

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

Request

Heritage Academy, Inc. (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion amendment request to add a new school to the existing charter contract; increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve from grades 7-12 to grades 6-12; and increase the enrollment cap from 825 to 1805. All of these requests would be effective in FY 2020. This enrollment cap accounts for 3 years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.

According to their narrative, the Charter Holder has been approached by parent groups expressing an interest in Heritage Academy expanding into the Maricopa community. To staff the proposed new school, the Charter Holder plans to hire some local educators, as the Maricopa Unified School District is the second largest employer in Maricopa. Additionally, they may hire commuters from the East Valley. Students in the target population of Maricopa are similar to the population served by the flagship campus in Mesa in terms of income, although Maricopa has approximately 10% more Hispanic students. Because the elementary schools in the Maricopa area serve grades K-5, the Charter Holder is also requesting to add 6th grade to their charter, to allow for a seamless transition for Maricopa students and an additional option for Mesa students. To accommodate the planned 500 students at the Maricopa location, the Charter Holder wishes to expand its enrollment cap. The Charter Holder is planning for approximately 100 students per grade in the first year, based on their market research and the wait lists at other charter schools in the area. As indicated below, the Charter Holder intends for the Mesa campus enrollment to remain about the same, while the Maricopa campus expands from 515 to 790, adding one high school grade per year.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels (Mesa)	7-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Enrollment	732	760	780	780
Grade Levels (Maricopa)	N/A	6-10	6-11	6-12
Enrollment	N/A	515	645	790

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 23 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 “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.
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 current location AND	Heritage Academy performs at or above the average performance of nearby schools in ELA and Math of the school’s current location. AND



Performs at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five-mile radius of the proposed school's location	Heritage Academy performs at or above the average performance of nearby schools in ELA and Math of the proposed school's location. Information regarding nearby schools is provided on page 2.
Past enrollment trends indicate the charter will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years.	ADM in FY2017 was 700.304, FY 2018 was 682.747, and FY 2019 was 707.918 (as of November 7, 2018). This does not account for the additional enrollment at the proposed new school.
ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 707.918. The Charter Holder is currently operating at 86% of its current enrollment cap of 825.
If the new grades requested do not have prior grade level cohorts, ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 707.918. The Charter Holder is currently operating at 86% of its current enrollment cap of 825.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a renewal charter in 2010.

Governance

Corporate Board Members	School Governing Body Members	Type
Diane Taylor	Raymond Jones	Parents
Jared Taylor	Travis Moore	School Staff
	Marie Renard	Unknown
	Eve Seaman	School Staff
	Jared Taylor	Charter Organization

School Profile

School Name	School Name		
Date Open	August 1995		
Location	Mesa		
Grades Served	7-12		
FY 18 Letter Grade	A		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	56%	51%	76%
Math AzMERIT (41% ⁺)	42%	36%	51%
Science AIMS (52% ⁺)	65%	66%	75%

⁺FY 18 State Average Passing

Additional School Choices Serving Grades 6-12 within 5 Miles of Heritage Academy

Total Schools	FY 18 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	4	6	6	6	*	*	1
5	B	1	4	3	3	*	*	4
8	C	2	0	1	2	*	*	6
4	D	2	0	0	0	*	*	3
1	F	0	0	0	0	*	*	1

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

Comparison of Nearby Schools to Heritage Academy

Total Schools	FY 17 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than Heritage Academy		
			AzMERIT ELA (76%)	AzMERIT Math (51%)	AIMS Science (75%)
6	A	4	1	5	4
5	B	1	0	0	0
8	C	2	0	0	0
4	D	2	0	0	0
1	F	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Schools Performing Better than Heritage Academy (Percentage of Total)					
24		9 (38%)	1 (4%)	5 (21%)	4 (17%)

Academic Performance of Schools Serving Grades 6-12 Near Heritage Academy Maricopa

Total Schools	FY 17 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average		
			ELA (>41%)	Math (>41%)	Science (>52%)
1	A	1	N/A	N/A	1
1	B	1	1	1	1
4	C	2	1	0	1

Comparison of Nearby Schools in Maricopa to Heritage Academy (Mesa)

