

**AGENDA ITEM:** Transfer Application – Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy

2010-2011 Transfer Application Summary Report

Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy filed a transfer application on November 2, 2010, to transfer their charter contract, Avondale Learning, currently sponsored by the State Board of Education, to sponsorship with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy is an Arizona non-profit corporation that currently operates one school site: Precision Academy. Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy was chartered by the State Board of Education, with a contract effective date of May 14, 2002. The charter officers for Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy, Caroline White and John White, serve as officers for Vista Charter School, a charter sponsored by the ASBCS, with a contract effective date of May 3, 2002. Vista Charter School operates one school site: Midtown High School. Both charters will become eligible for renewal in late 2015.

Mission Statement:

*“In its desire to help students reach their maximum potential for a successful life in the 21st century, the mission of Precision Academy is to prepare students for postsecondary education and to lay the foundation for entry into professional/business careers.”*

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>
Avondale Learning	Precision Academy	9-12
<b>Charter Representative</b>	<b>School Location</b>	<b>School Calendar</b>
Dr. Caroline White	7318 West Lynwood St., Phoenix, AZ 85035	Standard, 180 days
<b>Corporate Board</b>	<b>Governing Body</b>	<b>Enrollment Cap</b>
Dr. Caroline White John White Capri Landi	Dr. Caroline White Capri Landi Nieves Arippe John White	300 students

**Academic Data for Precision Academy**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>AZ LEARNS</b>	<b>Annual Yearly Progress</b>	<b>Reading % Proficient</b>	<b>Mathematics % Proficient</b>
2010	Performing Plus	Met	81	69
2009	Performing Plus	Met	73	81
2008	Performing Plus	Met	45	77

**Curricular Emphasis:****Philosophy:**

The applicant states that the school does not subscribe to a “sink or swim” philosophy and that the focus at all times is on the learning process. The applicant states that the school is committed to its students. According to the applicant, what is taught and how much is taught is carefully considered. The school exceeds the standard calendar in school days and the minimum hours for a school day.

**Methods of Instruction:**

The applicant describes the school as student-centered with an effort to get students actively engaged in their learning. Methods of instruction at the school include project-based instruction, speeches, demonstrations, laboratory work, technology and research. The applicant states that the school incorporates best practices, including the instruction and assessments using in the math courses. Students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts by showing and explaining the processes used for solving problems.

**Methods of Assessment:**

Classroom assessments include written tests and assignments, show-and-tell performances, portfolio work, presentations, and speeches. Students are assessed regularly on various assessments including AIMS, BASI Pearson math and language arts assessments upon enrollment, and norm-referenced tests for freshman. Staff analyzes standardized test results in comparison to area schools, the state and national results. The analyses include disaggregating data to identify specific strands where students need help. The data analysis also helps in determining effective teaching strategies.

Teachers are observed to help evaluate effectiveness. The director observes and provides feedback. Staff development sessions are created based upon the current needs of staff. Parents are also surveyed to evaluate school effectiveness.

**Remediation Plan:**

Remediation classes are held in math, writing, and reading. When a student does not do well on state standardized tests or transfers in with low grades, the student is scheduled into remediation classes. Students may also receive additional remediation based upon the outcome of conferences held with administrators, teachers, parents and students. One-on-one tutoring in all subjects is provided thirty minutes before and after school.

**Promotion and Retention Plan:**

Grades below 70 are not considered passing at the high school; students receiving an average grade below 70 will not receive credit for a course and must re-take the course for credit.

**Class Size:**

The average class size is 15 to 18 students, with math classes generally on the smaller end.

**Performance Management Plan:**

Because the academic achievement of the students attending Precision Academy meets the Board's level of adequate academic performance, the applicant was waived from submitting a Performance Management Plan with the transfer application.

**Board Options**

1. The Board may grant the Transfer Application for Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy.
2. The Board may deny the Transfer Application for Avondale Learning d.b.a. Precision Academy.

Staff Recommendation

Option 1