

Just a reminder you're receiving this email because you have a student enrolled at one or more of our Desert Heights Charter Schools campuses. Don't forget to add noreply@desertheightsschools.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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DESERT HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOLS

From the Desk of Mr. Jiles



Dear Desert Heights Family,

Every year, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools evaluates all charter schools in three respective categories: Operational Performance, Financial Performance and Academic Performance. As the authorizing entity, the Board uses information about each charter school to determine their compliance with their charter contract. One of the many tools the Board uses to make this determination is a school's Fiscal Year audit report. The audit also serves as a valuable tool to charter operators in identifying a school's strengths and weaknesses.

As you may know, there has been warranted scrutiny of charters recently, with several news reports identifying unscrupulous business and leadership practices in charter schools around the valley. Transparency in practice has always been our approach at Desert Heights Charter Schools, and I am excited to share the ASBCS findings for Desert Heights in the aforementioned categories!

Operational Performance

In October 2014, the ASBCS adopted its Operational Performance Framework, which uses information from a variety of sources, including the annual audit reporting packages, to evaluate a charter holder's operational performance. Consequently, the Board staff's review of our Fiscal Year 2020 audit identified no issues that the framework required to be reported on the charter holder's operational performance dashboard (accessible from our school website). Therefore, we meet the Board's operational performance expectations.

Financial Performance

In July 2019, the ASBCS established a new Financial Performance Framework, which uses audit and student count information to evaluate a charter holder's financial performance. Based on our Fiscal Year 2020 audit, we, the charter holder, received a rating of "Good Standing", the highest rating awarded by the ASBCS (other rating categories are Adequate Standing and Intervention). Therefore, we meet the Board's financial performance expectations.

Academic Performance

In October 2012, the Board adopted its Academic Performance Framework. The purpose of the academic framework is to communicate the Board's academic expectations for ensuring that all charter holders are providing a learning environment where measurable improvement in pupil achievement can be demonstrated. Based on their assessment and evaluation of Desert Heights Charter Schools, the Board has awarded us a finding of "Above Average". Therefore, we meet the Board's academic performance expectations.

For more information on determining a school's performance ratings, please go to the [Board's website](#), click on the Parents and Public tab and scroll down to "understanding how schools are evaluated". Then, click the link to be forwarded to the Online Portal (ASBCS Online Charter Holder and Charter School Information).

On behalf of my staff, I would personally like to thank you, our families, for standing beside us as we work in concert to create a school community that we can all be very proud of, even in the face of extreme adversity. Rest assured that we will remain committed to sustaining an environment that emphasizes the importance of operating transparently, above board and without reproach.

Best Regards,

Mark Jiles, President of Desert Heights Charter Schools

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