

## AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grade Level Change to Charter with Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

### Request

Empower College Prep (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades 3-12 to grades K-12, and an enrollment cap request to increase the enrollment cap from 915 to 1200, beginning in FY 2021. This expansion request accounts for three years of projected student enrollment.

*See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.*

The Charter Holder is making this request in order to fulfill its mission to “prepare students from the low-income community it serves to succeed in college.” The Charter Holder’s rationale states that adding K-2 will allow them to “begin with students sooner, increase the academic results of [our] students, and satisfy the wishes of the families in [our] community.” The narrative also states that parents have expressed a desire to have children begin at the school sooner. The staffing plan notes hiring one additional teacher in each grade of K-3, one elementary elective teacher, one elementary special education teacher, and four high school teachers to accommodate anticipated growth at the high school. Promotion criteria indicates K-2 students must grow at least one grade level on the Developmental Reading Assessment and score 60% or higher on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Galileo benchmark exam to promote to the next grade.

### Three Year Plan

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Grade Levels</b>	3-12	K-12	K-12	K-12
<b>Enrollment</b>	789	960	1140	1200

### Staff Recommendation

The Charter Holder has not met the criteria to receive a staff recommendation for expansion.

Staff Recommendation Criteria	Analysis
<b>In operation for three years.</b>	The Charter Holder has been in operation for seven years.
<b>“Meets Operational Performance Expectations” based on the dashboards for the most recent two prior years and the current year.</b>	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations.
<b>“Meets the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations” based on the most recent dashboard.</b>	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations.
<b>If the new grades requested do not have prior grade level cohorts, ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.</b>	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 728.723. The Charter Holder is operating at 80% of its current enrollment cap of 915.
<b>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 location.</b>	Empower College Prep <b>does not</b> perform at or above the average performance of nearby schools in ELA. Empower College Prep <b>does</b> perform at or above the average performance of nearby schools in Math.  Empower College Prep High School <b>does not</b> perform at or above the average performance of nearby schools in ELA and Math.  Information regarding nearby schools is provided on page 3.

**Past enrollment trends indicate the charter will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years.**

ADM in FY 2018 was 679.164, in FY 2019 was 646.344, and in FY 2020 is 728.723 (as of October 17, 2019). Based on past enrollment trends, and the addition of K-2, the charter will exceed its enrollment cap of 915 in the next three years.

## Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2012.

### Governance

#### Corporate Board Members

<b>Sheila Breen</b>
<b>Kevin Erickson</b>
<b>Brian Holman</b>
<b>Genaro Perez</b>
<b>Patricia Welborn</b>

### School Profiles

School Name	Empower College Prep			Empower College Prep High School		
Date Open	August 2012			August 2016		
Location	Phoenix			Phoenix		
Grades Served	3-8			9-12		
FY 19 Letter Grade	B			B		
	<b>FY 17</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>FY 17</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>FY 19</b>
ELA AzMERIT (42% <sup>+</sup> )	20%	19%	21%	38%	27%	25%
Math AzMERIT (42% <sup>+</sup> )	23%	25%	41%	*	38%	27%
Science AIMS (52% <sup>+</sup> )	36%	46%	25%	25%	38%	42%

<sup>+</sup>FY 19 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.

### Targeted School Improvement

Empower College Prep High School was identified for Targeted School Improvement in FY 2018 for the subgroup Students with Disabilities. Empower College Prep was identified for Targeted School Improvement in FY 2018 for the subgroup English Language Learners.

FY 18 Targeted School Improvement Data-Students with Disabilities Empower College Prep High School					
Subgroup Number of Students Tested-Math	Subgroup % Passing-Math	Total Number of Students Tested-Math	Subgroup Number of Students Tested-ELA	Subgroup % Passing-ELA	Total Number of Students Tested-ELA
34	3	322	31	13	258

FY 18 Targeted School Improvement Data-English Language Learners Empower College Prep					
Subgroup Number of Students Tested-Math	Subgroup % Passing-Math	Total Number of Students Tested-Math	Subgroup Number of Students Tested-ELA	Subgroup % Passing-ELA	Total Number of Students Tested-ELA
116	4	362	114	<2	360

Additional School Choices Serving Grades 3-8 within 5 Miles of Empower College Prep

