

AGENDA ITEM: Inspired Caring Education, Inc. Application Overview

Inspired Caring Education, Inc. submitted an application for a new charter school on August 1, 2008.

- Inspired Caring Education, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on May 25, 2006, with the purpose of conducting public education.
- The name of the school is Rising Stars Academy and will be located in Tucson, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-5 and have an enrollment cap of 240 in the first year. The cap will remain at 240 through year three while serving the same grade levels.
- The applicant has not met all the substantive eligibility criteria as documented in the following pages and in the [attached scoring rubric](#). However, the applicant included a letter requesting the Board’s consideration.
- Fingerprint clearance cards and background information for all appropriate parties were provided and verified. Additional information has been provided.

Inspired Caring Education, Inc.	
Instructional Program	
Mission	Inspired Caring Education, Inc. dba Rising Stars Academy will provide stimulating, caring education to elementary school children. In so doing, children will be lifted to new heights in personal and academic growth and development. Each child will be encouraged to find their own unique abilities and use those to achieve academic and personal excellence.
Description of Community and Target Market	Rising Stars Academy will serve an urban community in the city of Tucson. The school will be located at 2700 East 36 th Street. Target market is 60% Hispanic, 30% White, and 7% Black. The median family income is \$27,000.
Methods of Instruction	Instructional methods include direct instruction that is highly scripted and provides fast-paced and constant interaction between students and teachers. The school will have a back-to-basics approach with rigorous instruction aligned to the state standards.
School Calendar	Standard 180 day schedule
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	Thomas LaVoie, John Cepen, and Charlie Wright
Governing Body	One Charter Organization Member: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas LaVoie One School Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet To Be Determined One Parent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet To Be Determined Two Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet To Be Determined
Site Information	
Location	Rising Stars Baptist Church 2700 East 36 th Street, Tucson, AZ 85713
Secured Facility	The school has secured a facility with 12 classrooms, two special education rooms, an office, a library, and a computer room. The facility has approximately 10,000 square feet.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-5	240	1
2	K-5	240	1
3	K-5	240	1

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant's Background Information:

1. The corporation has three members, with one serving on the governing board:
 - **Thomas R. LaVoie**: Mr. LaVoie is a CPA with LaVoie and Co., a Tucson CPA firm, and has worked as an independent auditor for charter schools. LaVoie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of Arizona. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants. Pursuant to background check, Mr. LaVoie's credit report, employment, and education verification was validated with no concerns.
 - **John J. Cebin, III**: Mr. Cebin is a Certified Family Therapist in private practice in Tucson, AZ. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Youngstown State University and an MA in Counseling from Grace Theological Seminary. The Board was unable to conduct a background check for Mr. Cebin.*
 - **Charlie G. Wright**: Mr. Wright works as an IT Director for Raytheon in Tucson, AZ. He has a BA in Mathematics from Western New Mexico University and earned an MBA from the University of Arizona. The Board was unable to conduct a background check for Mr. Wright.*

*In the original application, the corporate board had a single member, Thomas LaVoie. Revisions to the corporate membership were made and reflected in the revised submission. Staff has not had sufficient time to process background checks.

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

Rising Stars Academy targets a general elementary school population. The school will employ the "Direct Method" for instruction with a Back-to-Basics approach. To ensure that new concepts are thoroughly explained and to assist students in building on prior knowledge, the school will provide small group instruction to encourage auditory and hands on learners. Active learning will be another approach to instruction in order to apply concepts to real world learning. The school will also use cooperative learning to develop the skill of working with others. The school will use the Northwest Evaluation Association Assessment (NWEA) to assist in using data to drive instruction and to monitor student progress. The school will also use formative and summative assessments. Teachers will collaborate to review data as well as revise and plan weekly goals.

It should be noted that the curriculum submitted with the revised application contains all new unit samples for each required content area.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following areas of the Program of Instruction:

1. **Area 1.3.2c Second Grade Student Activities**
 - The student activities in the revised application do not align with the identified performance objective and the assessment does not allow students to demonstrate proficiency on the identified performance objective.
2. **Area 1.3.2d Second Grade Assessment**
 - The Math Assessment in the new curriculum with the resubmitted application does not allow the students the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on the identified PO.
3. **Area 1.4c Comprehensive Program of Instruction – Monitoring**
 - The revised application does not address the stated concern and clarify how monitoring and documenting will impact curricular decisions.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The applicant has secured private donations in the amount of \$300,000 for start-up purposes as well as having been awarded a three year Planning and Implementation Grant from the US Department of Education in the amount of \$450,000. The operational budget is based on 70% of projected enrollment in the first year, 80% in the second year, and 90% in Year Three. The application has a sufficient amount of budget balance should it be required.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area of the Detailed Business Plan:

1. Area 2.1b - Corporate Principals

- The revised application changed its corporate membership and does not contain current documentation for the change on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Motion Notes for Inspired Caring Education, Inc.:

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a K-5 program.
- The application fails to meet the scoring criteria due to one section in the curriculum samples with more than one “Approaches.”
- The applicant failed to provide documentation of a current corporate membership on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission.