AGENDA ITEM: Proposed new amendment request process to amend a charter contract to add a dropout recovery program.

Issue - A.R.S. § 15-901.06 allows charter holders that provide instruction to high school students to offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. The addition of a dropout recovery program requires amending the charter's program of instruction along with adding a new school site and implementing the same eligibility requirements used for any expansion amendment and notification requests.

Background - At the February 2014 Board meeting, Board staff presented an overview of the dropout recovery program explaining how ASBCS came to create an amendment process for this program. As a reminder, the dropout recovery program is a result of A.R.S. § 15-901.06 which went into effect July 1 2012. A dropout recovery program allows a charter holder to provide instruction to eligible high school pupils that have not been successful in a traditional school program. Eligible pupils are defined as a pupil who, if enrolled, would be eligible for placement in an alternative school but who is not currently enrolled in a school district or charter school and who has been withdrawn from a school district or charter school for at least thirty days. The dropout recovery program shall be classified as an alternative school and subject to the same accountability provisions of statute that apply to alternative schools. The dropout recovery program is considered a separate site and requires a unique CTDS and Entity ID number. A charter holder that currently provides online instruction may not also operate a dropout recovery program.

Amendment - The *Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request* will require a review of the financial and academic performance of the charter holder. Eligibility requirements for this amendment are similar to those approved at the October 2013 Board meeting for other expansion amendment and notification requests. In order to be waived from submitting a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress the requesting charter holder eligible to receive an overall rating must:

- Meet the Board's academic performance expectations by having all schools operated under the charter Meet Standard or Exceed Standard in the current and prior fiscal year, and
- All non-excluded Associated Schools with an Alternative School designation must have an overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" standard on the most recent Academic Dashboard.

The criteria for excluding Associated Schools with an Alternative School designation from consideration of academic performance is carried over from revisions made to expansion amendments and notifications approved at the October 2013 Board meeting.

A charter holder not eligible to receive an overall rating may submit a *Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request* if all non-excluded Associated Schools with an Alternative School designation have an overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" standard on the most recent Academic Dashboard. If a charter holder is not eligible to receive an overall rating and does not meet the condition set above, they will not be able to submit a *Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request*, until the charter holder receives an overall rating or meets the condition described above.

The requirements for the amendment request (presented in the amendment portfolio: B. Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request), which are summarized in the table below, are aligned with A.R.S. § 15-901.06. A substantively complete amendment request will include the following requirements below:

Section	Requirements
Needs Analysis	• An explanation of the need for the Dropout Recovery Program for the selected community/population to be served. • Description of barriers to access other school programs that exist for the target population and how the structure of the Dropout Recovery Program reduces those limitations. • Measurable indicators that will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness and success of the Dropout Recovery Program, including a process for collecting and analyzing data.
Educational Program	• Description of the instructional program, including the design of the courses, delivery methods, and alignment to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards.

Section	Requirements
	• Description of how the charter holder will provide and inform students of the availability of support services to include, tutoring, career counseling, and college counseling. • A menu of course offerings consistent with state requirements, Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, and satisfy high school graduation requirements. • Description of criteria used to determine whether credit toward graduation will be awarded upon completion of a course. • Description of the process and measures that will be used to ensure that all enrolled students meet the criteria for eligibility for participation in the dropout recovery program. • Description of the program orientation students will complete during the first month of participation in the dropout recovery program. • Description of the process for program reentry for students that have not met expectations for monthly progress for two or more consecutive months.
Facility	• A description of the facility that includes: square footage, number of classrooms, layout of space, occupant load and location that will accommodate the number of anticipated students. • A Certificate of Occupancy and Fire Marshall's Inspection Report for the facility.
Management	• A timeline for implementation. • A description of the extent to which the Dropout Recovery program is integrated into the current school system to include which resources, staff, and materials will be provided to the Dropout Recovery Program. • Roles, responsibilities, and experience of those that will oversee the dropout recovery program. • Responsibilities and qualifications of mentors. • If the dropout prevention program will be provided by an educational management organization, identify who within the charter holder organization or charter school will have the responsibility to oversee the Dropout Recovery Program.
Additional Information	The following items are additional information and documents required for charter holders that choose to contract with an educational management organization to provide the dropout recovery program: • The service agreement as executed between the charter holder and the EMO. • Documentation that the EMO is currently accredited by a regional accrediting body. • A completed Instructional Staff Assurances / Marketing and Outreach Assurances Form (presented in the amendment portfolio: C. Assurances Form). • Description of who within the charter holder organization or charter school will have the responsibility to oversee the Dropout Recovery Program. • Description of reasons for contracting with an EMO.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the eligibility and submission requirements for an amendment to add a dropout recovery program to a charter as presented. Staff recommends the following language: I move to approve the eligibility and submission requirements for the Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request as presented today (or with modifications discussed) and request staff to move forward with the development of the specific forms to be made available through ASBCS Online for implementation.

Option 2: The Board may approve the eligibility and submission requirements for an amendment to add a dropout recovery program to a charter as presented. The following language is provided for consideration: I move to approve the eligibility and submission requirements for the Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request as presented today (or

with modifications discussed) and direct staff to bring the proposed forms to the Board for review and consideration at the April meeting.

Option 3: Assign the review and discussion of the proposed amendment to a subcommittee. The following language is provided for consideration: I move that the consideration of the Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Request be tabled until such time as a subcommittee of the Board has reviewed the proposed amendment and brings back recommendations for moving forward.