

APPENDIX A

AMENDMENT REQUEST AND SUPPORT

MATERIALS

1. PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT
REQUEST FORM
2. AMENDMENT REQUEST DOCUMENTS

Program of Instruction Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

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Representative

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Downloads

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Description of changes

Change From:

Change From: This Program of Instruction Amendment is a request for Genesis Academy to institute a Dropout Recovery Program (DRP) that will allow us to expand educational options for the disengaged youth that we serve. Genesis Academy is an alternative high school that specializes in providing rigorous educational and support services to urban Maricopa County youth (grades 9-12; ages 14 to 21). The school's regular day program opens the doors of opportunity for youth who have not found success in their former schools by re-engaging them in the educational pipeline and bridging them to post-secondary education and gainful employment. A Dropout Recovery Program will allow us to expand educational opportunities to those youth (16-21 year olds) who are experiencing a heightened level of difficulty maintaining steady attendance in our regular day program by providing them with more individualized, accessible educational scheduling and the ancillary support services.

Change To:

Genesis Academy will add an additional tier of educational services designed to retain our most high-risk students by launching an ASBCS and ADE approved Dropout Recovery Program (DRP). The DRP (to be titled the Genesis City Trooper Program) will provide educational and support services that are welcoming and accessible to those students who are unable to maintain steady attendance in our alternative school's regular day program (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.) The DRP will be open to 16-21 years old with documentation that they have been out of school for a minimum of 30 days. The DRP's flexible schedule will afford those students who are forced to "step out" of school due to work, socioeconomic hardships, health, etc. the opportunity to remain engaged in their pursuit of a high school diploma. The program will consist of a combination of blended learning, mentoring, independent studies, career readiness workshops, and on and off-site online instruction. The DRP will also include a strong college and career readiness piece designed to bridge DRP graduates into post-secondary education and jobs.

Attachments

Board Minutes

 [Download File](#) —

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Karen Callahan 04/23/2018



Reclaiming the Promise of Arizona's Youth Since 1991

Narrative
Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request
Genesis Academy
April 10, 2018

Genesis Academy Mission

Genesis Academy serves high-risk, over-age, under-credited and out-of-school youth by offering them a rigorous academic experience tailored to their individual needs. Genesis Academy empowers students to enter college or the work force with the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to become lifelong learners and contributing community members.

About the School

Genesis Academy is an AdvancED accredited alternative high school located at 525 East McDowell Road in central Phoenix. Considered a “Conversion School” when it was chartered by ASBCS in 1996, its contract was renewed in July, 2012 for 20 years (through 2032). Since its inception in 1991, Genesis Academy has provided a rigorous educational program coupled with a targeted MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) geared to address the unique challenges faced by disengaged urban youth. One of the first of its kind in Maricopa County, the academy focuses largely on bridging first-generation high school students into post-secondary education and jobs. Over 8,000 disenfranchised, under-served youth have been assisted through the youth services agency since its inception.

1. Rationale for Genesis Academy’s Request to Operate a Dropout Recovery Program – How the DRP program of instruction is aligned to Genesis Academy’s Mission:

Historically, over ninety percent of Genesis Academy’s students have met one or more of the criteria that ADE uses to classify students as “alternative”:

- Students who have a documented history of disruptive behavior issues.
- Students who have dropped out of school and are now returning.
- Students who are in poor academic standing as demonstrated by being at least one year behind on grade level performance or academic credits.
- Students who are primary caregivers or are financially responsible for dependents and, therefore, may require a flexible school schedule.
- Students who are adjudicated.
- Students who are wards of the state and are in need of an alternative school setting

It is notable that since ADE instituted tracking the percentages of alternative students in alternative schools in 2014, over 90% of Genesis Academy's student body met at least one or more of the "alternative student" identification criteria; in 2017, the percentage rose to 99%. Comparatively speaking, even within the realm of Arizona's alternative schools community, Genesis Academy's student body consists of an extremely high-risk population.

Genesis Academy Historical Demographics

- 92% reside in poverty-level homes
- 98% are minority
- 50% are children of teenage parents
- 15% are teenage parents
- 30% have been victimized
- 20% are Intermittently Homeless
- 33% are involved in the juvenile justice system/adjudicated
- 24% work an average of 32 hours per week to assist their families
- 68% of our graduates are the first in their families to earn diplomas
- 99% are at least one year below grade level in credits and/or basic academic skills
- 18% were expelled or long-term suspensions from other schools

