AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Heritage Academy, Inc.

Heritage Academy, Inc. (HAI) submitted a complete replication application on September 30, 2013. The corporate entity seeks a charter to replicate Heritage Academy and to operate a school in the Laveen neighborhood of Phoenix, AZ. The school will be named Heritage Academy Laveen and will serve students in grades 7 through 12. HAI is an Arizona non-profit corporation that was incorporated on February 11, 1994. HAI currently holds one charter, which operates 2 school sites: Heritage Academy in Mesa, and Heritage Academy Queen Creek in Queen Creek.

HAI met the Board's academic requirements to be eligible to apply for a replication charter.

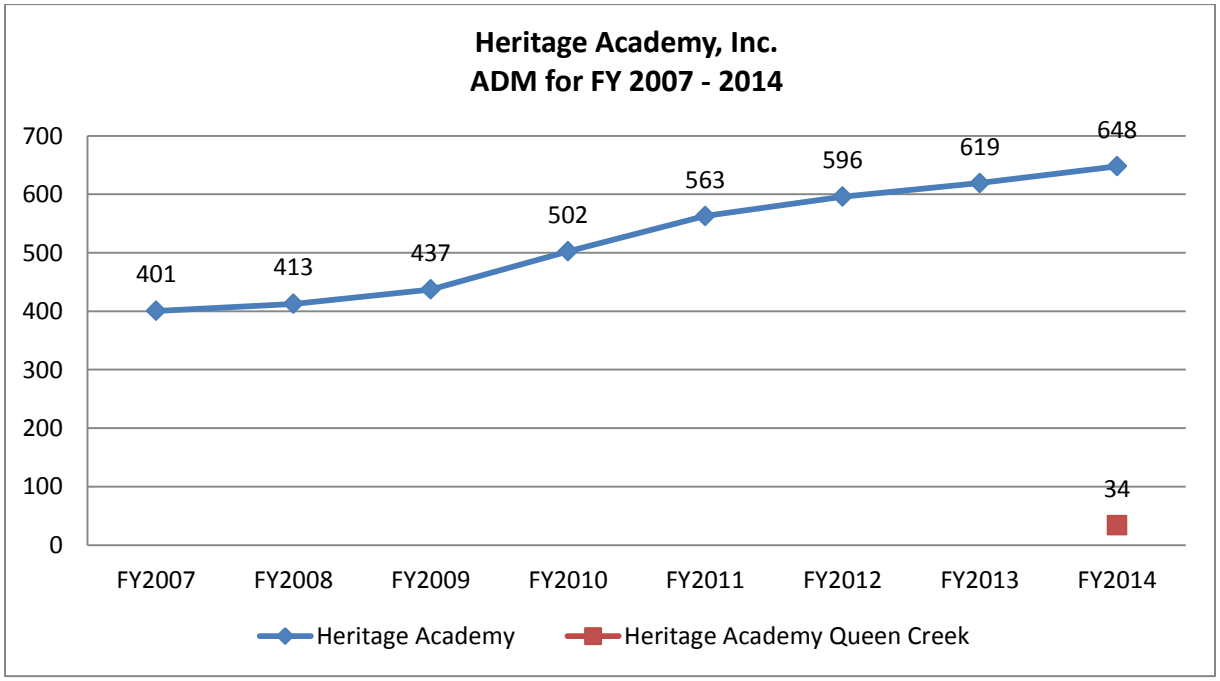
Replication Model – Heritage Academy

Grades Served – 7-12

Mission - The purpose of education is to build strong character. Strong character is reflected in strong families, strong communities and a strong nation. While teaching the academic disciplines, Heritage Academy is dedicated to instilling into the minds and hearts of today's youth a knowledge of and respect for the ideals and values of the great men and women of history, including those who founded the American nation. As today's rising generation gains an appreciation of these people of accomplishment they will be ready to provide the selfless service to their fellow citizens and to their country which will be required in the coming years to assist in restoring American greatness. Heritage Academy exists to this end.

Enrollment

Heritage Academy has experienced steady growth. The table below summarizes enrollment in the last eight years, based on ADE 100th day ADM (FY 2014 enrollment is based Charter School Estimated Counts). The enrollment cap was increased from 675 to 825 in June 2013. Heritage Academy Queen Creek opened in August 2013.



(Data provided by Arizona Department of Education)

ACADEMICS

Heritage Academy, the Replication Model School, is eligible to replicate based on three years of academic performance meeting the Board's expectations, summarized in the table below:

Fiscal Year	Grades Served	State Letter Grade	Overall Rating
FY2013	7-12	A	86.88
FY2012	7-12	A	88.75
FY2011	7-12	B	n/a

The Academic Dashboard of the Replication Model School is provided below:

Heritage Academy

Edit this section.

Heritage Academy

		2012 Traditional K-12 School (7-12)			2013 Traditional K-12 School (7-12)		
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	59.5	75	10	51	75	10
	Reading	58	75	10	55	75	10
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	61.5	75	10	64	75	10
	Reading	55	75	10	60	75	10
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	86 / 59.7	100	7.5	91 / 61.8	100	7.5
	Reading	96 / 79.1	100	7.5	96 / 80.7	100	7.5
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	20	100	5	22.8	100	5
	Reading	12.3	75	5	10.7	75	5
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	39 / 15.3	75	7.5	44 / 13.1	100	7.5
	Reading	75 / 36.4	100	7.5	65 / 32.1	100	7.5
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		A	100	5	A	100	5
4. Graduation		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
4a. Graduation		92	100	15	92	100	15
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Sooring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exoeeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		86.88		100	88.75		100

http://online.asbcs.az.gov/schools/information/1123/heritage-academy#academic-performance-tab[11/13/2013 4:40:42 PM]

The other school operated by HAI, Heritage Academy Queen Creek, is in its first year of operation and does not have an academic dashboard.

EDUCATIONAL PLAN

The following summary was created from excerpts and summaries of the information submitted for the applicant's Education Plan.

In the application, HAI has affirmed that the Educational Plan of the new entity and school will be consistent with the Educational Plan of the existing entity and Replication Model School, and that the target population of

the new school may be similar to the population of the Replication Model School, with differences addressed below.

Educational Plan

According to the narrative, the core curriculum at Heritage Academy is designed to prepare for college and/or career. Junior High courses at Heritage Academy are designed to meet or exceed the basic requirements in English, History, Math and Science before progressing on to high school. The curriculum is supplemented with classical languages, reading, and writing. Dual Enrollment courses through a partnership with Rio Salado College and Grand Canyon University enable students to earn college credit while attending high school.

The narrative describes methods of instruction including: the Harvard Case Study model, spiral learning, consistent reading of the classics, primary document reading, simulations, dialectics, and Socratic methods. The curriculum is delivered in a four-day, 95 min.-block schedule with classroom sizes which vary between 20-25 students for most academic classes. Details can be found on pages 11-14 of the application packet (presented in the application portfolio: b. Application Package).

Target Population and Enrollment

Demographic Profile	Heritage Academy	Proposed Target Population of Heritage Academy Laveen
White	80%	13%
Hispanic	13%	67%
Black	2%	15%
Hawaiian/Asian/Two or more races	4%	3%
Native American	Not provided	5%
Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility	Estimated approx. 35%	66%
SPED	4%	12%
ELL	1%	19%

In their analysis of how the implementation of the existing program of instruction will meet the needs of the target population, HAI states that the existing program, small school, small class size, and family-type environment of Heritage Academy has been effective with various student populations, and will be equally successful in meeting the needs of the target population. In further clarification provided by the Authorized Representative, the Applicant stated that their philosophical approach is based on setting high academic and behavioral standard. HAI anticipates that in the target population with lower academic performance then their current site, the enrollment placement test may result in a higher proportion of, for example, grade-level math rather than advanced math.

To compare the population entering Heritage Academy with the target population of Heritage Academy Laveen, HAI presented data comparing the AIMS percent passing in the feeder grades of Mesa Unified School District with comparable data from Laveen Elementary School District.

Grade	Subject	Mesa Unified	Laveen Elementary
6	Math	68	59
	Reading	84	75
7	Math	66	61
	Reading	85	81
8	Math	62	57
	Reading	73	66

The narrative describes the enrollment procedure. “To ensure high academic standards and proper graduation, Heritage Academy uses a placement process, which uses assessment tests and tools in the areas of math and English to properly place the scholar in the academic level for which he or she qualifies. As a result of the

placement process, if it is if it is determined that an applicant, particularly for the seventh grade, has not mastered sixth grade skills, he or she will not be admitted to Heritage Academy. Students who wish to enter the 9th grade will be expected to meet above requirements or demonstrate having mastered 8th grade skills. Once a program, class, grade level, or building has reached its capacity, then applicants for that program, class, grade level or building will be placed on a waiting list. As slots become available, applications will be processed in the order they were entered on the waiting list." Details can be found on page 8 of the application packet (presented in the application portfolio: b. Application Package).

OPERATIONAL PLAN

The following summary was created from excerpts and summaries of the documents submitted for the applicant's Operational Plan.

In the application, HAI has affirmed that organizational structure and governance structure will be consistent with the organizational structure and governance structure of the existing charter. The applicant plans to open the proposed site at full capacity, serving 650 students in grades 7-12.

The replication charter will be held by Heritage Academy Laveen, Inc. (HALI), which is a new entity. HALI is an Arizona non-profit corporation, located in Mesa, AZ, that was incorporated on September 26, 2013 for charitable and educational purposes, with two Directors: Jared Taylor and Earl Taylor. Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-183 (E)(8), a School Governing Body separate from the corporate board will be established, and will follow the same membership structure and responsibilities as the governing body for Heritage Academy.

The narrative describes the strategic growth plan of HAI, which includes opening replication campuses in Laveen and in Queen Creek. The narrative states that HAI has the necessary capacity to expand due to a strong board of directors and a partnership with a prominent real estate developer, VIP Homes, who will build facilities designed for the Heritage Academy education model. HAI recently opened a new site in Queen Creek, and has gained experience in many of areas related to expansion. Details can be found on page 15 of the application packet (presented in the application portfolio: b. Application Package).

BUSINESS PLAN

The following summary was created from excerpts and summaries of the documents submitted for the applicant's Business Plan.

Site Information

Proposed School Name:	Heritage Academy Laveen
Proposed Location:	Unconfirmed location: Within 2.5 miles of the intersection of 43rd Avenue and West Baseline Road in Laveen.
Proposed Facility:	Heritage Academy Laveen will lease a 50,000+ square foot facility with space for 25 classrooms, office space, multipurpose room, performance space, gym and science labs from VIP Homes, which will purchase the site and build the facility.

Financial Performance of Applicant

Based on the financial performance of HAI as measured by the Financial Performance Framework, the applicant was not required to submit additional financial information or budgets.

BOARD OPTIONS

Option 1: The Board may approve the replication application package. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that

the Board approve the replication application and grant the replication charter to Heritage Academy Laveen, Inc. to establish Heritage Academy Laveen charter school to serve grades 7-12.

Option 2: The Board may deny the replication application. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the request for the replication charter of Heritage Academy, Inc. to establish a charter school for the reason:

- (list the specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration).