



Arizona Charter Schools Association Survey Results September 2007

This report provides data from a survey, both mailed and available for completion on-line, of 459 charter schools. We received 147 responses for a response rate of 32 percent. The survey inquired about formation, organization, and curricular focus, services received and services desired from the Arizona Charter Schools Association, and performance measures and assessments.

General Information

90% of charter schools responding to the survey are non-profit entities.

52% of charter schools responding to the survey have a waiting list for the 2007-2008 school year.

39% of charter schools responding to the survey (or 57 charter schools) provide transportation to their students.

26% of charter schools responding to the survey (or 39 charter schools) ARE NOT members of the Arizona Charter Schools Association.

Curricular Focus

48% of charter schools responding the survey listed an ðotherö curricular focus including Montessori, College Preparatory, Back to Basics, and Core Knowledge.

16% of charter schools responding to the survey have a curricular focus that serves at risk students.

8% of charter schools responding to the survey have an arts curricular focus.

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Assessment and Performance Measures

87% of charter schools responding to the survey use other measures of school quality besides mandatory AIMS testing, including to adjust individual student curriculum/interventions (90%), to make adjustments in overall student curriculum (78%), for student grouping (63%), and to use data in planning and decision making (84%).

75 charter schools responding to the survey use Dibels, 14 charter schools use Core Knowledge, 59 charter schools use other assessments such as TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) and STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting).

Services Requested from the Arizona Charter Schools Association

Charter schools responding to the survey indicated that they would be interested in receiving services from the Arizona Charter Schools Association in the areas of:

School Start-Up Support

Pairing school founders with potential funding (19)

Student recruitment (16)

Funding/Fundraising

School grant-writing/fundraising assistance (52)

School Facilities

Facilities financing (38)

Facilities expansion (24)

Facilities search/identification (19)

Transportation (16)

School Governance

Board Training (32)

School Leadership

Networking opportunities for school leaders (42)

Leadership development and training (33)

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Teachers and Teaching

Teacher professional development (31)

Teacher recruitment (30)

Teacher evaluation (23)

Curriculum development/design (22)

Curriculum alignment with state standards (22)

Assessment and Accountability

Using data to improve instruction (37)

Program evaluation (28)

Interpreting assessment results (25)

Assessment design (24)

Student information systems (18)

Political Advocacy and Communications/PR

Communications/PR: outreach to general public (44)

Prospective parent outreach/communications (43)

Communications/PR: outreach to media (42)

Legislative advocacy: influencing state education laws and regulations (40)

Political coalition building (31)

Grassroots advocacy: local mobilization for political purposes (29)

Interest in Aspire

26 charter schools expressed definite interest in an Association sponsored diagnostic tool.

69 charter schools expressed possible interest in an Association sponsored diagnostic tool.

This report's findings are useful in identifying general information about charter schools and the services the Association may provide to member charter schools. Thus, this survey has been used as a starting point to gather information from charter schools and has been established as the first in a series of surveys that will be implemented three times a year.

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