

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

Request

Khalsa Montessori Elementary Schools (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades K-6 to grades K-8, beginning in FY 2020. This expansion request accounts for three years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.

According to the Charter Holder “due to a robust wait list, a growing interest in the school’s Montessori program, and high retention of current students”, it is requesting to add 7th and 8th grade. The school has been preparing for this transition since FY 2018, when enrollment in the Upper Elementary increased from 36 to 44 students. To help meet the proposed enrollment targets, the school has established annual events for prospective families to become familiar with the program, weekly school tours, and annual Montessori Silent Journey and Discovery presentations. For FY 2020, the school has committed to send the schools tenured Upper Elementary teacher to Montessori Secondary I (Middle School Training) to support implementation of the expansion. Additionally, the school has recruited a front-office secretary to maintain administrative operations for the middle school site, in addition to a part-time administrator that will oversee operations. Promotion criteria from 7th to 8th grade includes demonstration of appropriate readiness with 90% proficiency in academic work and 80% proficiency in social and emotional maturity.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels	K-6	K-7	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	145	171	203	203

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 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.
Grade level cohorts are at capacity and could fill enrollment for new grades requested.	Grade level cohorts are at capacity. Enrollment can be filled for the new grades requested. The sixth grade cohort is enrolled at 15, which is near capacity for this grade level. Enrollment for the requested 7th grade could be filled in FY 2020, and continue on to 8th grade in FY 2021.
ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 132.149. The Charter Holder is currently operating at 53% of its current enrollment cap of 250. When adjusted for Kindergarten, the Charter Holder’s reported ADM is 147.149, which demonstrates it is operating at 59% of its current enrollment cap.

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.

Khalsa Montessori Elementary School performs at or above the average performance in ELA and Math.

Information about nearby schools can be found on page 3.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a renewal charter in 2010.

Governance

Corporate Board Members

Elizabeth Bernreuter
Lindsay Caglio
Thomas Caglio
Keerat Giordano
Bryan Murphy
Sara Park
Karen Paxton

School Profile

School Name	Khalsa Montessori Elementary School		
Date Open	August 1996		
Location	Phoenix		
Grades Served	K-6		
FY 18 Letter Grade	A		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (41%+)	96%	95%	85%
Math AzMERIT (41%+)	82%	97%	80%
Science AIMS (52%+)	*	*	86%

**FY 18 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.*

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-6 within 5 Miles of Khalsa Montessori Elementary School

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%)
11	A	5	11	11	11	*	*	*
20	B	6	6	4	4	*	*	*
41	C	9	1	2	4	*	*	*
8	D	3	0	0	0	*	*	*
2	F	2	0	0	0	*	*	*

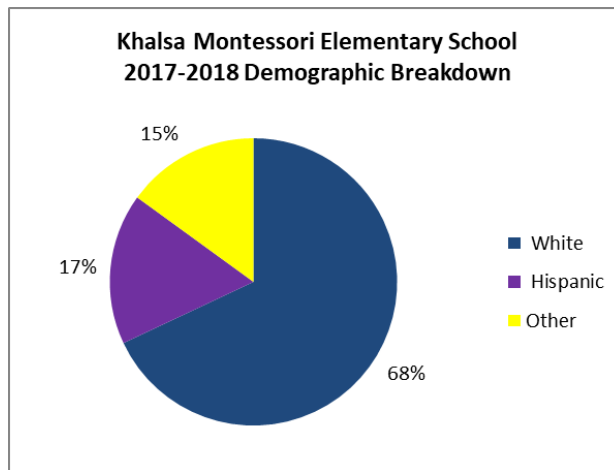
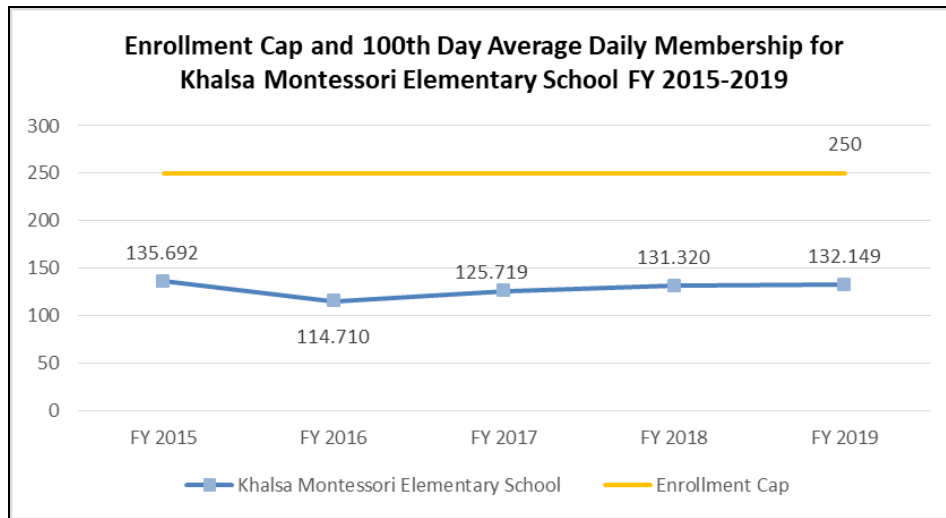
**Because the percentage of FRL, ELL, and SPED students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.*

Comparison of Nearby Schools to Khalsa Montessori Elementary School

Total Schools	FY 18 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 18 State Assessment Data Greater than Khalsa Montessori Elementary School		
			AzMERIT ELA (>85%)	AzMERIT Math (>80%)	AIMS Science (>86%)
11	A	5	1	2	2
20	B	6	0	0	0
41	C	9	0	0	0
8	D	3	0	0	0
2	F	2	0	0	0
Total Number of Schools Performing Better than Khalsa Montessori Elementary School (Percentage of Total)					
82		25 (30%)	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2015–FY 2019.



No data was available for the percentage of students served by the Charter Holder in FY 2017–2018 who are classified as students eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, English Language Learners, and Special Education.

