

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

Camino Montessori (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase its enrollment cap in FY 2019 from 95 to 185 with the condition that the Charter Holder agrees to provide a Certificate of Occupancy and a Fire Marshal’s Inspection Report, both approved for educational use, for the additional increase of students within the fiscal year requested. If the Charter Holder does not fulfill these requirements, the Charter Holder will have to resubmit an enrollment cap request to the Board for its approval.

This enrollment cap accounts for 3 years of projected student enrollment.

The Charter Holder met the eligibility criteria at the time of submission. However, at its October 10, 2017 meeting, the Board approved revised eligibility criteria for expansion requests. Under the new criteria, the Charter Holder would not be eligible to apply for expansion as its 2017 Financial Dashboard includes a rating of “Falls Far Below” for Unrestricted Days Liquidity in FY 2017 (See the Financial Performance Dashboard in Appendix A).

See Appendix A: Amendment Request and Support Materials.

The Charter Holder’s request to increase the enrollment cap was submitted in conjunction with a separate school location amendment request to move the school location to a new facility in FY 2019. That request was approved on November 28, 2017. The rationale for the increase of enrollment cap is that the Charter Holder’s enrollment has grown steadily over the last five years, and is almost at capacity. The provided staffing chart is consistent with the growth indicated on the enrollment matrix, and represents the multi-age Montessori model utilized by the school. The Charter Holder will accommodate the expansion by adding one teacher and one paraprofessional in each multi-age classroom for the FY 2019 and FY 2020 school years, as well as an additional member to the leadership team. The Charter Holder plans to have “aggressive enrollment” in FY 2019, by adding 21 new students in kindergarten, 38 students in 1st–3rd grades, and 6 students in 4th–6th grades. The plan is to have enrollment stabilize in FY 2020 and FY 2021. Marketing and advertising to achieve the targeted enrollment numbers includes distribution of brochures, Open Houses & Meet and Greets, Mass Mailings, Local News advertising, press releases, word of mouth, and kindergarten round-up events. The Charter Holder indicates that it is the only Montessori-based school within 25-30 miles of Maricopa, allowing for this aggressive enrollment.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Grade Levels	K–6	K–6	K–6
Enrollment	148	167	185

Staff Recommendation

The Charter Holder has not met the criteria to receive a staff recommendation for expansion.

Staff Recommendation Criteria	Analysis
In operation for three years	The Charter Holder is in its fifth year of operation.
“Meets Operational Standard” in the most recent Fiscal Year	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Meets “on the Operational Performance Dashboard in FY 2017.
“Meets Financial Performance Standard” based on the most recent dashboard	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Does Not Meet” on the FY 2016 and FY 2017 Financial Performance Dashboard. In FY 2017, the Charter Holder received a rating of “Falls Far Below” for Unrestricted Days Liquidity.
Past enrollment trends indicate need for increase within three years	Enrollment in FY 2016 was 53.084, FY 2017 was 72.977 and FY 2018 is 82.898. This demonstrates a need for an increase.

ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently serves 82,898 students. The current enrollment cap is 95 and is within 87% of its current enrollment cap.
Each school offers a unique program of instruction within a five mile radius from the school's location	The proposed school offers a unique program of instruction. According to searches on the Arizona Department of Education website and ASBCS Online, there are no Montessori schools within a five-mile radius of the proposed location.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2012.

Governance

Corporate Board Members and School Governing Body
Marianne Mulligan
Judith Webster
Kevin Webster
Kaitlin Perkins
Vickie Slife
William Cope

School Profile

School Name/Location	Month/Year Open	Grades Served	FY 14 Letter Grade	Average AzMERIT Passing					
				ELA (FY 17 State Average 39%)			Math (FY 17 State Average 40%)		
				FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY15	FY 16	FY 17
Camino Montessori/ Maricopa	August 2013	K-6	N/A	N/A**	*	17%	N/A**	<2%	4%

*If the number of students tested includes less than 10, the percent passing is redacted.

**The Charter Holder only served grades K-2 in the FY 15 school year.

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-6 within 5 Miles of Camino Montessori

Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 AzMERIT Greater than State Average		Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>39%)	Math (>40%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
3	A	2	3	3	0	*	0
4	B	0	0	0	0	*	0
5	C	1	0	2	0	*	1
1	D	1	0	0	0	*	0

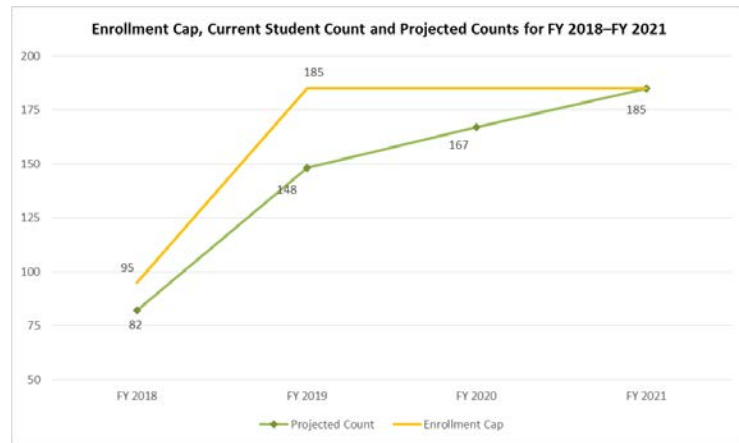
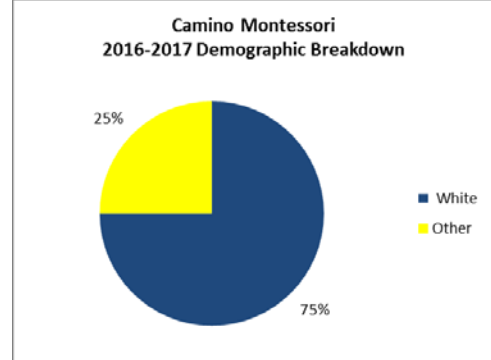
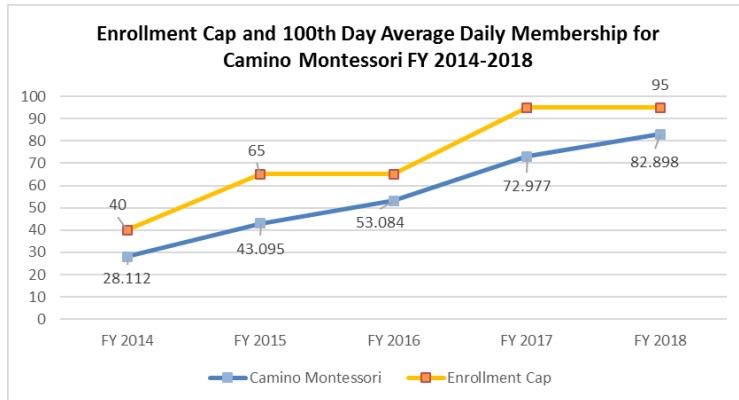
*Because the percentage of ELL students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.

Comparison of nearby schools to Camino Montessori

Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 AzMERIT Greater than Camino Montessori	
			ELA (>17%)	Math (>4%)
3	A	2	3	3
4	B	0	4	4
5	C	1	5	5
1	D	1	1	1
Total Number of Schools (Percentage of total)				
13		4 (31%)	13 (100%)	13 (100%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th day ADM for FY 2014–FY 2017, and FY 2018 ADM as of November 8, 2017.



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	23%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	20%

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