

March 10, 2011

**IMPORTANT
ACCREDITATION
INFORMATION**

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Subject: Assignment of Accreditation Status to American YouthWorks Charter School

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2010-2011 accreditation status of American YouthWorks Charter School is **Accredited-Warned**. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to charter schools include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of **Accredited-Warned** means that a charter school exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of the charter school's accreditation status.

American YouthWorks Charter School has been assigned an **Accredited-Warned** status due to the ratings assigned to the charter school in the state's Financial Accountability Rating System. Specifically, American YouthWorks Charter School was assigned a "...2009 and 2010 Financial Rating of *Substandard Achievement*."

The charter school is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency. To remedy this status, American YouthWorks has recently hired a new Director of Finance who is an accountant with both Charter School and Non-Profit experience. Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the charter school are not addressed, the charter school may be assigned an accreditation status of **Accredited-Probation** or **Not Accredited-Revoked**. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the charter school as a Texas public school. Charter schools with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to charter schools, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an **Accredited-Warned** status to American YouthWorks Charter School or if you would like additional information about the charter's ongoing improvement efforts, please contact Terence Gahan, Principal at (512) 744-1900.

Sincerely,



Chester Steinhauser, COO

Acting Superintendent