Our Students' Erratic Attendance Patterns and the ADM Conundrum

At Genesis Academy, the one-dimensional ADM figure submitted to the Arizona Department of Education for the 100 day school finance calculation is not an accurate reflection of what truly occurs on our campus. In general, research demonstrates that poverty-level families are typically the first group to be impacted by unstable socioeconomic and social upheaval (i.e., uncertain immigration policy, homelessness, lack of affordable housing and healthcare, etc.) and the last group to recover. Due to these real and perceived barriers, the majority of our students are unable to move lock-step through four straight years of high school. Our school's ADM number only represents those students whose families manage to reach stability for a long enough period of time to be reflected on our rolls during the first 100 days of our academic year. To illustrate this point, in this academic year (2018), only 38% of the students we have served thus far began their attendance with us on the first day of our school year; only 49% of the students we have served were included in the ADM figure that School Finance utilizes for their funding calculation. The true numbers of students who step in and out of our doors throughout the course of the year are triple the numbers reflected in the ADM calculation; 25% of our students (many of whom had been "counseled out" or expelled from other schools) began the year AFTER the school finance 100 days deadline. Actually, from the date this narrative was written, we have been enrolling new students, which we project will take this figure up to 55% by June 30, 2018. The DRP program will allow us to receive funds to provide quality educational services to those students who have not been able to sustain consistent attendance to persevere on their course to success. DRP students may remain in the program until they graduate, or until their life circumstance stabilize to the point that they may once again re-enter the regular day program.

Arizona’s Dropout Recovery Program will be the Antidote for Our Most Vulnerable Students

At Genesis Academy, we believe that the term “drop out” fails to capture the true character and educational aspirations of the community of youth who are unable to consistently attend school. We prefer using the term “step out” for this particular (but all-too-common phenomena) as the word “drop out” conjures an image of someone who is most likely apathetic about school and may not necessarily wish to return to school. Recognizing the fact that poverty level, disadvantaged teens must “step out” anywhere from a couple of months to a couple of years for a wide array of reasons (including working full-time to support their families, babysitting for their younger siblings, caring for an ill family member, working their way through the court system, etc.) our school freely welcomes these “step outs” back into the educational pipeline when they are ready. The institution of a DRP program will allow these “step-outs” to remain actively engaged in their educational pursuits, continue on their path to building upon their academic skills and regain valuable time in their race with the clock to graduate before their 22nd birthday.

2. Proposed Changes and Additions - Genesis Academy DRP Curriculum and Instruction

- **Methods of Instruction:**

The students enrolled in the Genesis Academy DRP Program (which will be titled the Genesis City Trooper Program) will be held to the same graduation requirement standards as those students enrolled in our regular academic day program. These standards include the Arizona College and Career Anchor Standards.

The program will consist of a blended learning model similar to the one used for those students enrolled in the regular seat-time based instructional program of our “day” academy. For DRP students, however, the outcomes will not be tied to seat time, but rather course completion and academic skills acquisition. DRP students will be required to reach a 75% or above competency to earn credit.

- **Proficiency Level Requirements:**

DRP students will be required to obtain a 75% competency level in all courses (Genesis Academy does not issue credit for D’s for courses taken at our school).

Genesis Academy Percentage/Grade Breakdowns

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 90% - 100% A | (Exemplary) |
| 81% - 89% B | (Strong) |
| 75% - 80% C | (Proficient) |
| 69% - 74% D | (Approaching, no credit issued) |
| 0% - 68% F | (Falls Far Below Standard, no credit issued) |

Genesis Academy High School Diploma Credit Requirements:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| English | 4.0 credits |
| Mathematics | 4.0 credits |
| Social Studies | 3.0 credits |
| Science | 3.0 credits |
| Arts & Humanities | 1.0 credit |
| Foreign Language | 2.0 credits |
| Health | .5 credit |
| Electives | 4.5 credits |

22 credits

DRP Courses will consist of:

- **Independent Studies Courses:** Differentiated learning portfolio courses are classes that include syllabi, a checklist of assignments and enrichment projects that can be worked on off-site. Independent studies classes are available in core English credit courses, as well as required Math, Science and Social Studies courses and various electives including fine arts and theatre. Comprehensive finals for these courses will be administered on our site; appointments will be scheduled with the teacher/mentor and student.
- **Directed Studies Courses**
The computer lab will be open every afternoon (except Monday) for students who wish to work on-site in our lab with the active assistance of an instructor. Edgenuity software is utilized for self-paced high school credit courses.
- **Self-Paced Computer Lab Courses (Distance Learning or On-Site)**