Total Schools	FY 19 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 19 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>42%)	Math (>42%)	Science (>52%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
15	A	9	15	15	13	1	0	4
20	B	7	8	8	11	5	4	12
33	C	7	0	3	5	15	11	25
8	D	3	0	0	0	5	1	6
4	F	1	0	0	0	3	2	4

Comparison of Nearby Schools to Empower College Prep

Total Schools	FY 19 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 19 State Assessment Data Greater than Empower College Prep		
			AzMERIT ELA (>21%)	AzMERIT Math (>41%)	AIMS Science (>25%)
15	A	9	15	15	15
20	B	7	20	8	18
33	C	7	26	4	28
8	D	3	5	0	6
4	F	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Number of Schools Performing Better than Empower College Prep (Percentage of Total)</b>					
80		27	66 (83%)	27 (34%)	68 (85%)

Additional School Choices Serving Grades 9-12 within 5 Miles of Empower College Prep High School

Total Schools	FY 19 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 19 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>42%)	Math (>42%)	Science (>52%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
12	A	7	6	12	8	1	2	9
6	B	4	1	1	0	1	0	6
6	C	1	0	0	0	5	2	6

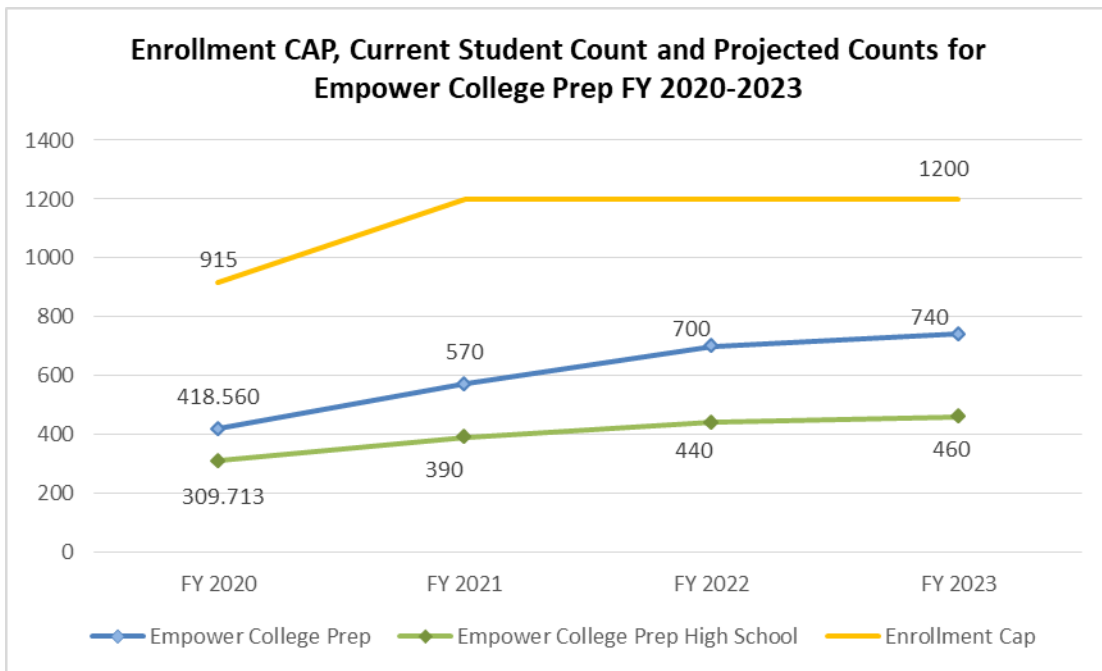
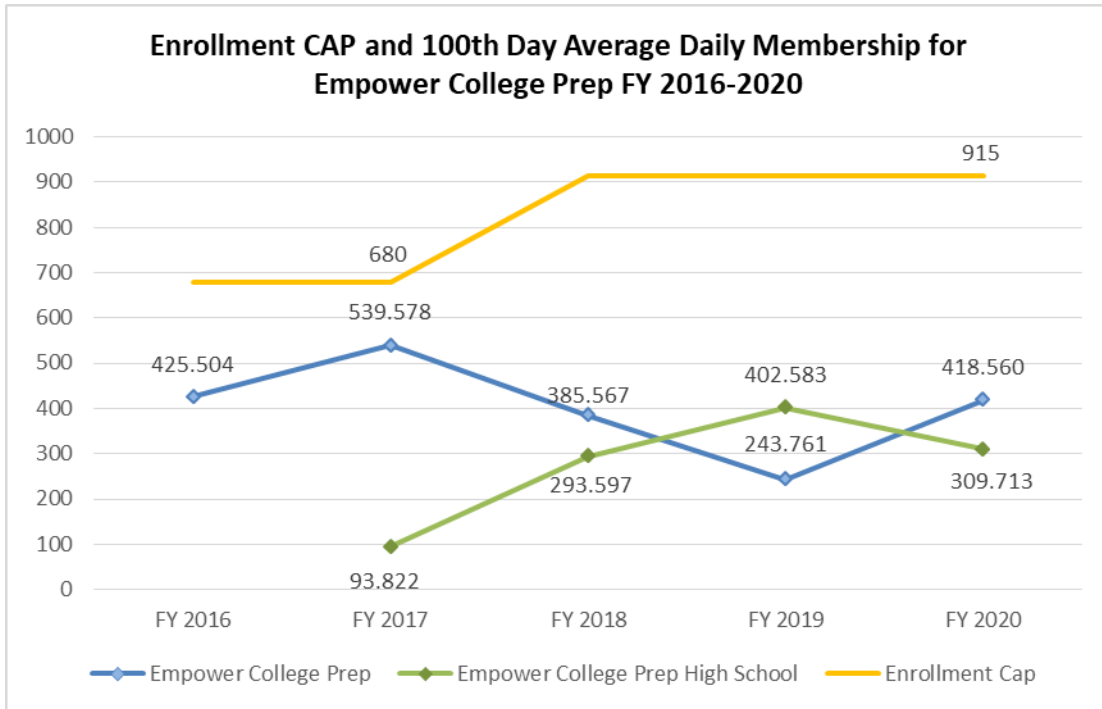
Comparison of Nearby Schools to Empower College Prep High School

