

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grade Level Change and Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades K – 8 to grades K - 10, and to increase the enrollment cap from 480 to 730 beginning in FY 2019.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request and Support Materials.

Arizona Montessori Charter School at Anthem’s narrative states that a feasibility study that included a stakeholder survey and town hall meeting concluded that Anthem and the surrounding area are in need of more high school options than the two currently present. The five-year projection population for the area is increasing 1.34% annually from 2015-2020. The Charter Holder states that for the past three years their K – 8 school, Caurus Academy, had a 135% growth in student enrollment with an approximately 95% retention rate from 170 students in August 2014 to 402 students in November 2017. According to the Charter Holder this enrollment growth is due to a double digit increase in test scores on AzMERIT, teachers trained on data driven instruction, commitment to relationships, technology and higher-level learning. The staffing plan calls for hiring 12 additional staff for FY 2019 that includes adding a Dean of Students and full time Assistant Principal for leadership, eight content specific high school teachers, one specials teacher and one special education teacher. FY 2020 would increase high school teachers by three, one special education teacher, and one paraprofessional. FY 2021 staffing will add four high school teachers to match the increase in student enrollment. Criteria for awarding credit for all courses is based on student assessment growth and performance in each course, demonstration of mastery of standards and learning targets at or above 60% along with successful completion of the course final exam. High school graduation will require 22 credits.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Grade Levels	K-8	K-10	K-10	K-10
Enrollment	480	580	680	730

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 13 years.
“Meets Operational Standard” in the most recent Fiscal Year	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Meets” on the Operational Performance Dashboard in FY 2017.
“Meets Financial Performance Standard” based on the most recent dashboard	The Charter Holder received an Overall Rating of “Meets” on the FY 2016 and FY 2017 Financial Performance Dashboard.
Grade level cohorts are at capacity and/ or could fill enrollment for new grades requested	Grade level cohorts are at capacity. Enrollment can be filled for the new grades requested.



ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder's average daily membership is 402.118, which is within 83% of the current enrollment cap of 480 students. Enrollment data is provided on page 3.
Each school performs at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five mile radius of the school's location	AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy did not perform at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five-mile radius of the schools' location based on the FY 2017 AzMERIT for ELA. Information regarding nearby schools is provided on page 3.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2004.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Gaurav Auditya
Dameon Blair
Leah Parker
Christopher Prickett
William Wendt

School Profile

School Name	AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy
FY14 Letter Grade	A
Date Open	August 2004
Location	Anthem
Grade Levels	K - 8
ELA Percent Passing FY15;FY16;FY17 (AzMERIT FY17 average: 39%)	47%; 56%; 59%
Math Percent Passing FY15;FY16;FY17 (Az MERIT FY17 average: 40%)	38%; 48%; 67%
Science Percent Passing FY15; FY16; FY17 (AIMS FY17 average: 53%)	66%; 83%; 75%

Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-10 within 5 Miles of School

Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>39%)	Math (>40%)	Science (>53%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
5	A	1	5	5	5	2	5	5
2	B	0	2	2	2	0	2	1
1	NA	0	1	1	1	0	0	1

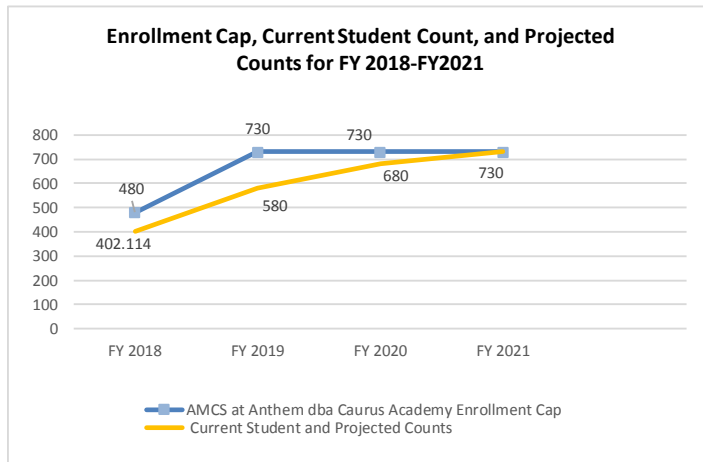
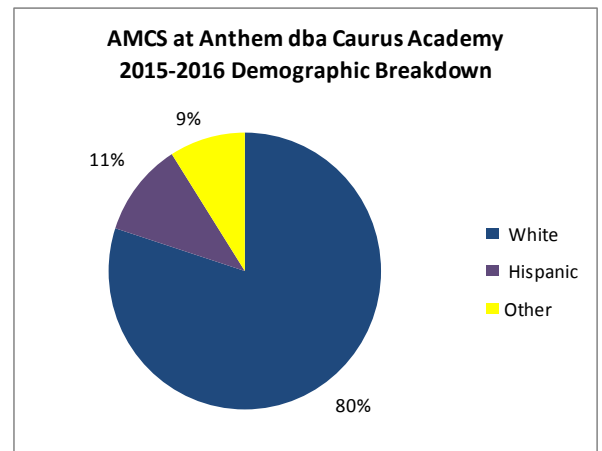
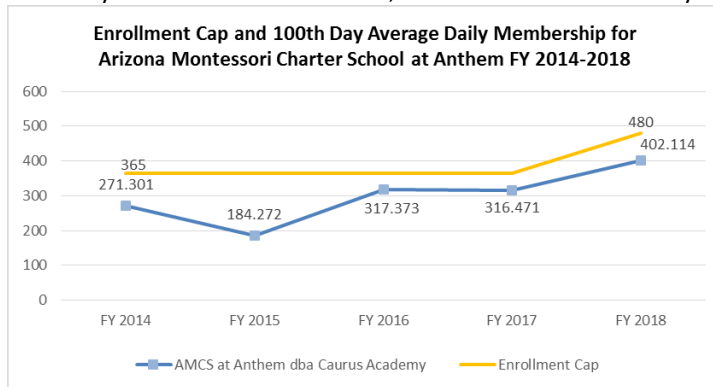


Comparison of nearby schools to AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy

Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of Charter Schools	FY 2017 AzMERIT and AIMS Science Greater than AMCS at Anthem dba Caurus Academy		
			ELA (>59%)	Math (>67%)	Science (>75%)
5	A	1	5	1	5
2	B	0	0	0	0
1	NA	0	1	0	1
Total Number of Schools (Percentage of total)					
8		1 (13%)	6 (75%)	1 (13%)	6 (75%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th day ADM for FY 2014-FY2017, FY 2018 ADM as of January 3, 2018.



2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	21%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	12%

**If the percentage of students is 0% or 100%, or the group includes less than 10 students, the percentage for that group is redacted.*

