

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Charter Renewal Application – Desert Star Community School

Request

Desert Star Community School (“Charter Holder”) submitted a charter renewal application on February 15, 2019 to continue operation of Desert Star Community School.

See Appendix A: Renewal Application

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a charter in 2006.

See Appendix B: Renewal Summary Review.

Governance

| Corporate Board Members | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| | Karen Boehm |
| | Nesa Gesell |
| | Yvan Rochon |
| | Jason Vargo |
| | Tomas Winn |
| | Jennifer Young |

Operational Performance

During the Academic Systems Review, specific areas of the charter contract are reviewed to ensure a charter holder is in compliance. If Board staff identifies contractual non-compliance issues at the site visit, each issue is reflected on the charter holder’s Operational Performance Dashboard, with required submissions to come into compliance.

No contractual non-compliance issues were identified during the Academic Systems Review.

The Charter Holder currently meets the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board.

Financial Performance

The Charter Holder meets the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit a Financial Performance Response.

Academic Performance

| School Name | Desert Star Community School | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Date Open | July 2006 | | |
| Location | Cornville | | |
| Grades Served | K-8 | | |
| FY 18 Letter Grade | B | | |
| | FY 16 | FY 17 | FY 18 |
| ELA AzMERIT (39% ⁺) | 48% | 47% | 48% |
| Math AzMERIT (40% ⁺) | 40% | 29% | 39% |
| Science AIMS (53% ⁺) | 74% | 56% | 51% |

⁺FY 18 State Average Passing

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-8 within 5 Miles of Desert Star Community School

| Total Schools | FY 18 Letter Grade | Total Charter Schools | FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average | | | Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|----------------|--|-----------|------------|
| | | | ELA (>39%) | Math (>40%) | Science (>53%) | FRL (±5%) | ELL (±5%) | SPED (±5%) |
| 1 | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |

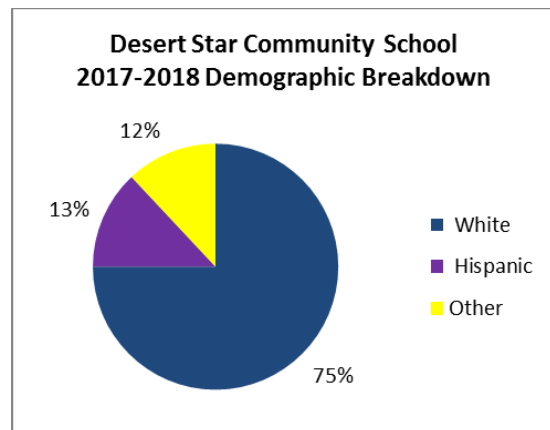
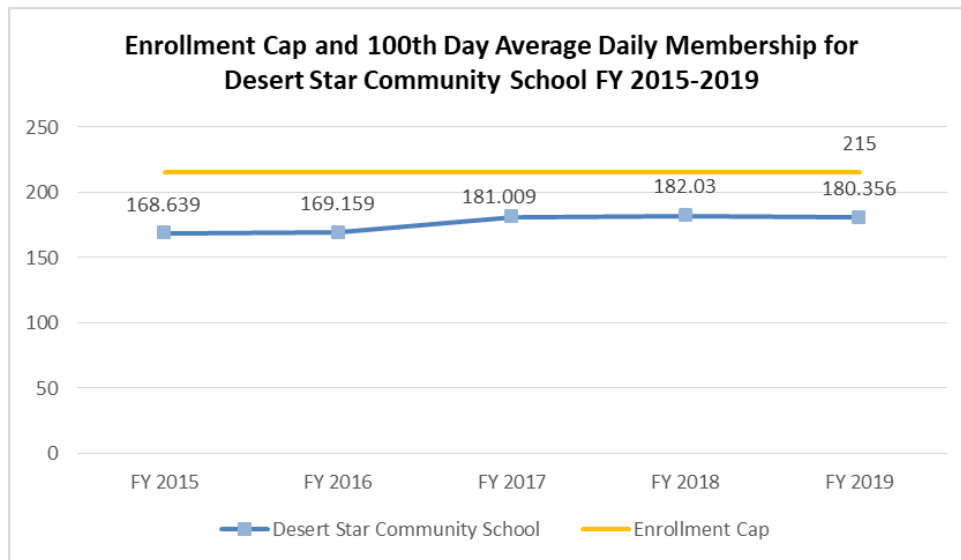
*Because the percentage of ELL students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.

Comparison of Nearby Schools to Desert Star Community School

| Total Schools | FY 18 Letter Grade | Total Charter Schools | FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than Desert Star Community School | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | AzMERIT ELA (>48%) | AzMERIT Math (>39%) | AIMS Science (>51%) |
| 1 | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total Number of Schools Performing Better than Desert Star Community School (Percentage of Total) | | | | | |
| 1 | | 0 | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (100%) |

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2015–FY 2019



| 2017-2018 Subgroup Data | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Free and Reduced Lunch | 65% |
| English Language Learners | * |
| Special Education | 9% |

*If the percentage of students is 0% or 100%, or the group includes less than 10 students, the percentage for that group is redacted.



Academic Systems Review

Board staff conducted an Academic Systems Review (“ASR”) at the school operated by the Charter Holder to gather evidence that demonstrates that the school implements a comprehensive program of instruction and measures pupil progress toward pupil outcomes, as required in its charter contract. The Board has established criteria comprised of questions that guides the staff’s visit. This report includes information regarding how the school develops and implements:

- a curriculum that improves student achievement.
- a system for monitoring the integration of the state academic standards.
- a system for monitoring and documenting student proficiency.
- a professional development plan that supports effective implementation of the curriculum.

The ASR site visit was conducted by Ramona Sylvester, Education Program Manager, and Julie Wesley, Education Program Manager, on April 1, 2019.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Systems Review is provided in *Appendix C: Academic Systems Review Report*.