A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Arizona Autism Charter School (AZACS) will offer 180 days of instruction and will follow a traditional school calendar. The school calendar will be similar to the calendars for schools in the surrounding metro Phoenix community so that families with students in surrounding schools can enjoy the same school breaks. August 5, 2013 will be the first day of school and the academic school year will end for students on May 22, 2014. All students in 1st through 5th grade will receive 1,044 instructional hours during 180 days which exceeds the Arizona Hourly Requirements of 720 hours. Students in Kindergarten will be on a half-day schedule and receive 540 hours of instruction during 180 days. This exceeds the Arizona Hourly Requirements for Kindergarten of 356 hours per school year. The school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 for grades 1-5 and begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. for kindergarten. Students in 1st through 5th grades will receive at least 4 hours of instruction per day in core academic content areas and the remainder of the day will be spent working in adaptive/life-skills programs. Because many children with autism will require instruction in the areas of feeding, appropriate play and leisure skills and other functional skills, lunch and snack time as well as recess will be used as instructional times for their adaptive/life-skills goals. This schedule complies with state statues for number of hours for school attendance and time spent in core academic content areas (A.R.S. §15-901 and 15-341.01).

Professional Development

The Arizona Autism Charter School (AZACS) will schedule a pattern of early release days every other Wednesday to allow ample time for consistent teacher and staff professional development. AZACS will offer after school care for students during early release days so that parents can rely on a consistent pick-up schedule. AZACS will also offer an after-school habilitation and respite program until at least 5 p.m. to accommodate the schedules of working parents.

Teachers will be required to begin the school year at least one week prior to students to attend a full-time, 40 hour intensive training. Teachers hired will have a working knowledge of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therefore, the one week training will be focused on implementing ABA in the classroom setting, establishing successful classroom environments for students with autism, integrating Common Core state standards into individualized programs of instruction and hands on coaching with students with autism. Teachers will also be given time to review their student documents and profiles.

As mentioned previously, staff development will continue during the school year every other Wednesday for 3 hours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This will allow teachers and paraprofessionals to gain 108 hours of professional development during the school year. Also on alternating Wednesdays that are not designated as early release/professional development days, time will be scheduled for one-on-one meetings between the Curriculum Director and each teacher. In addition, training and coaching sessions will also be embedded into the teachers' school day to allow the Curriculum Director to observe and give feedback based on teachers' performance with students and general classroom management.

Daily Instructional Minutes/Proposed Weekly Schedule

Grades 1-5

8:30-8:45	**Arrival Transition Activities**	
8:45-9:15	**Morning Meeting-Adapted Calendar, Schedule Review, Literacy/Book**	**30 minutes**
9:15-10:15	**Academic Block: English/Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Facilitated Learning Centers, 1:1 Instruction and Independent Work**	**60 minutes**
10:15-10:30	**Transition Activities-Schedule Review**	
10:30-11:30	**Academic Block: Math Facilitated Learning Centers, 1:1 Instruction, Independent Work**	**60 minutes**
11:30-12:00	**Functional/Life Skills Centers, Speech, Occupational Therapy**	
12:00-12:45	**Lunch/Recess**	
12:45-12:50	**Transition to Classroom**	
12:50-1:50	**Academic Block: Rotations-Science/Social Studies/Functional Skills/Math/English Language arts**	**60 minutes**
1:50-2:20	**Closing Meeting-Review Key Core Content Skills of the Day**	**30 minutes**
2:20-2:30	**Dismissal Activities**	
	TOTAL NUMBER OF DAILY MINUTES IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS	**240 minutes/4 hrs**

Kindergarten Schedule

8:30-8:45	**Arrival Transition Activities**	
8:45-9:15	**Morning Meeting-Adapted Calendar, Schedule Review, Literacy/Book**	**30 minutes**
9:15-9:45	**Academic Block: English/Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Facilitated Learning Centers, 1:1 Instruction and Independent Work**	**30 minutes**
9:45-10:00	**Transition Activities/Snack**	
10:00-10:30	**Academic Block: Math Facilitated Learning Centers, 1:1 Instruction, Independent Work**	**30 minutes**
10:30-11:00	**Structured Outdoor Learning and Play Time, Occupational Therapy**	
11:00-11:10	**Transition to Classroom**	
11:10-11:30	**Closing Activities-Review Key Core Content Skills of the Day**	**30 minutes**
	TOTAL NUMBER OF DAILY MINUTES IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS	**120 minutes/2hrs**

Rationale for Weekly Schedule for Target Population

The schedule outlined above meets the needs of students with autism by providing time for one-on-one instruction in academic areas and allowing students to learn and practice skills using various Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) strategies in small group and individual settings. The three-to-one instructor to student ratio will allow Learning Centers to be staffed and specific students goals to be taught or practiced in small group and individual settings. These small group and individual instructional settings will also allow staff to consistently take data on goals. As mentioned previously, transition periods, meal periods and recess will also be used as instructional opportunities to help students with deficits in social, play and adaptive skills.

Proposed School Calendar begins on next page, page 4 of 13

Proposed School Calendar

DAYS 1-17 OF 180

AUGUST 2013

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	Professional Dev./Rm Set up	Professional Dev./Rm Set up	Professional Dev./Rm Set up	1 Professional Dev./Rm Set up	2 Professional Dev./Rm Set up	3
4	**5 1st Day of School for Students**	6	7	**8**	9	10
11	12	13	14 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	29	30	31

DAYS 18-37 OF 180

SEPTEMBER 2013

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	26	27	28
29	30					

DAYS 38-55 OF 180

OCTOBER 2013

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	3	4	5
6	7 Parent Teacher Conferences	8 Parent Teacher Conferences	9 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day/Fall Break	15 Fall Break	16 Fall Break	17 Fall Break	18 Fall Break	19
20	21	22	23 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	31		

DAYS 56-72 OF 180

NOVEMBER 2013

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	7	8	9
10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Thanksgiving Break	29 Thanksgiving Break	30

DAYS 73-87 OF 180

DECEMBER 2013

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	19	20	21
22	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28
29	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break				

DAYS 88-106 OF 180

JANUARY 2014

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1 Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3 Winter Break	4
5	6	7	8 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	16	17	18
19	20 MLK Day	21	22 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	30	31	

DAYS 107-125 OF 180

FEBRUARY 2014

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	13	14	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	27	28	

DAYS 126-141 OF 180

MARCH 2014

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	6 Parent Teacher Conferences	7 Parent Teacher Conferences	8
9	10 Spring Break	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15
16	17	18	19 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	27	28	29
30	31					

DAYS 142-163 OF 180

APRIL 2014

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.			

DAYS 164-180 OF 180

MAY 2014

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Early Release 12:30/Prof. Dev.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Curr. Dir. & Teacher one-on-one mtgs.	22 last day of School for students	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31