Total Schools	FY 17 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than Heritage Academy		
			AzMERIT ELA (76%)	AzMERIT Math (51%)	AIMS Science (75%)
1	A	1	N/A	N/A	1
1	B	1	0	0	0
4	C	2	0	0	0
Total Number of Schools Performing Better than School Name (Percentage of Total)					
6		4 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)

Schools Associated with Heritage Academy

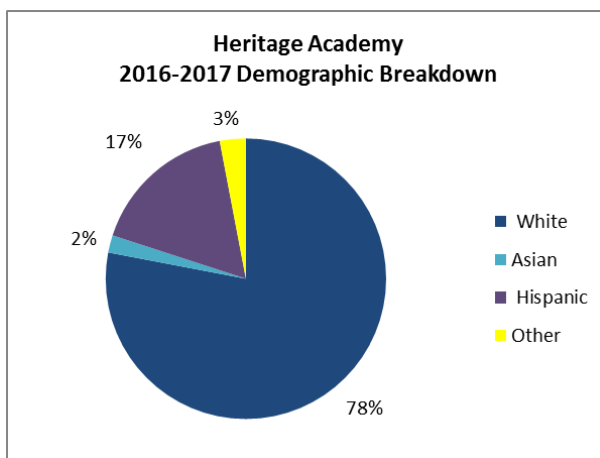
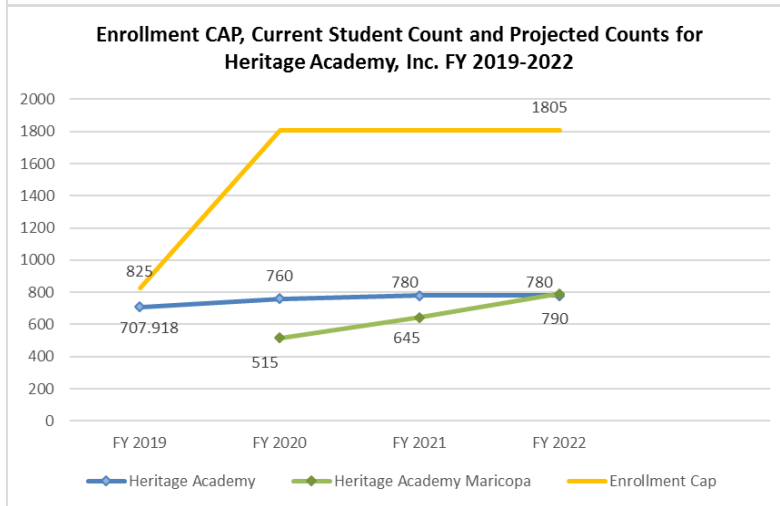
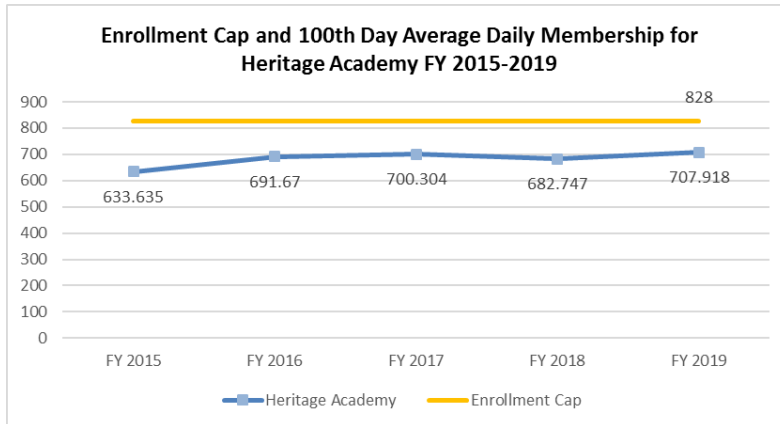
Charter Holder Name	Heritage Academy Laveen, Inc.			Heritage Academy Queen Creek, Inc.		
School Name	Heritage Academy Laveen			Heritage Academy Gateway		
Date Open	August 2014			August 2014		
Location	Laveen			Queen Creek		
Grades Served	7-12			7-12		
FY 18 Letter Grade	B			B		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (41%+)	38%	38%	47%	52%	62%	68%
Math AzMERIT (41%+)	22%	26%	36%	50%	55%	62%
Science AIMS (52%+)	40%	44%	58%	75%	72%	61%

+FY 18 State Average Passing



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	*
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	5%

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