

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

GAR, LLC (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase its enrollment cap in FY 2018 from 1000 to 2000. This enrollment cap accounts for 3 years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request and Support Materials.

The rationale for GAR, LLC’s increase in enrollment cap is to continue to accommodate the increasing need to reach the disengaged students of the 16 to 21 year age group. The Charter Holder currently exceeds their enrollment cap of 1000. Since 2002, the Charter Holder has grown from one brick and mortar campus located in Tempe, to adding another campus in Peoria and three learning centers located throughout the valley. In 2013, the Charter Holder began a Dropout Recovery Program (DRP) where the learning centers provide flexible hours and schedules to accommodate the DRP student population. Marketing strategies, recruitment of highly qualified staff, additional district level administrative support, a targeted professional learning plan, and a continued rise in students who need a DRP Program has contributed to the rapid growth. In July of 2016, there were under 350 DRP students. In July of 2017, the number increased to 800 DRP students. The staffing plan includes recruiting through the Arizona Department of Education Job Board, screening potential candidates, collecting all necessary paperwork throughout the hiring process with recommendations to hire presented to the GAR, LLC board. All staff are provided a comprehensive professional development plan throughout the school year. Enrollment targets are based on a student retention rate of 80%. Of the 20% of students that do not return, 10% graduate during the school year and the remaining 10% withdraw. Trending data supports the requested enrollment numbers. In FY 2018, 933 students returned and currently there are 1,110 students enrolled which is a 17% increase from the beginning of the year. For FY 2019, at this rate and the addition of two learning centers, it is anticipated that enrollment will increase by approximately 30%. The addition of one learning center each year in FY 2020 and FY 2021 is expected to result in enrollment increases of 20% and 15%. Based on these projected increases the Charter Holder anticipates reaching a total enrollment of 2000 students in FY 2021.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	1110	1425	1725	2000

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 17 years.
“Meets Operational Standard” in the most recent Fiscal Year	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Meets” on the Operational Performance Dashboard in FY 2017.
“Meets Financial Performance Standard” based on the most recent dashboard	The Charter Holder Meets the Financial Performance Standard for FY 2017.
Past enrollment trends indicate need for increase within three years	Although enrollment decreased slightly between FY 2015 to FY 2016, it increased significantly to 634 in FY 2017

ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	The Charter Holder currently exceeds its enrollment cap of 1000. According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder's ADM for FY 2018 is 1046.813.
Each school operated by the Charter Holder performs at or above the average performance of a majority of schools or offers a unique program of instruction within a five mile radius of the school's location	Student Choice High School Tempe performs at or above the average performance of nearby alternative schools in ELA and Math. School Choice High School Peoria offers a unique program of instruction. There are no Alternative Schools within a five-mile radius of the school.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a renewal charter in 2014.

Governance

Corporate Board Members	School Governing Body Members	Type
Scott Lopez	Scott Lopez	Charter Organization
Shawanna Lopez	Shawanna Lopez	Charter Organization
Melissa Meehan	Peggy Lynam	Community Member
Scott Meehan	Melissa Meehan	Charter Organization
	Scott Meehan	Charter Organization

School Profiles

School Name/Location	Month/Year Open	Grades Served	FY 14 Letter Grade	Average AzMERIT Passing					
				ELA (FY 17 State Average 13%)			Math (FY 17 State Average 10%)		
				FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY15	FY 16	FY 17
Student Choice High School/Tempe	August 2002	9-12	C-ALT	*	11%	12%	*	13%	8%
Student Choice High School/Peoria	August 2012	9-12	D-ALT	23%	9%	13%	*	13%	16%

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

Additional Alternative School Choices Serving Grades 9-12 within 5 Miles of Student Choice High School (Tempe)

Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 AzMERIT Greater than State Average		Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>13%)	Math (>10%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
1	B-ALT	1	0	0	1	1	1
3	C-ALT	2	1	1	3	2	2
2	D-ALT	2	0	0	1	1	0

