

# Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

## Charterholder Info

### Charter Holder

**Name:**  
Archway Classical Academy  
Cicero

**CTDS:**  
07-82-48-000

**Mailing Address:**  
3102 North 56th Street  
Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85018  
> [View detailed info](#)

### Representative

**Name:**  
Erik Twist

**Phone Number:**

## Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

## Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade

## New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Algebra II).

### For K-8

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#).


### For 9-12

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#). Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

Add Grade Levels

6th

Curriculum Samples

 [Download File](#) – This attachment is a statement about the curriculum samples.


Effective Date

07/01/2017

## Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation –  [Download File](#)

**Additional Information**

No documents were uploaded.

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**Signature**

**Charter Representative Signature**

Erik Twist 09/21/2016

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**ARCHWAY CLASSICAL ACADEMY-CICERO**  
**Board of Directors Minutes**

Date: 17 August 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Telephone Conference Call

A meeting of the Great Hearts Academies-Archway Cicero Board of Directors was held by telephone conference call, with public invited to join and participate in the entire call by calling 1-866-298-2144 and entering conference code #8999181, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice having been duly given. Staff was present at the offices of Great Hearts Academies, 3102 N. 56th Street, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85018 for any public wishing to attend in person.

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Noel called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. The following directors/administrators were present/absent:

<b>Directors</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Lisa Armstrong	Officers not elected yet	x		
David Denton		x		
Todd Noel		x		
Julie Sanders		x		
<b>Administration/Other</b>				
Ward Huseth	CFO, Interim CEO, Great Hearts	x		
Robert Jackson	Chief Academic Officer, GH	x		
Jake Tawney	Director of Curricular Projects, GH	x		
Diane Bishop	Director of Academy Governance, GH	x		
Robert Wagner	Director of Academy Operations, GH	x		

**II. Call to the Public**

Mr. Noel made a call to the public. There was no public	
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present.		
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**III. Approval to Add Grade 6 to Reconfigure the School to Serve Grade Levels K-6 Effective with the 2017-18 School Year**

		Mr. Denton made a motion that the board approves adding grade 6 to reconfigure the school to serve grade levels K-6 effective with the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Armstrong seconded, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried at 11:45 a.m.
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**IV. Approval to Increase the Enrollment Cap from 720 to 840 Effective with the 2017-18 School Year**

		Mr. Denton made a motion that the board approves increasing the enrollment cap from 720 to 840 effective with the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Armstrong seconded, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried at 11:45 a.m.
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**IV. Announcements/Adjournment**

Mr. Noel adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.		
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Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

-Allison Harmon, Scribe-

## NARRATIVE

Archway Classical Academy Cicero (Archway Cicero) and Cicero Preparatory Academy (Cicero Prep) each received charter contracts in September 2013 – Archway Cicero to serve grades K-5 and Cicero Prep to serve grades 6-12 – and both schools opened simultaneously in August 2014. Both schools are part of the Great Hearts Academies network of charter schools and are co-located on the same campus. Archway Cicero is now submitting this Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment request to add grade 6 and serve grade levels K-6 effective in 2017-2018. This request is part of a planned reconfiguration of the Great Hearts model to move grade 6 from the prep schools to the Archway schools, beginning with selected schools in 2017-2018. If approval is granted to add grade 6 to Archway Cicero, we will submit a Site Specific Change in Grades Served notification to remove grade 6 from Cicero Preparatory Academy. We are not submitting these requests simultaneously at this time, as we want to be sure we will have grade 6 offered on the Cicero campus in 2017-2108 – in Archway Cicero if this request is approved or in Cicero Preparatory Academy if this request is not approved.

### Rationale for the Increase in Grade Levels Served

The reason for adding grade 6 to the current K-5 model is to allow for the full culmination of our Great Hearts Archway curricula, particularly in mathematics, writing and grammar, thereby increasing the readiness of our elementary students for the prep school experience they will encounter when they enter grade 7. Bringing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade into Archway Classical Academy Cicero will ensure students see the lower school curricula through to their intended ends and enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade better prepared academically for success in the robust curricula of our middle and upper grades. Additionally, the social and developmental needs of 11 year-olds can be better addressed in a K-6 grade level environment than in a grade level environment that includes middle and high school age students.

### How the Addition of Grade 6 Supports the Mission, Educational Philosophy, and Methods of Instruction

The mission of Archway Cicero as stated in its charter application is the same as the mission of Cicero Preparatory Academy and all Great Hearts academies: To enable students to acquire critical reasoning and communication skills and to explore the cultural and scientific achievements that are at the heart of the liberal arts. The school will prepare its graduates for success in succeeding grades and college, and to be leaders in creating a more philosophical, humane, and just society.