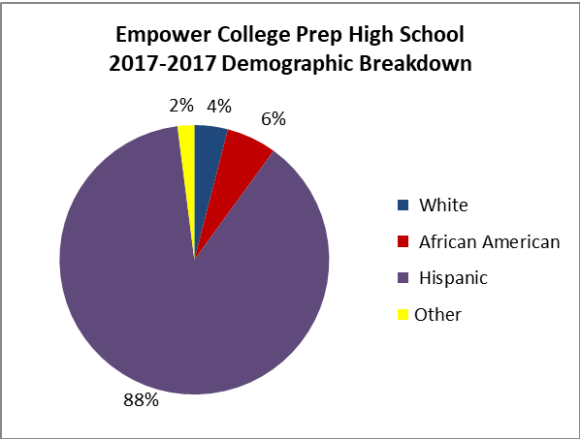
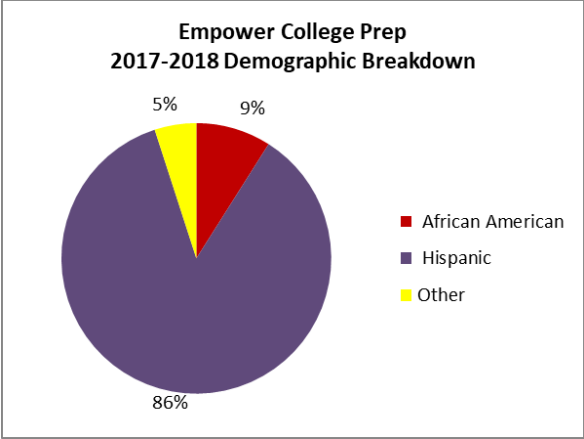
Total Schools	FY 19 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 19 State Assessment Data Greater than Empower College Prep High School		
			AzMERIT ELA (>25%)	AzMERIT Math (>27%)	AIMS Science (>42%)
12	A	7	12	12	11
6	B	4	4	3	2
6	C	1	1	1	0
<b>Total Number of Schools Performing Better than Empower College Prep High School (Percentage of Total)</b>					
24		12	17 (71%)	16 (67%)	13 (55%)



Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2016–FY 2019, and FY 2020 ADM as of October 16, 2019.





**Empower College Prep  
2017-2018 Subgroup Data**

Free and Reduced Lunch	94%
English Language Learners	28%
Special Education	14%

**Empower College Prep High School  
2017-2018 Subgroup Data**

Free and Reduced Lunch	93%
English Language Learners	20%
Special Education	10%

