

AGENDA ITEM: The Educational Options Foundation Application Overview

The Educational Options Foundation submitted an application for a new charter school on August 1, 2008.

- The Educational Options Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on August 7, 2008 with the purpose of providing public education to students in the state of Arizona.
- The name of the school is EdOptions High School and will be located in Tempe, Arizona.
- The applicant will serve grades 9-12 and have an enrollment cap of 200 in the first year and grow to 400 by year three while serving the same grade levels.
- The applicant has met all the substantive eligibility criteria as documented in the following pages and in the [attached scoring rubric](#).
- Fingerprint clearance cards and background information including credit, employment and education have been verified.

The Educational Options Foundation	
Instructional Program	
Mission	The mission of Educational Options Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and the community by providing a high quality educational experience in a school environment that recognizes the needs of traditional and non-traditional students and blends technology and instruction into a teacher managed educational experience that provides each student superior opportunities for success.
Description of Community and Target Market	Southern Ave and 101 Freeway, the school will serve Tempe, Chandler, and Mesa. The target population will be students seeking a nontraditional, flexible, path to high school graduation.
Methods of Instruction	Courses will be taught using diverse instructional methods that integrate teacher instruction and student-paced, web-delivered content. Each student will work in a computer lab on campus.
School Calendar	Alternative calendar with 180 instructional days 6 days per week with a start date of August 10, 2009.
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	Thomas E. Sawner, William J. Sawner
Governing Body	2 Charter Organization Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas E. Sawner, William J. Sawner 3 Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Site Information	
Location	2150 E Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282
Secured Facility	15,000 sq ft facility that will have 8 classrooms and have the capacity to serve 200 students per academic session.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	9-12	200	1
2	9-12	300	1
3	9-12	400	1

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant's Background Information:

1. The corporation has two members, with both serving on the governing board:
 - Thomas E. Sawner, Ed.D: CEO, Educational Options, Inc. Dr. Sawner has over thirty years experience as an US Air Force Officer, business consultant, professional speaker and CEO. Air Force Academy graduate with double majors in economics and management and holds a Master of Aeronautical Science and a Master of Business Administration. He received his Doctorate from the George Washington University Executive Leadership Program in Human Resource Development.
 - William J. Sawner, MA: Vice President, Educational Options, Inc. Mr. Sawner has over twenty years experience in design, software development, management consulting, training development, and business management. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Design from the University of Illinois and a Master of Organizational Management Degree from The University of Phoenix.

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

All EdOptions High School courses will be taught using diverse instructional methods that integrate teacher instruction and student-paced, web-delivered content. The school believes that offering a hybrid method of teacher modeled instruction and online instruction (fundamentally guided lesson practice leading to mastery) will insure that all lesson objectives are mastered. EdOptions High School will have access to Pre-assessment courses, High School Prep™, and TestPak™ as part of the Stars Suite™ curriculum package licensed to the school.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all areas of the Comprehensive Program of Instruction.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The applicant, Educational Options Foundation, is incorporated in Arizona and is separate from Educational Options, Inc. which is incorporated in Virginia and resides in Arlington, VA. Educational Options, Inc. will serve as the leasing and purchasing agent for the Foundation. Educational Options, Inc. also owns Blue Ridge International Academy which is a web based high school. Educational Options, Inc. has been providing web-based high school content to schools across the country for ten years and provided web-delivered content to over 199,000 students in 2007.

The physical assets remain the property of the Educational Options, Inc. during the start-up period and the actual operation of the EdOptions High School. Educational Options, Inc. will provide the long-term financial backing and start-up financing to launch and operate the charter school successfully. Educational Options, Inc. will provide directly or through Blue Ridge International Academy, web-based curriculum, school staff, IT infrastructure, and student computers on a pay for services basis. This will allow EdOptions High School to obligate for the specific hardware, software, and personnel needed on a just-in-time basis and pay a monthly fee for the services and equipment provided.

The operational budget is based on a first year projected enrollment of 200 students. First year expenditures total \$1,417,350 and the applicant is projecting a Budget Balance of \$35,339.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all the areas of the Detailed Business Plan.

Motion Notes for The Educational Options Foundation:

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a 9-12 program.
- The application meets all the scoring criteria in both the Program of Instruction and Business Plan sections.