

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grade Level Change with Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades K-10 to grades K-12, beginning in FY 2020, and an enrollment cap expansion request to increase the enrollment cap from 730 to 998, beginning in FY 2020. This enrollment cap accounts for 3 years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.

The Charter Holder currently operates a 6-10 secondary program that serves approximately 242 students, according to their amendment request materials. The narrative reports that families have expressed continuing the high school program through to 12th grade. The Charter Holder also reports approximately 30% growth every year for the past four years. The elementary program is currently at capacity at 328 students and will not require additional staff, students or facilities. The Charter Holder currently leases a nearby church for the secondary program, but is in the process of building a new building with an estimated completion date of August 2019. If the building is not finished by the target start date, the Charter Holder indicates in their narrative that they may continue the lease for another year, if needed. The Charter Holder plans to hire an additional 8 middle and high school teachers and plans to hire through job fairs, the ADE website, Arizona universities and other online job platforms.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels	K-10	K-11	K-12	K-12
Enrollment	563	843	973	998

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 has been in operation for 14 years.
“Meets Operational Performance Expectations” based on the dashboards for the most recent two prior years and the current year.	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations.
“Meets the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations” based on the most recent dashboard.	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations.
Grade level cohorts are at capacity and could fill enrollment for new grades requested.	Grade level cohorts are at capacity. Enrollment can be filled for the new grades requested.

ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 517.345. The Charter Holder is currently operating at 71% of its current enrollment cap of 730. When calculations are adjusted to account for Kindergarten as 1.0, the ADM is 541.397, or 74% of the current enrollment cap.
Each school operated by the Charter Holder performs at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five-mile radius of the school's location.	AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy performs at or above the average performance of nearby schools in Math. AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy does not perform at or above the average performance of nearby schools in ELA. Information regarding nearby schools is provided on pages 2-3.
Past enrollment trends indicate the charter will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years.	ADM in FY2017 was 294.864, FY 2018 was 378.644, and FY 2019 was 535.839 (as of November 7, 2018). Based on these growth trends, the charter will likely exceed its enrollment cap in FY 2021.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a renewal charter in 2018.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Gaurav Auditya
Dameon Blair
Kristy Frame
Sawana Grimmett
Gregory Harmon
Kevin Mountain
Faith Taylor

School Profile

School Name	AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy		
Date Open	August 2004		
Location	Anthem		
Grades Served	K-10		
FY 18 Letter Grade	B		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	56%	59%	58%
Math AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	48%	65%	63%
Science AIMS (52% ⁺)	83%	75%	85%

^{*}FY 18 State Average Passing

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-12 within 5 Miles of AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy

Total Schools	FY 17 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>41%)	Math (>41%)	Science (>52%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
6	A	1	6	6	6	0	*	4
2	B	0	2	2	1	0	*	1

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

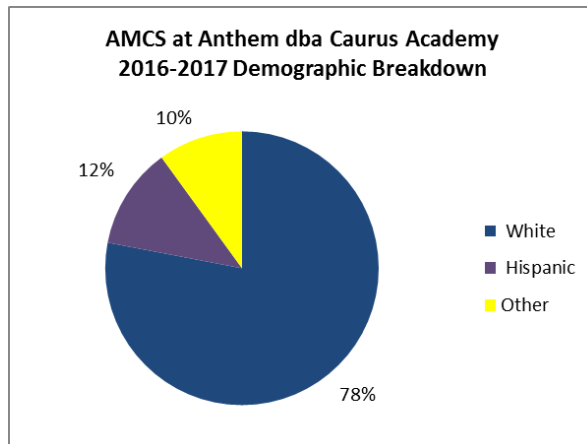
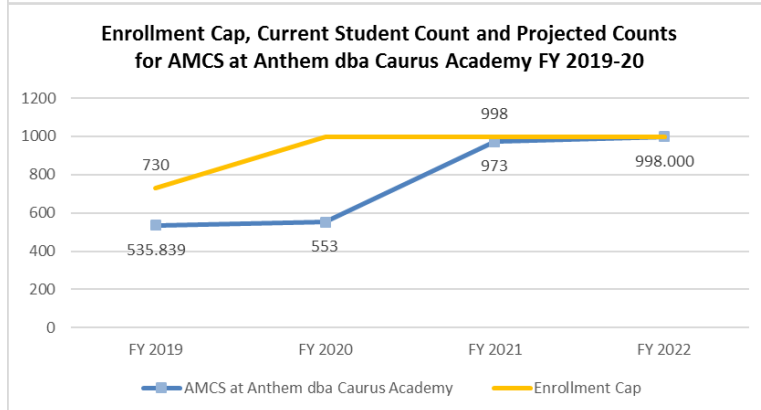
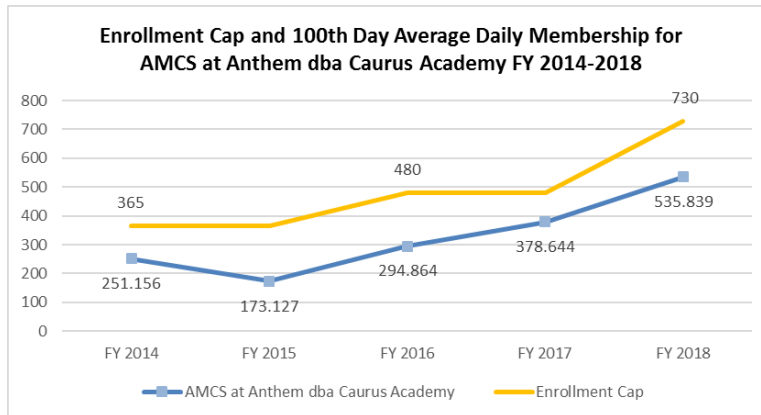


Comparison of Nearby Schools to AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy

Total Schools	FY 17 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy		
			AzMERIT ELA (58%)	AzMERIT Math (63%)	AIMS Science (85%)
6	A	1	6	4	6
2	B	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Schools Performing Better than AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy (Percentage of Total)					
8		1 (13%)	6 (75%)	4 (50%)	6 (75%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2015–FY 2018, and FY 2019 ADM as of November 7, 2018.



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	21%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	12%

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