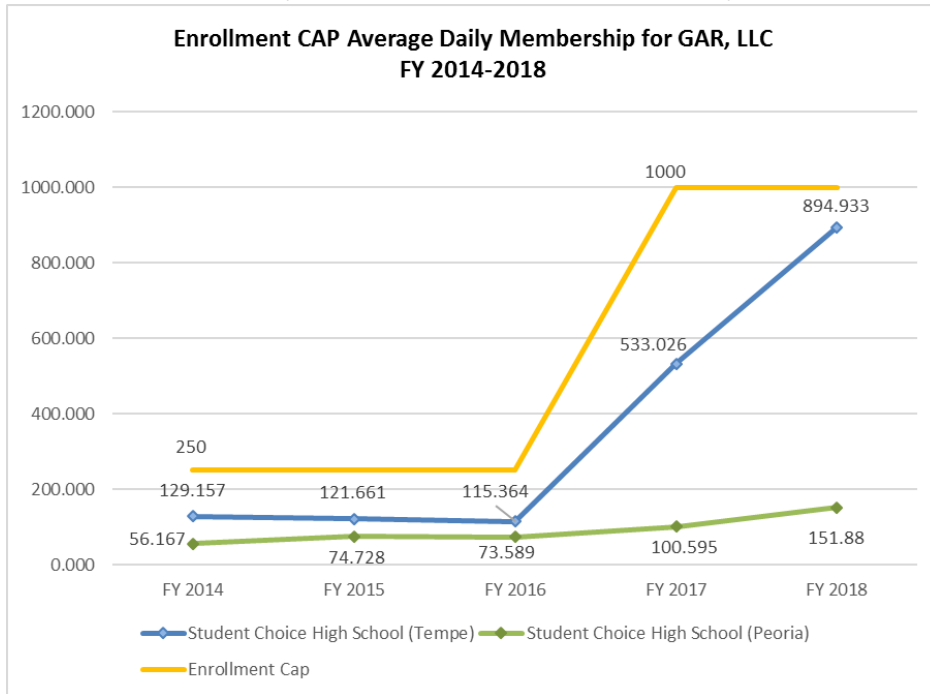
No comparison data is available for Student Choice High School (Peoria) because there are no alternative schools within 5 miles.

Comparison of Nearby Schools to Student Choice High School (Tempe)

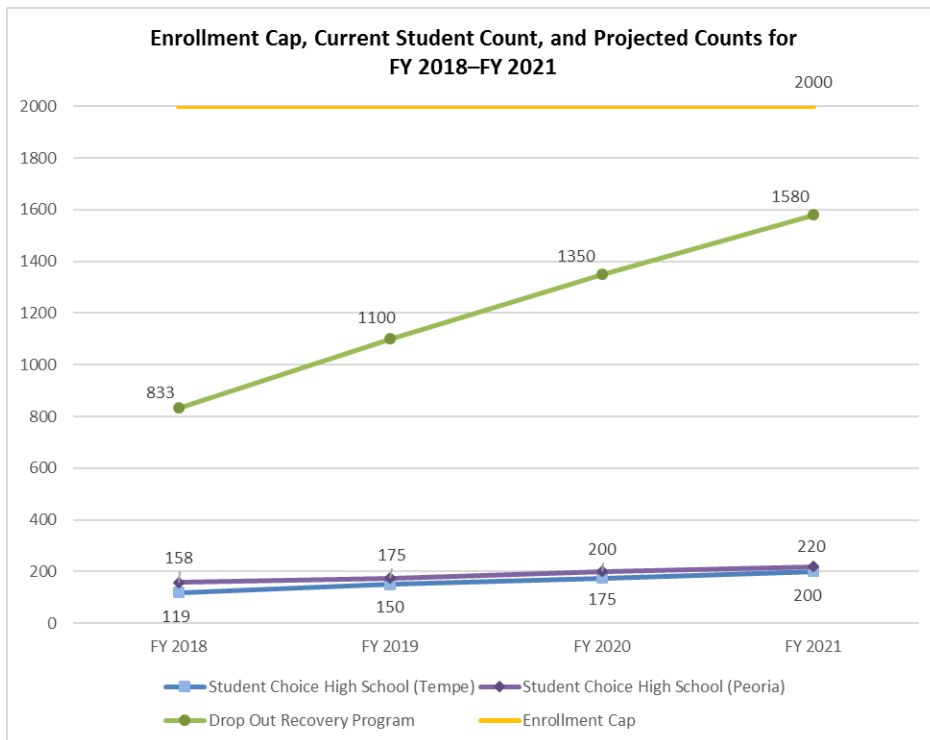
Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 AzMERIT Greater than Student Choice High School (Tempe)	
			ELA (>12%)	Math (>8%)
1	B-ALT	1	0	0
3	C-ALT	2	1	1
2	D-ALT	2	0	0
Total Number of Schools (Percentage of Total)				
6		5 (83%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th day ADM for FY 2014–FY 2017, and FY 2018 ADM as of December 6, 2017.



Students enrolled in the Charter Holder’s DRP are counted in the ADM for the Tempe school.



DRP refers to the enrollment of students at the Learning Center locations in Maryvale, South Phoenix, and Maricopa. The number of students enrolled in the brick and mortar school locations is projected to have minimal growth due to physical limits of the facilities. The project enrollment increase is based on anticipated growth in the DRP.



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	Student Choice High School (Tempe)	Student Choice High School (Peoria)
Free and Reduced Lunch	*	*
English Language Learners	*	*
Special Education	4%	11%

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

