

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grade Level Change to Charter Amendment Request

Request

Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc. (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades K – 8 to grades K - 12, beginning in FY 2019.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials.

Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc. indicated that the addition of grade levels will allow its schools to continue providing their specialized program for students that have experienced success with their program of instruction that includes Applied Behavior Analysis (“ABA”). ABA provides continuity to help autistic spectrum students access standard aligned curriculum. The staffing plan supports a plan that groups students by ability and need in multi-grade classrooms. The Group A classroom is for high-functioning students who work near grade level with minimal support. Group A staffing consists of content area Special Education (“SPED”) certified teachers. The Group C classroom requires a clinical instructional approach. Group C staffing will consist of SPED certified teachers as case managers, ABA Program Leads and an ABA Program Supervisor. Paraprofessionals will support Individualized Education Program’s (“IEP’s”) and behavior plans for each student in both classes.

Enrollment targets have been met every year since the first year of operation. Currently, the Charter Holder has a waiting list of approximately 100 students. The narrative identifies a 90% return rate of current student population. Promotion criteria provided indicates students must perform at 70% or higher on assignments and assessments to pass a course. The IEP team may determine other criteria based on the student’s plan. Graduation requirements include 22 credits and passing a Civics test. The Charter Holder stated that it abides by the guidelines of the Arizona Department of Education’s Exceptional Student Services for graduation for students with disabilities.

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 3 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” in the most recent Fiscal Year	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Meets” on the Financial Performance Dashboard in FY 2016.
Grade level cohorts are at capacity and/ or could fill enrollment for new grades requested	Grade level cohorts are at capacity. Enrollment can be filled for the new grades requested. According to the Arizona Department of Education (“ADE”) School Finance, the Charter Holder’s average daily membership for FY 2018 for 7 th grade is 23.950 and 8 th grade is 12.950. 8 th grade is 162% above the target enrollment of 8 students for 9 th grade in FY 2019.
ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder’s 100 th day average daily membership in FY 2017 was 170.5. This number is within 91% of the current enrollment cap of 188.
Each school offers a unique program of instruction within a five-mile radius from the school’s location	The proposed school offers a unique program of instruction. According to the ADE website and ASBCS Online, there are no autism or similar disorder schools within a five-mile radius of the proposed location.

Additional Information

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2013.

Governance

Corporate Board Members	
Viet Do	
Genaro Delgadillo	
Ronald Harrison	
Kiesha McKinnon	
Gregory Torrez	
Leo Valdez	

School Profiles

School Name	Letter Grade		Month/ Year Open	Location	Grade Levels Served	AzMERIT Passing (State Average)			
	FY 14	FY 17				ELA		Math	
						FY 16 (35%)	FY 17 (39%)	FY 16 (35%)	FY 17 (40%)
Arizona Autism Charter School	NA	*	August/2014	Phoenix	K – 5	17%	28%	22%	28%
Arizona Autism Charter School, Upper Campus	NA	*	August/2016	Phoenix	5 - 8	NA	8%	NA	20%

* Please note, the FY 2017 letter grades are expected to be made public before the Charter Board's meeting on October 10th; therefore, the FY 2017 letter grades will be made available to the Charter Board for its consideration

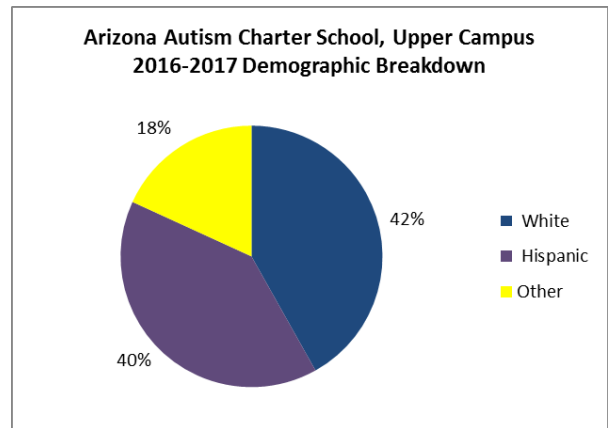
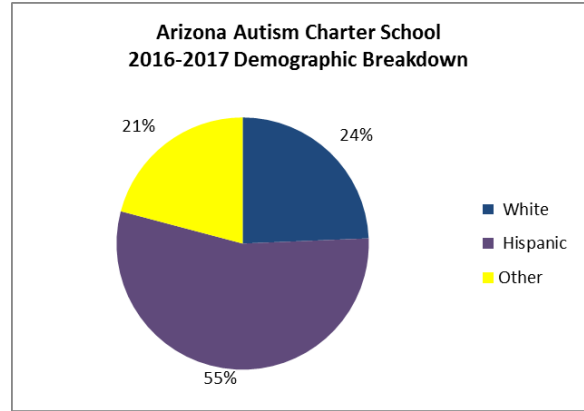
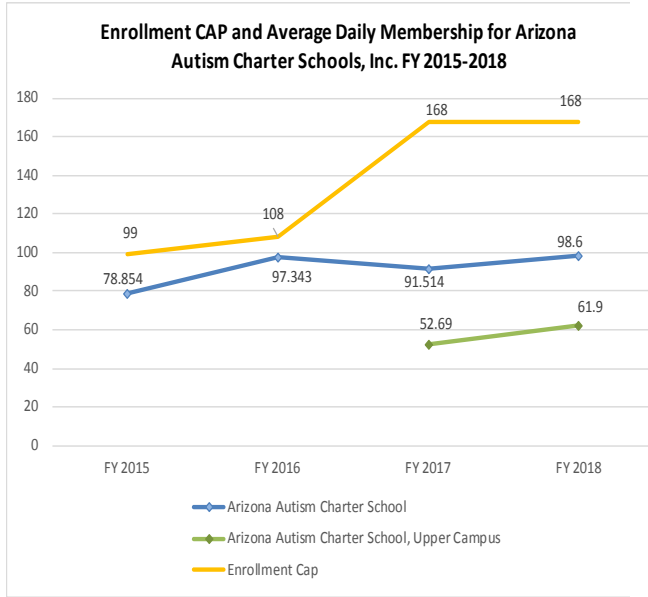
Additional Schools Serving Grades 9 - 12 within 5 Miles

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 (>39%)	Math (>40%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
8	A	3	6	6	1	*	*
6	B	4	2	1	*	*	*
7	C	3	2	1	1	*	*
0	D	0	0	0	*	*	*
1	F	1	0	0	*	*	*

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

** Please note, the FY 2017 letter grades are expected to be made public before the Charter Board's meeting on October 10th; therefore, the FY 2017 letter grades will be made available to the Charter Board for its consideration

Enrollment and Demographic Data



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	72%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	100%

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