

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc. (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase its enrollment cap from 188 to 350, beginning in FY 2020. This enrollment cap accounts for three years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.

The Charter Holder’s rationale for increasing its Enrollment Cap is to accommodate the continued growth of the grade levels it serves. Currently the Charter Holder serves students in K-9 but is adding one grade per year through FY 2022, when it will begin serving students in K-12. The Charter Holder states, “If the enrollment cap were not increased to be able to offer more grade levels, it would certainly create a gap in educational services for students and families who have now relied on AZACS to offer a best practice education for their children on the autism spectrum.” Both schools operated by the Charter Holder currently have a wait list of at least 100 students. Additional staff members will be required at each school to accommodate the growth in grade levels and additional classrooms. Instructional and Non-Instructional Staff will be recruited through the Charter Holder’s “own website, national job boards and communications channels throughout the special education and autism professional community.” The schools will offer an intensive two-week summer training to prepare staff for the upcoming school year and to meet the needs of the target population. “Training is continued throughout the school year through competency coaching and various group and individual trainings specific to classroom needs.”

Three Year Plan

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels	K-9	K-10	K-11	K-12
Enrollment	186.880	232	260	288

Staff Recommendation

The Charter Holder has 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 6 years.
“Meets the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations” based on the dashboards for the most recent two prior years and the current year.	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “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 Financial Performance Expectations.
Past enrollment trends indicate the charter will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years.	ADM in FY 2017 was 144.231, in FY 2018 was 169.166, and in FY 2019 was 186.880 (as of 5/30/19). The charter will exceed its enrollment cap in FY 2020.
ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 186.880. The Charter Holder is currently operating at 99% of its current enrollment cap of 188.
Offers a unique program of instruction within a five-mile radius from the school’s location.	Arizona Autism Charter School and Arizona Autism Charter School Upper School Campus offer a unique program of instruction. According to searches on the ADE website and ASBCS Online, there are no public schools with a focus on serving autistic students within a five-mile radius of the school’s current location.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2013.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Genaro Delgadillo
Viet Do
Ronald Harrison
Keisha Mckinnor
Gregory Torrez
Leo Valdez

School Profiles

School Name	Arizona Autism Charter School			Arizona Autism Charter School, Upper School Campus		
Date Open	August 2014			August 2016		
Location	Phoenix			Phoenix		
FY 2018 Letter Grade	NR			D		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	40%	28%	6%	N/A	8%	16%
Math AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	32%	28%	<2%	N/A	20%	4%
Science AIMS (52% ⁺)	57%	27%	*	N/A	N/A	*

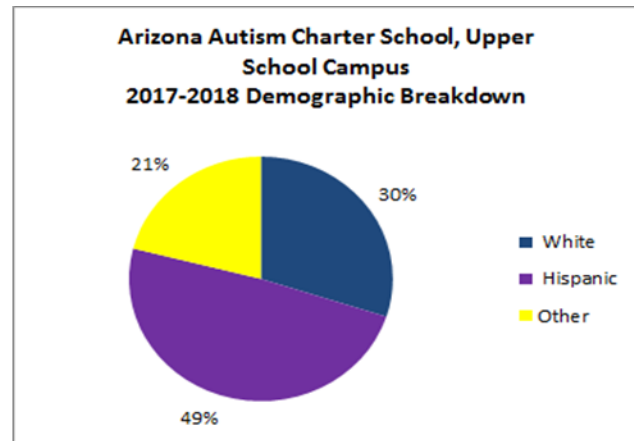
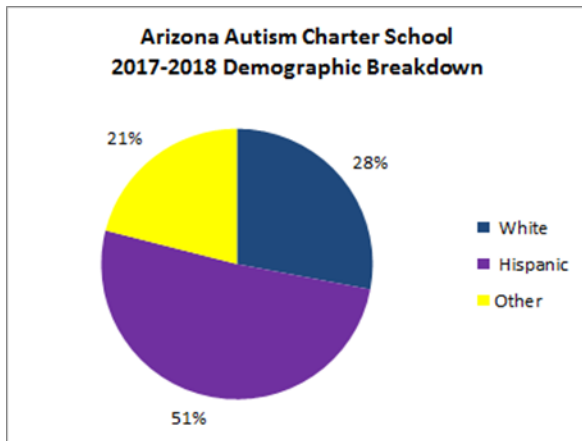
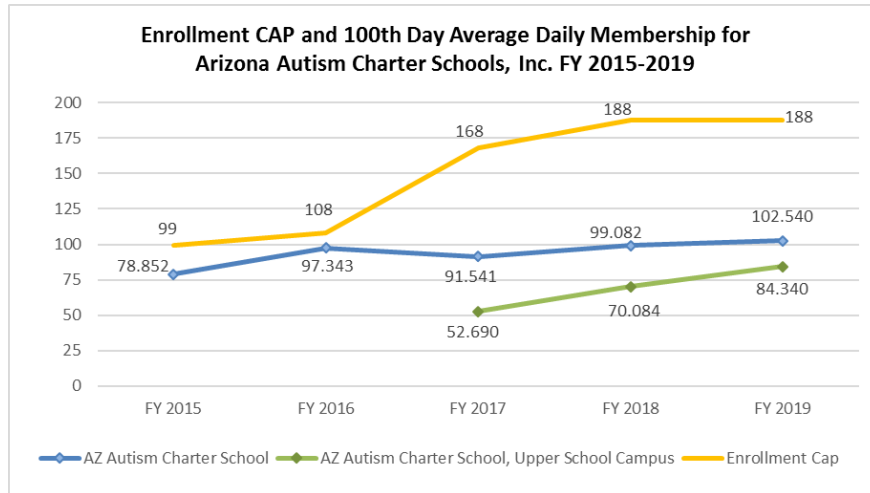
⁺FY 18 State Average Passing

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

A comparison to nearby schools is not included due to the unique program of instruction and target population served by the schools operated by the Charter Holder.

Due to the special population served by the Charter Holder, the Board has approved School Specific Academic Goals to be used in place of the state accountability indicator (See Appendix B: School Specific Academic Goals). Board staff has reviewed the data provided by the Charter Holder, and for FY 2019, the Charter Holder met or exceeded each of the approved goals.

Enrollment and Demographic Data
 100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2015–FY 2019.



2017-2018 Subgroup Data			
School Name	Category		
	Free and Reduced Lunch	English Language Learners	Special Education
Arizona Autism Charter School	85%	*	98%
Arizona Autism Charter School, Upper School	66%	*	99%

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

