AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations – Trivium Preparatory Academy

Issue

Trivium Preparatory Academy (TPA) did not meet the Board's academic performance expectations for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, and was required to submit a Letter of Intent requesting the Board's permission to submit an expansion request to increase the enrollment cap. On January 13, 2015, the Board approved permission for TPA to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request ("Request") increasing the cap to 605 with the Data component of the Demonstration of Sufficient Progress. TPA submitted a Request to increase the enrollment cap on March 11, 2015.

Summary of Narrative Provided

Rationale for Expansion Request

According to the narrative (presented in the portfolio: b. Notification Request), TPA was approved to serve grades 6-12, is currently serving grades 6-10, and will be adding grade 11 in FY2016 and grade 12 in FY2017. Great Hearts Academies, the Education Service Provider (ESP) operating TPA, also operates two K-5 schools (Archway Trivium East and Archway Trivium West) that are expected to provide students interested in enrolling in Great Hearts Academies – Trivium Prep (Trivium Prep), which will be moving to a larger facility in Goodyear to accommodate the demand.

The enrollment cap would be increased from 350 to 460 in FY2016 to accommodate the addition of grade 11 and an additional 20 students in grade 6, and from 460 to 605 in FY2017 to accommodate the addition of grade 12 as well as 35 additional students in grade 6. TPA provided the following table to illustrate the planned growth:

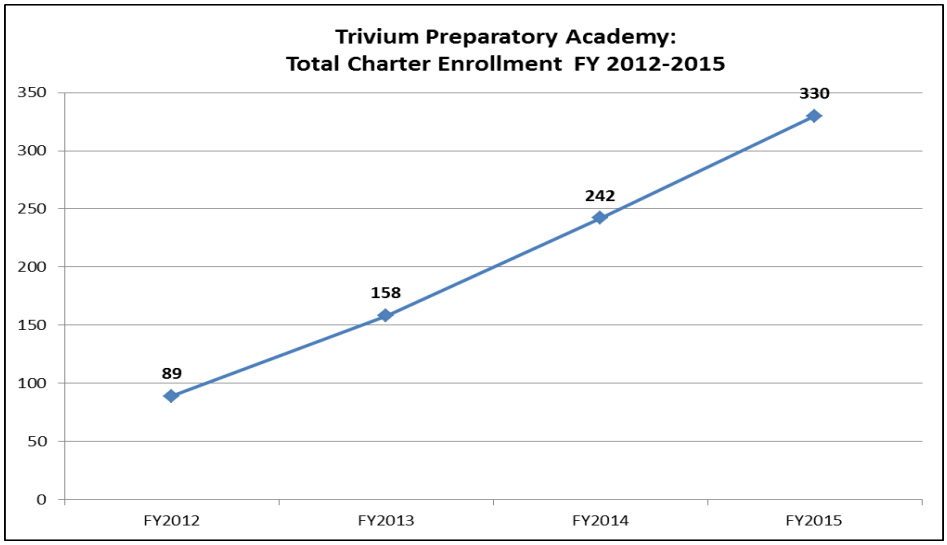
2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
GRADE	# OF STUDENTS	GRADE	# OF STUDENTS	GRADE	# OF STUDENTS
6	90	6	110	6	145
7	90	7	90	7	110
8	75	8	90	8	90
9	50	9	75	9	90
10	45	10	50	10	75
		11	45	11	50
				12	45
TOTAL	350		460		605

I. Background

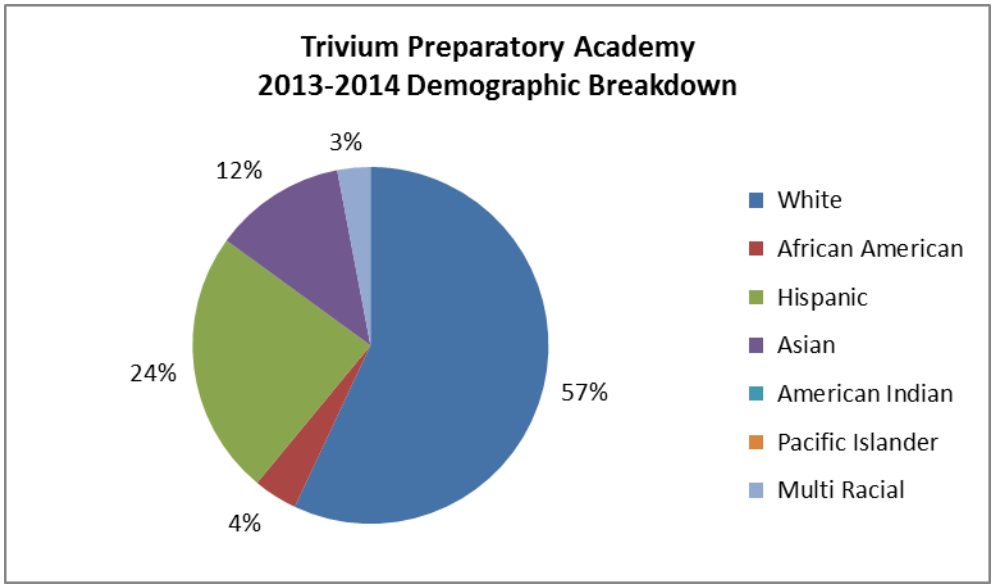
TPA was granted a charter in 2010, which is currently approved for grades 6-12. TPA operates 1 school. The school operates on a 178 day calendar.