| COURSE TITLE | DEPARTMENT |
|-------------------------|------------|
| GA Psychology 1 | ELE |
| GA Psychology 2 | ELE |
| GA - Intro to Algebra 1 | ELE |
| GA - Intro To Algebra 2 | ELE |
| GA - Intro to Art | ELE |
| GA Algebra I | MATH |
| GA Algebra 2 | MATH |
| GA Algebra 3 | MATH |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| GA - Algebra 4 | MATH |
| GA Comp 1 | ELA |
| GA Comp 2 | ELA |
| GA Earth Science 1 | SCI |
| GA Earth Science 2 | SCI |
| GA Environmental Science 1 | SCI |
| GA Environmental Science 2 | SCI |
| GA Financial Math 1 | MATH |
| GA Financial Math 2 | MATH |
| GA Free Enterprise | SOCSTU |
| GA Geometry 1 | MATH |
| GA Geometry 2 | MATH |
| GA Government | SOCSTU |
| GA Health | HEALTH |
| GA Short Story | ELA |
| GA Spanish I | FLG |
| GA Spanish 2 | FLG |
| GA Spanish 3 | FLG |
| GA Spanish 4 | FLG |
| GA World Lit 1 | ELA |
| GA World Lit 2 | ELA |
| GA Speech | ELA |
| GA US History 1 | SOCSTU |
| GA US History 2 | SOCSTU |

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| GA US LIT 1 | ELA |
| GA US LIT 2 | ELA |
| GA World History 1 | SOCSTU |
| GA World History 2 | SOCSTU |

- Career Readiness and College Readiness Workshops, Field Trips and Seminars**
 A Student Success Plan (E-CAP) will be generated and maintained for every DRP student. A series of seminars, including guest speakers and field trips to businesses and post-secondary institutions will be scheduled for DRP participants. Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards will be organically woven throughout our courses, as well as workshops, seminars and field trips. Our DRP students will be provided job training and placement opportunities through our WorkLink Program.

- Mandatory Mentor Meetings**
 As a means to ensure that DRP students are actively engaged and taking ownership in their own academic progress, they will be required to meet with their DRP program mentor every two weeks to report on their progress. The Genesis Academy “Pyramid of Success” advisement visual will be used as a tool to assist the students to stay on track towards their goal of graduation. There will be deadlines provided with their courses with the intent of keeping DRP students on track to course completion. The mentor meetings will also be utilized as advisement sessions to track DRP students’ individual progress on their “Success Plan” (E-CAP) and used as a means to deliver our college and career readiness training.

DRP (Genesis City Trooper Program) Schedule*:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Monday | MTSS Meetings (Faculty and Support Staff) | 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. |
| Tuesday | Open Computer Lab | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | Open Computer Lab | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. |
| Success Seminars/ Field Trips | (Times/Days TBD) | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m. |
| Thursday | Open Computer Lab | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. |
| Friday | Open Computer Lab | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. |

*Mandatory Bi-Weekly Mentor Meetings will be scheduled Tuesday through Friday at times suited to the individual student. On-line Edgenuity courses will be available from students’ homes with unlimited access.

3. How the program of Instruction will Improve pupil achievement in the target population served by the charter:

DRP Instruction will provide students who would otherwise be unable to attend our regular day program the opportunity to remain actively engaged in their high school

diploma studies while also preparing for post-secondary education and their future. The program will provide rigorous differentiated learning opportunities which accommodate individual learning need and include intensive skills remediation for those students who are struggling with academic challenges. Student achievement will be consistently monitored and tracked.

4. **DRP Assessment Plan:**

Formative Assessment:

- Baseline incoming enrollment testing will consist of Pre-Testing on the Pearson Math and Reading Level Indicators (or a similar grade-level screening)
- Course Content Quizzes
- Comprehensive Finals
- Teacher Mentor discussions and interviews with the DRP students
- Periodic Review of the DRP Student Success Plans (E-CAP).

Summative Assessment:

- AZ Merit
- Post Testing on the Math and Reading level Indicator
- Post Secondary Readiness, registration and Job Placement and one or more of the following:
- Community College Accuplacer
- SAT or ACT
- ASVAB
-

5. **Project Timeline and Transition Plan:**

Once Genesis Academy is provided with the authorization through ASBCS and ADE to proceed with a DRP, this is our proposed timeline of activities:

Timeline for Dropout Recovery Program Implementation:

- By the end of June 2018, purchase items for our pilot:
 1. Edgenuity Computer Software Licenses
 2. Textbooks for Independent Studies Courses
 3. 25 Chromebooks(As the numbers of DRP participants grow, additional resources will be purchased to accommodate)
- By June 30, 2018 – Identify and hire 1 teacher and 1 student mentor; write materials ; market program
- June 2018 – DRP Staff Training will commence (We currently have staff who are specialists in serving alternative student clientele who will assist in training any newly hired staff).
- July 18, 2018 Ongoing DRP Student Orientations commence
- June – July 2018 Ongoing recruitment 10-25 Students through on-line advertising and contacting those students who have stepped-out of Genesis Academy to check on their school status.
- July 23, 2018 – Begin DRP Instruction