

FY 2023 Charter School Annual Financial Report

Submission and Publication Information

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§15-183(E)(6) and 15-904 require charter schools (charters) to prepare and submit an annual financial report (AFR) in electronic format. A.R.S. §15-904(A) required the Auditor General and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to develop this AFR format in Excel to incorporate the information charters are statutorily required to include in their AFR. This format will help charters comply with AFR preparation and submission requirements. ADE will accept only FY 2023 AFR forms submitted electronically using the Excel forms with the 9/23 revision date. Excel files must be submitted in the Excel 2007 and later format. Charters may download a copy of the Excel forms from the [Auditor General's website](#). The completed AFR must be uploaded to ADE by October 15, 2023.

Charters that are exempted from all or part of the *Uniform System of Financial Records for Arizona Charter Schools* (USFRCS) in accordance with A.R.S. §15-183(E)(6) must use an accounting system that allows them to report financial data in the AFR standard expense types and functional uses. Charters must complete an AFR in the prescribed format, including the National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS) data on pages 9 and 10 and the new Reserve Balance page. Charters must import their accounting data into their AFR and school-level forms and classify it with the functions and objects used in the AFR.

Laws 2017, Ch. 11 and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require charters to report revenue, expense, and special education information at the school level. Charters must complete the School-Level Reporting form and upload it to ADE.

A.R.S. §15-249.08 requires all charters that received results-based funding in the prior fiscal year to submit a report to ADE describing how dollars were allocated by November 1. All charters that received funding must submit the report even if they did not have any expenses. In addition, A.R.S. §15-977(J) requires all charters to prepare a narrative summary of results of Classroom Site Project usage and file the report with ADE by November 15. Although these reports are not part of the AFR as prescribed by A.R.S. §15-904, the Results-Based Funding Expenditure Report and the Classroom Site Project Narrative Summary have been included in the AFR package and must be uploaded to ADE.

The completed AFR, School-Level Reporting form, Results-Based Funding Expenditure Report, and Classroom Site Project Narrative Summary must be uploaded through the School Finance Budget System on ADE's website at <https://adeconnect.azed.gov/>. For School Finance Budget System password information or help, please contact ADE's Support Center at (602) 542-7378 [outside the Phoenix area call, (866) 577-9636] or by email at adesupport@azed.gov. After uploading files, charters should check their file submission page(<https://budgetsystem.azed.gov/reports/submissionstatusview>) to verify the files have processed. If a file did not process, follow the instructions contained in the error message to upload the corrected file(s). If you are unable to correct an error, please contact ADE's Budget Team at SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov. ADE can no longer submit the files on behalf of the charter.

If it becomes necessary to submit a revision to any of the files after October 18, please email the School Finance Budget Team at SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov for assistance.

ADE will notify charter sponsors of all charters that operated in FY 2023 and did not submit an AFR for FY 2023 by October 15, 2023. The sponsor may request that ADE withhold up to 10 percent of the charter's monthly apportionment of State aid pursuant to A.R.S. §15-185(H).

After the AFR has been electronically submitted to ADE, complete the following steps:

- Within 5 days, scan and email **the completed cover page** signed by the Governing Board members and 2 charter officials to SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov. **ADE will only accept electronic/scanned copies of the cover page.**
- Charters that maintain a website must provide a link on their website to ADE's website (<https://budgetsystem.azed.gov/reports/submissionstatusview>) where the Charter's AFR can be viewed. By November 15, charters should email ADE at SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov with a clickable link to the page on the charter's website where the AFR link is placed. For audit purposes, charters should retain a copy of the email and a screen shot of their website. Do **not** email the screen shot to ADE.

General information and instructions

The AFR, School-Level, Food Service AFR, Results-Based Funding Expenditure, and Classroom Site Project reporting forms are in 5 files that must be named as follows:

1. afr23.xlsx
2. school-level reporting23.xlsx
3. afr23-food service.xlsx
4. Results Based Fund Report 2023.xlsx
5. cspsum23.xlsx

Detailed instructions for preparing the AFR are on a separate worksheet tab at the end of the AFR and Food Service AFR Excel files. The food service page should be completed and submitted with other pages of the AFR. **Note:** Charters that do not participate in the National School Lunch Program do not need to submit a Food Service AFR file.

Using the annual financial report

The Excel files must be **extracted** from the .zip file and saved in the C:\CSFORMS folder along with the final FY 2023 budget form (budget23.xls) and the FY 2022 AFR (afr22.xls). Charters that revised their FY23 budgets must name their most recently revised budget budget23.xls as the AFR contains formulas that will automatically pull amounts from those files if named properly. Excel should prompt the user to update information when the afr23.xls file is opened. Users should review amounts reported in the budget and prior year actual

columns to ensure they agree to the Charter's most recently revised FY 2023 budget and FY 2022 AFR.

Some of the Excel files in the AFR package zip file, or prior year budget or AFR files brought into a new folder, may cause warning messages (e.g., protected view, enable content, etc.) to appear on your computer the first time you open the files. The files are safe to use. **If you receive a warning, you will need to make the file a "trusted document" and enable content before you will be able to edit the file.** If an untrusted file is open while saving a trusted file, it could cause links between the files to break. If you need further assistance with this process, please work with your IT department because security could be set up differently for your computer or network.

Grid lines have been turned off in order to make the forms easier to read. Users may turn the grid lines back on without affecting the calculations or printing of the spreadsheets.

The charter school name, county, and CTDS number must be entered on the cover page of the AFR, as indicated. The number should not include any slashes, dashes, etc. This information will automatically transfer to the other sheets in the file.

The spreadsheets will automatically perform mathematical calculations and bring forward certain amounts from one AFR page to another. **Therefore, information can and should be entered only in unprotected cells.** Users can move from one unprotected cell to another on a sheet by using the Tab key. To ensure that ADE can properly process the data, users should not add or delete rows and columns, copy and paste information from the prior year's forms, or rename sheet tabs.

Printing

The AFR has been formatted to print on legal-size paper (8½" x 14"). The Classroom Site Project reporting form has been formatted to print on letter-size paper (8½" x 11"). Since the minimum margin setting for your printer may differ from what was used to set up these files, a little experimentation may be needed to get each sheet to print on 1 page. Users should try changing the "scaling" under page setup.

If you have any questions, please call ADE's Budget Team at (602) 542-5695 or the Auditor General, Accountability Services Division, at (602) 977-2796. Questions regarding the electronic version should be referred to the Auditor General. Refer questions regarding electronically submitting the AFR and the Results-Based Funding Report to ADE.