Likewise, all Great Hearts academies share the same educational philosophy and methods of instruction. With respect to educational philosophy, they believe the world is ordered and knowable, that the human intellect can attain knowledge of reality through reason, hard work, and a coherent program of study, and that education should proceed via shared inquiry and honest discussion; thoughtful depth about a subject is preferable to broad or rapid coverage. They believe the greatest number of students benefit when the intellectual and moral bar is set high in the classroom, that habits of personal order cultivate habits of intellectual order, and that while students do learn at different paces,

true education is a matter of development over time and within a stable learning community. The essential features of all Great Hearts schools are a core liberal arts curriculum that exceeds state standards in duration and content that all students take; an academy ethos that values character and leadership and exhorts students to create a community of scholarship, leadership, and service in their classrooms, in activities, and in their relationships with peers and teachers; small class size which provides the individual attention that students need to do their best; and a professionally diverse and uniquely trained faculty that is fundamentally Socratic in their approach to students and embraces fully the school's vision of community, learning, leadership, and service. With respect to methods of instruction, all Great Hearts academies use as their main instructional methodology a core curriculum model, which is founded on the belief that to help students attain academic excellence, the curriculum must be solid, sequenced, specific, and shared. The curriculum is standard across the network and is taught using the Socratic Method, which develops thinking, speaking, and reading skills, and increases student involvement. With the Socratic Method, students are actively involved in discovering truths, rather than being informed through lectures in class or readings in textbooks. The teachers' responsibility is to create the right questions for discussion and students find the answers with their reading and reflective activities. Given that grade 6 is already taught at Cicero Preparatory Academy on the same campus where Archway Cicero is located and both schools are Great Hearts academies and have the same mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction, the addition of grade 6 to Archway Cicero's charter fully supports the school's mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction. The grade 6 curriculum and instruction will be the same as it is now, just delivered in a different building on the campus. It is a seamless move in these respects and will benefit the intellectual and social development of the Cicero campus' 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

#### Level of Proficiency Required for Promotion and Demonstration of Mastery of Academic Content

The Great Hearts core curriculum and methods of instruction are set for all students at all grade levels, although appropriate accommodations are made for ESS and ELL students when needed. All academic core content taught and assessed at the schools is considered mastered when the student demonstrates an 85% or above proficiency level. In making the determination of promotion to the next level, teachers at Great Hearts Archway academies, including Archway Cicero, take into account both the academic ability of the student and his/her ability to thrive and access the rich curriculum at the next grade level. Foremost in this decision is the well-being of the student. In determining promotion, Archway Cicero complies with Arizona Revised Statutes 15-701.A.2, which requires that a student not be promoted from the third grade if the student obtains a score on the Reading portion of the state assessment that demonstrates the student's reading level falls far below the third grade level. Other factors which influence promotion decisions include: academic and task independence of the student relative to grade-level peers; performance in Language Arts and Mathematics which supports success in all academic disciplines; performance on standardized tests and recognized assessments (AzMerit, internal assessments); and

reading achievement and the ability of the student to access the rich and rigorous literature and other curricula at the current and succeeding grade levels.

#### Changes in Staffing Needed to Implement New Grade

Based on staffing patterns at Archway Cicero, we anticipate that 8 teachers will be needed to cover the 4 sections of 6<sup>th</sup> grade that will be added to the school: One teacher per content area of Mathematics, Science, English, and History; and one teacher per special area of Art, Music, Latin, and PE. An additional ESS teacher may also be needed, due to the increased enrollment, which would then make a total of 9. Given that all teachers are hired through the Great Hearts central hiring portal, which historically receives 8 applications for every opening position each year, we are confident that these positions can be filled successfully with excellent, highly trained staff.

## TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The timeline for implementation of the new grade configuration of K-6 is July 1, 2017.

The following chart shows the grades K-6 that will be served and the projected enrollment per grade level for 2017-2018, when the addition of grade 6 will be implemented:

2017-2018	
Grade	# of Students
K	120
1	120
2	120
3	120
4	120
5	120
6	120
TOTAL	840

This Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment request for Archway Classical Academy Cicero is being submitted in conjunction with another request that warrants concurrent consideration – a request to increase the enrollment cap at Archway Classical Academy Cicero to 840 effective in 2017-2018.