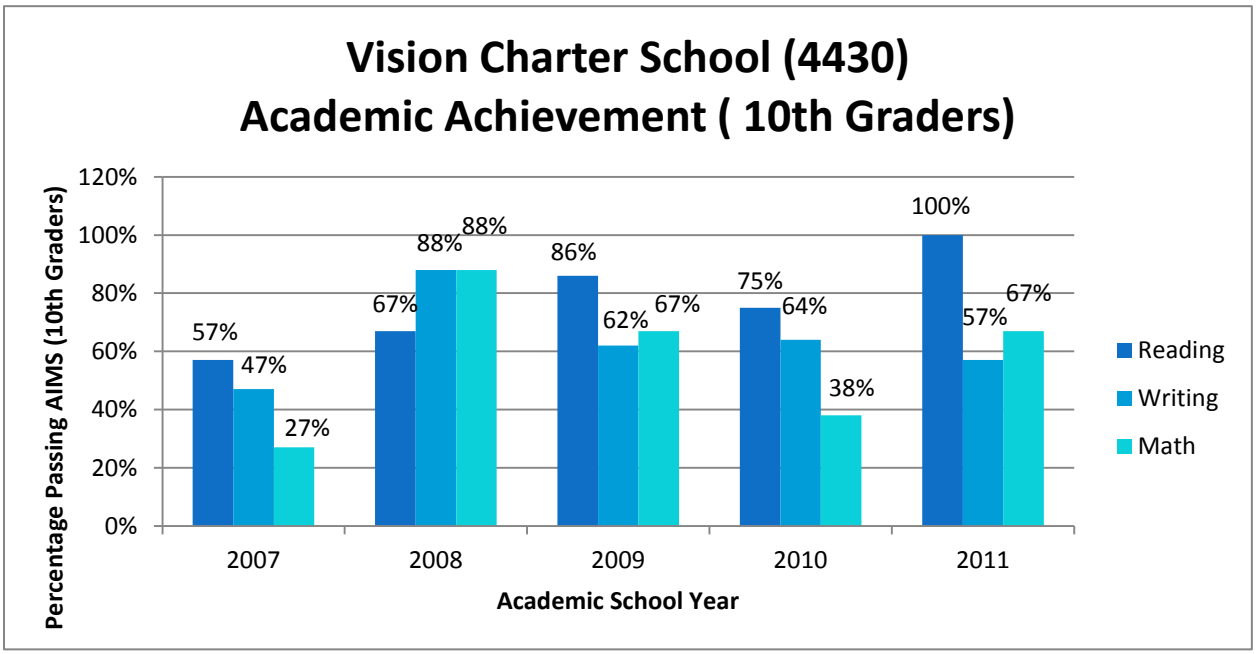


Chart 2 below illustrates the academic achievement results of all 10th graders who have taken AIMS during spring testing over the past five years (2007 - 2011).

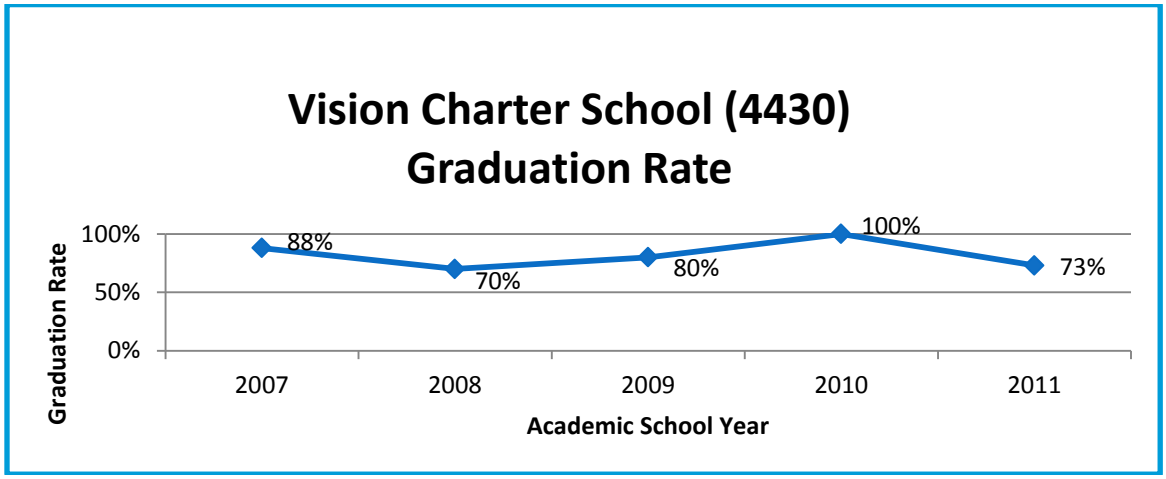
Chart 2



With the exception of the 2010, Vision Charter School meets or demonstrates progress toward the Board's level of adequate academic performance. At the beginning of the 2011 academic school year, a district level Performance Management Plan was created and put into motion. As a result, the academic achievement scores increased in 2011.

Chart 3 below illustrates the graduation rate for the past 5 years (2007 - 2011).

Chart 3



Note to ASBCS

Looking back over the years, Vision Charter School's AYP (Annual Yearly Progress), and status as a Performing Plus School for most of the years in operation, demonstrates the hard work the school board members, staff, parents, and students have put into building our unique program. The challenges are great given that the majority of our students are academically deficient and come from low socioeconomic backgrounds. We are very proud of Vision High School's success. Our goal is to keep the dream alive for many years to come and serve as many students as we can reasonably fit into our one-room schoolhouse.

Vision Charter School's board members, staff, parents and students all extend our appreciation to ASBCS for their support and gratitude over the past fourteen years. We believe that charter schools collectively have proven that there has always been a need for parent choice in education. Charter schools are making a difference.

Thank you.