2013-2014 Application Cycle – Results of the In-Person Interview
Arizona Language Preparatory

The Technical Review Panel (TRP) conducted an interview of the applicant, Arizona Language Preparatory (ALP) on October 29, 2012 for the following purposes:

- To evaluate the capacity of the applicant to successfully implement the plan to operate a high-quality charter school,
- To provide the applicant team the opportunity to demonstrate how well they understand and have thought through the plan presented in the written application.

The applicant team present for the interview included the following members of the corporate board: Sara Hecht, Denise Ramos, Emily Sheen, and Sean Diana (school leader identified in the written application).

The interview questions posed by the interview panel addressed the Education Plan, Organization Plan, and Business Plan. The results of the in-person interview are divided into sections aligned to scoring areas of the application. Each row begins with an overall rating for that portion of the interview. The rating options for each section are:

- The applicant provided additional information that improved the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.
- The information provided by the applicant did not change the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.
- The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.

The last column provides a summary of the responses given by the applicant in italics, and includes the primary questions asked by TRP members.

Rating	Section	Interview Summary
The information provided by the applicant did not change the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	Education Plan	1. Walk us through a typical day in the life of a 2nd grade student at your school, with emphasis on the support for students who enter below grade level. • You mentioned you would have multiage classrooms. How would that look? *ALP described a typical day that included information on support for students entering below grade level.*
The information provided by the applicant did not change the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.1 Educational Philosophy	2. Provide detail regarding the connection between the school's philosophical approach and improving pupil achievement in the target population. *ALP described the selected approach and the target population consistent with the written application package, but did not make a clear connection between the selected approach and meeting the needs of the target population.*

Rating	Section	Interview Summary
The applicant provided additional information that improved the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.2 Target Population	3. Tell us more about your understanding of the target population and community you intend to serve. *ALP described the target population, providing additional detail that clarified their understanding.* <u>The applicant provided information in the interview which should be incorporated in the narrative.</u>
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.3 Program of Instruction	4. Describe the types of summative assessments you plan to use. • How do these align to monitoring the integration of the Arizona Academic Standards into instruction? • On page 2 of your narrative for Program of Instruction, it states that 60% to 80% of your instruction will be in Chinese or Spanish. How will you determine whether students have mastered the state English Language Arts standards if so much of the instruction is in a foreign language? *ALP described assessments consistent with the written application package. They described how they would have English one day a week, including an individual reading program, up to second and third grades, as well as a longer school day and quarterly pacing guides. They stated that parents understood that more work would need to be done at home.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.3.1 Mastery & Promotion	5. Describe the process the school will use to determine grade level promotion/retention. • They need to reach mastery 80% based on summative and formative assessments only? • Let's have a scenario, it is the end of March, and your benchmarks show a student is below grade level, not meeting standards, what will happen with that student? • Is the after school program done by the charter school or the private school? • Is there a cost for it? *ALP described promotion/retention criteria consistent with the written application package, but did not address the process used to determine promotion/retention. They also described after-school tutoring options offered by the private school for a fee.*

Rating	Section	Interview Summary
The information provided by the applicant did not change the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.3 Program of Instruction; A.5 Performance Management Plan	6. Walk us through what will you do with the data you collect in your summative assessments. • Consider a scenario where a benchmark assessment given in November shows two thirds of your students are below the expected level. What action steps would you take? • You describe what you are doing currently in your private school. How do you see this scaling up to the 70-100 student level that you are anticipating for your charter school? *ALP described use of data consistent with the written application package. They described the scaled up program as being similar to the current program, with multi-age classes in the upper (2nd/3rd) grades due to low projected enrollment. They stated that recruiting highly qualified Mandarin teachers in the target area is a challenge.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.5 Performance Management Plan	7. Describe how you set the baseline Student Growth Percentiles for your Math PMP and also for your Reading PMP. • Are you saying you got the student growth percentiles from previous new charter applications? • Does that also apply to the Reading? *ALP described the annual growth they intend their students to make. ALP's response did not indicate an understanding of the Student Growth Percentile as used to measure performance of public schools in Arizona.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.5 Performance Management Plan	8. In your Performance Management Plan, many of the action steps are listed as "ongoing." Describe the process for updating and implementing improvements to the action steps based upon the data analysis. *ALP described the action steps of the Performance Management Plan consistent with the written application package. ALP's response did not indicate a process for updating and implementing improvements to the action steps based upon the data analysis.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.5 Performance Management Plan	9. Describe how you will get support material and training for your professional development for Singapore Math without incurring any additional cost. • How about the Leveled Reading Program? *ALP stated that they had made a mistake in not including costs for the math program in the budget. They stated that the School Director's training was in Reading, and he would be able to provide the training to the teachers without additional cost. They stated that some of the costs would be covered by the private school.*

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The applicant provided additional information that improved the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.3 Program of Instruction; A.6 Curriculum Samples	10. Could you tell us more about your Program of Instruction, specifically regarding this statement from your narrative: "Arizona Language Preparatory teaches the Arizona State Standards through thematic units in three languages, Mandarin, Spanish, and English." • The narrative indicates that 60% to 80% of instruction will be in a foreign language, but the reviewers did not see evidence of this in your curriculum samples. Please describe how teachers would integrate Arizona State English Language Arts standards into lessons delivered in a foreign language. *ALP described experience and research that suggested that immersion language programs demonstrate grade level reading by 3rd grade.* <u>The applicant provided information in the interview which should be incorporated in the narrative.</u>
The information provided by the applicant did not change the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	A.6 Curriculum Samples	11. Walk us through the process your teachers will use for creating a lesson plan aligned to Arizona Academic standards. • How do you ensure that the summative assessment provides the student an opportunity to accurately demonstrate mastery of the standard? *ALP described a program of instruction and assessment plan consistent with the written application package.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	B.1 Applicant Organization; B.2 Governing Body; B.3 Management & Operation	12. Describe the reporting structure within the organization. • B.1 indicates that Sean Diana will become a member of the Corporate Board. B.3 states he will be the School Director. The Organizational Chart indicates that the School Board includes the School Director. How will your reporting structure provide effective oversight with one person in all three positions? • How many of the school governing body would also be on the corporate board? *ALP described the reporting structure consistent with the written application package, but indicated some disagreement among the applicant team regarding the role of the School Director.*

Rating	Section	Interview Summary
The applicant provided additional information that improved the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	Business Plan	13. Describe how facility, personnel and resource costs will be divided between the existing private preschool and the charter school. • You have described the facility costs, but how would professional development and other operational costs be divided? *ALP described the business relationship between the charter school and the existing private school, and provided additional detail that clarified the division of costs.* <u>The applicant provided information in the interview which should be incorporated in the narrative.</u>
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	C.5 Three Year Operational Budget	14. What is the minimum enrollment necessary to make your plan feasible? *ALP described their current private school as operating with 13 students, and indicated that they could sustain this level of enrollment as a charter school. They said they were focusing marketing on grades K-1.*
The information provided by the applicant raised additional questions and/or concerns in the TRP's overall evaluation of the applicant.	C.5 Three Year Operational Budget	15. Reviewers noted that your revenue worksheets incorrectly included Kindergarten students as full students for the Student Count Add-Ons. With them correctly weighted, revenues did not meet expenses in year 1. What steps are you taking to ensure the viability of your plans? *ALPs described a mistake in their understanding of how to complete revenue worksheets. They identified some areas in the budget that could be adjusted to accommodate the reduced revenue projections, including reducing employee benefits and sharing costs with the private school. They also noted that the revenue projections did not include other possible revenue sources, such as fundraising and tax credit donations.*