AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Heritage Academy, Inc.

Issue: The Board tabled consideration of the application pending additional information being received related to the applicant's enrollment processes. Heritage Academy, Inc. (HAI) has submitted a revised application for consideration.

The corporate entity seeks a charter to replicate Heritage Academy and to operate a school in Queen Creek, AZ. The school will be named Heritage Academy Queen Creek 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.

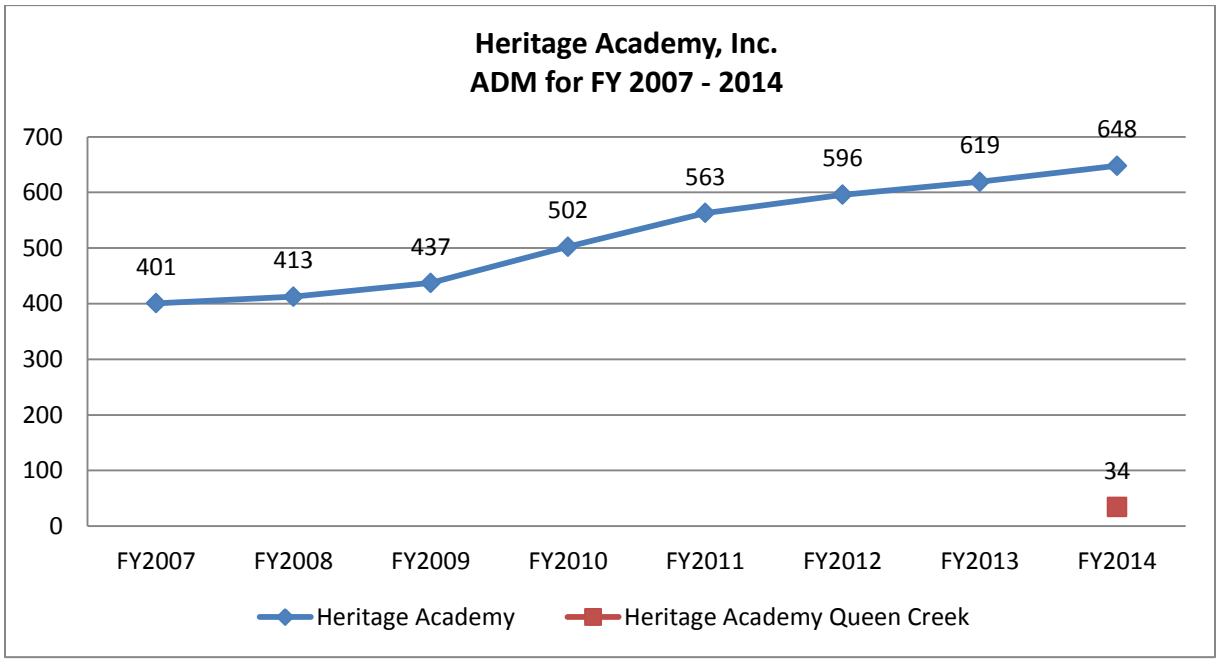
Replication Model – Heritage Academy

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 / 34.4	100	7.5	65 / 32.3	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 Queen Creek
White	80%	68%
Hispanic	13%	25%
Black	2%	4%
Hawaiian/Asian/Two or more races	4%	3%
Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility	Estimated approx. 35%	20%
SPED	4%	12%
ELL	1%	4%

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

Grade	Subject	Mesa Unified	Queen Creek Unified
6	Math	68	84
	Reading	84	91
7	Math	66	78
	Reading	85	91
8	Math	62	74
	Reading	73	84

The narrative describes the enrollment procedure. "Heritage Academy may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level. Scholars must be at least 12 years old by December 31st of the year of enrollment. Heritage services grades 7-12, with no more than 120 students within each grade. Heritage Academy may refuse to admit any student who has been expelled from another educational institution or who is in the process of being expelled from another educational institution. No incomplete application will be placed

on the waiting list. Once space availability is determined, those on the waiting lists will be contacted and scheduled for a placement test and then scheduled for a pre-admittance interview. This interview will inform the prospective scholar and parents of our school policies, specifically determine if the scholar will fill a space that is available, answer any other questions, and enroll the scholar if he/she still desires." 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 Organization 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 Queen Creek, Inc. (HAQCI), which is a new entity. HAQCI 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

In further clarification provided by the Authorized Representative, the Applicant stated that the replication school would be located at the site of the current Queen Creek campus at 19470 E. Alamosa Dr., Queen Creek, which opened in August 2013 under the HAI charter. It is the intent of the applicant that the current Queen Creek students will transfer from the HAI charter site to the replication charter site. The current Heritage Academy Queen Creek school site is leasing modular facilities from the developer, VIP Homes, which has purchased the site and will build the facility. From August 2014, Heritage Academy Queen Creek will lease from the developer a 50,000+ square foot facility with space for 25 classrooms, office space, multipurpose room, performance space, gym, and science labs.

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 Queen Creek, Inc. to establish Heritage Academy Queen Creek 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).