School Name	Month/Year Open	Location	Current Grade Levels Served	Current Status	2015 100th Day ADM
Trivium Prep	August 2011	Goodyear	6-10	Open	330

The enrollment cap for TPA is 350. The graph below shows average daily membership (ADM) for the charter based on 100th day ADM for fiscal years 2012-2015**.**



The demographic data for TPA from the 2013-2014 school year is represented in the chart below.[1]



The percentage of students served by TPA who are classified as English Language Learners or classified as students with disabilities in the 2014-2015 school year are represented in the table below.[1] TPA does not collect information on student eligibility for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRL).

School Name	English Language Learners (ELL)	Students with Disabilities
Trivium Prep	*	3%

As stated in Board policy, prior to a request being considered by the Board, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the amendment and notification approval process. The Charter Holder is in compliance in all areas.

[1] Information provided by the Research and Evaluation division of the Arizona Department of Education. If the percentage of students in a non-ethnicity-based demographic group is 0% or 100%, the percentage for that demographic group was redacted.

II. Academic Performance

As stated in the Board's *Academic Performance Framework and Guidance* document, a Charter Holder's academic performance will be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests. The academic dashboard for Trivium Prep is presented below.

Great Hearts Academies- Trivium Prep

		2012 Small Elementary School (6 to 7)			2013 Traditional Elementary School (6 to 8)			2014 Traditional K-12 School (6 to 9)		
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	30	25	12.5	27.5	25	12.5	33.5	25	10
	Reading	42	50	12.5	47	50	12.5	45	50	10
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	50.5	75	12.5	31.5	25	12.5	29	25	10
	Reading	51	75	12.5	48	50	12.5	45	50	10
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	87 / 44	75	11.25	79.9 / 62.2	75	11.25	81.5 / 61.7	75	11.25
	Reading	100 / 74	100	11.25	99.4 / 79.5	100	11.25	95.9 / 79.9	100	11.25
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	37.4	100	11.25	2	75	11.25	3.2	75	8.75
	Reading	20.6	100	11.25	7.8	75	11.25	3.8	75	8.75
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		B	75	5	B	75	5	B	75	5
4. Graduation		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
4a. Graduation		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NR	0	0
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		74.06		100	59.06		100	60.66		85

The mission of Trivium Prep is to educate students for the lifelong pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness. The school's website states that Trivium Prep provides a liberal education that features a focus on great books, uses the Socratic method as a key instructional method, and has a core curriculum with few electives.

III. Additional School Choices

Trivium Prep is located in Goodyear near the intersection of Sarival Avenue and Interstate 10. The following information identifies additional schools within a five mile radius of the school and the academic performance of those schools.

There are 23 schools serving grades in the range of 6-10 within a five mile radius of Trivium Prep. The table below provides a breakdown of those schools. Schools are grouped by the A - F letter grade assigned by the

ADE. For each letter grade, the table identifies the number of schools assigned that letter grade, the number of those schools that are charter schools, the number of the charter schools that are meeting the Board's academic performance standard for FY14, and the number of schools serving a comparable percentage of students (± 5%) in the identified subgroups.[2]

Trivium Preparatory Academy				ELL %	SPED %
Letter Grade	Within 5 miles	Charter Schools	Meets Board's Standard	Comparable ELL (± 5%)	Comparable SPED (± 5%)
A	9	3	3	8	5
B	7	0	0	5	0
C	5	1	0	3	0
D	2	1	0	2	1

IV. Demonstration of Sufficient Progress

Based on an overall rating of Does Not Meet Standard on the 2013 academic dashboard, Trivium Prep was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) as a component of the 3rd year Annual Review. After the site visit, the DSP for TPA was found to be acceptable in all measures, with comprehensive systems addressing curriculum, monitoring instruction, assessment, and professional development, and data demonstrating improved student growth. The Board approved an increase in the enrollment cap to 350 in June 2013.

The overall rating for Trivium Prep was Does Not Meet Standard on the 2014 academic dashboard. As the Charter Holder had already provided evidence of the implementation of comprehensive systems in the 3rd Year Annual Review DSP, the Board approved permission for TPA to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request including the Data portion of the DSP in January 2015.

TPA submitted a DSP Data Report with the Enrollment Cap Notification Request addressing the school's data (portfolio: e. DSP Data Report). Board staff completed a review of all data and analysis presented by the Charter Holder, as documented in the Desk Audit Inventory (portfolio: c. Desk Audit Inventory - Data).

On April 23, 2015, at 8:35 a.m., TPA was notified by Board staff that a preliminary review of the data and analysis submitted for measures 1a. (Student Growth Percentile) and 1b. (Student Growth Percentile – Bottom 25%) did not identify improvement in the rate of change over time. TPA was given 24 hours (until 9:00 a.m. on April 24) to submit revised data and analysis addressing the improvement in student growth for Trivium Prep for comparative periods in FY2015 as compared to FY2014. Board staff also provided technical assistance regarding how improved growth might be shown using valid and reliable indicators for each measure, consistent with technical assistance provided to Charter Holders at DSP site visits.

On April 24, 2015, at 8:43 a.m. Ms. Diane Bishop, Director of Academy Governance of TPA left a telephone message with Board staff stating that TPA would go forward with the data originally submitted, and would not be submitting revised data. She further stated that she hoped the Charter Holder would still have the opportunity to appear before the Board so the school could discuss the situation and present their interpretation of the data. In a follow-up email, Board staff stated that the Enrollment Cap Notification Request would continue to be processed using the DSP Data originally submitted (portfolio: f. Communication). Following the data review, Board staff completed a final evaluation of the DSP (portfolio: d. DSP Data Final Evaluation). The following is a summary of the final DSP Evaluation:

[2] Information provided by the Research and Evaluation Division of the ADE. If the percentage of students in a non-ethnicity-based demographic group is not reported to ADE, or is 0% or 100%, the percentage for that demographic group is redacted.

Evaluation Summary			
Area	DSP Evaluation		
	Meets	Does Not Meet	Falls Far Below
Data	☐	☐	☒

After considering information in the DSP Data Report, the Charter Holder has not provided data and analysis demonstrating comparative improvement year-over-year for at least the two most recent school years based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources in 4 of 6 required measures (67%).

Based on the findings summarized above and described below, staff determined that the Charter Holder has not demonstrated sufficient progress towards meeting the Board's Academic Performance Expectations.

Data

In the area of Data, the Charter Holder's DSP is evaluated as Falls Far Below. As evidenced by the desk audit, the Charter Holder failed to provide data and analysis generated from valid and reliable assessment sources, provide sufficient comparative data and analysis for all required measures, and provide data that demonstrates comparatively improving academic performance year-over-year for the two most recent school years for all required measures. For more detailed analysis see Data Inventory (portfolio: c. Desk Audit Inventory - Data).

Question	Valid and Reliable Data	Comparative Data provided for Current Fiscal Year	Comparative Data Demonstrates Growth	Document Inventory Item
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Math	No	No	No	D1
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Reading	No	No	No	D2
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Math	No	No	No	D3
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Reading	No	No	No	D4
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D11
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D12

V. Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve a portion of the Enrollment Cap Notification Request. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move that, having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the academic performance of the Charter Holder, the Board has sufficient basis to deny the request due to the Charter Holder's failure to meet or demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board's academic expectations set forth in the academic performance framework as reflected in the Staff Report, the Data Inventory Document, and the DSP Data Final Evaluation. Data and analysis provided by the Charter Holder do not demonstrate improved academic performance in 4 of 6 required measures based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources. However, the Charter Holder has provided evidence that it has consistently implemented a comprehensive curriculum system, comprehensive assessment system, comprehensive instructional monitoring system, and comprehensive professional development system. All that taken into consideration, the Board recognizes the interest of the current 10th grade students in having the option to continue their secondary education at their current school, and approves increasing the enrollment cap of the charter contract of Trivium Preparatory Academy from 350 to 419 for Fiscal Year 2016 to accommodate the matriculation of the number of 6th through 10th grade students enrolled with the Charter Holder as of the 100th Day of Fiscal Year 2015 and the enrollment of students in 6th grade for Fiscal Year 2016 consistent with the 6th grade enrollment as of the 100th Day of Fiscal Year 2015.

Option 2: Notwithstanding staff's recommendation to approve a portion of the request, the Board may approve the Enrollment Cap Notification Request as submitted. The following language is provided for consideration: I move that, having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the academic performance of the Charter Holder, the Board has sufficient basis to deny the request due to the Charter Holder's failure to meet or demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board's academic expectations set forth in the academic performance framework as reflected in the Staff Report, the Inventory Document, and the DSP Final Evaluation. Data and analysis provided by the Charter Holder does not demonstrate improved academic performance based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources. However, the Charter Holder has provided evidence that it has consistently implemented a comprehensive curriculum system, comprehensive assessment system, comprehensive instructional monitoring system, and comprehensive professional development system. All that taken into consideration, I move to approve the request to increase the enrollment cap of Trivium Preparatory Academy to 605, for the reasons that:

- (Board member must specify reasons the Board found during its consideration.).

Option 3: The Board may deny the Enrollment Cap Notification Request. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, to deny the request to increase the enrollment cap of Trivium Preparatory Academy, for the reasons that:

- The Charter Holder failed to demonstrate sufficient progress towards meeting the Board's academic performance expectations, and
- (Board member may specify additional reasons the Board found during its consideration.)