

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

Request

Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy, Inc. (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades 7-12 to grades 6-12, and increase the enrollment cap from 340 to 350, beginning in FY 2019.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request and Support Materials.

The Charter Holder’s rationale states that adding 6th grade to the charter will bring Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (“FALA”) into alignment with the Flagstaff Union School District, who in 2010-11 consolidated their schools and created a middle school model that includes 6-8th grade. The Charter Holder states that this consolidation has gradually had a negative effect on the enrollment at FALA as students “would have to attend 5th grade in elementary school, a new middle school for 6th grade and then would need to transfer to FALA in 7th grade.” This results in students having to enroll in the three different schools, over three years, if they were to attend FALA starting in 7th grade. The narrative states that, “adding a 6th grade to FALA would fill a huge need within our community and would be a true asset to our growth and enrollment”. The addition of 6th grade would also facilitate an increase of the enrollment cap from 340 to 350, so an enrollment of 50 students per grade can be maintained. The provided staffing plan indicates that by utilizing their current staff of 23 full time content and specialty teachers, no additional instructional staff will be needed as the student to teacher ratio will continue to be 1:15. In addition, 1 Special Education (“SPED”) Director, 2 SPED teachers, and 2 SPED paraprofessionals are in place. The provided promotion criteria indicate that middle school students must be enrolled in 4 courses, for a total of 8 courses each semester, and earn a C or better in Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Liberal Studies.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Grade Levels	7-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Enrollment	289	344	350	350

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 21 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	Not applicable because the Charter Holder is requesting to add a grade level below the grades currently served at the school. The provided narrative indicates the school currently has an interest list of over 50 students for 6 th grade.



ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder's average daily membership is 284.844 students, which is within 84% of the current enrollment cap of 340 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	Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy did not perform at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five mile radius of the school's location based on the FY2017 AzMERIT for Math. Information regarding nearby schools is provided on page 2.
Profile	

The Charter Holder was granted a renewal charter in 2010.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Eli Cohen
Sharon Gorman
Judith Jordan
Heather Pierce
Laura Umphrey

School Profile

School Name	Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy
FY14 Letter Grade	A
Date Open	August 1996
Location	Flagstaff
Grade Levels	7-12
ELA Percent Passing FY15; FY16; FY17 (AzMERIT FY17 average: 39%)	55%; 54%; 46%
Math Percent Passing FY15; FY16; FY17 (AzMERIT FY17 average: 40%)	42%; 37%; 30%
Science Percent Passing FY15; FY16; FY17 (AIMS FY17 average: 53%)	65%; 69%; 63%

Additional School Choices Serving Grades 6-12 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	3	4	4	3	*	*	2
3	B	2	1	0	2	*	*	2
4	C	1	1	0	1	*	*	4

*Because the percentage of FRL, ELL, AND SPED students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.

Comparison of nearby schools to Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy

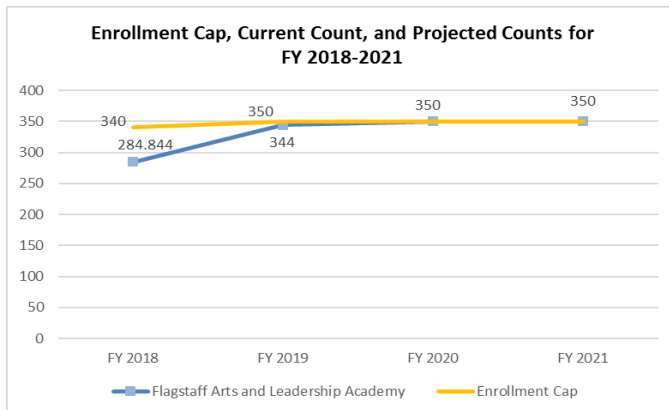
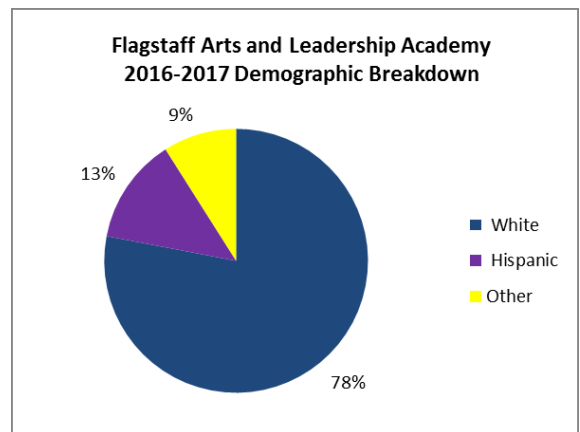
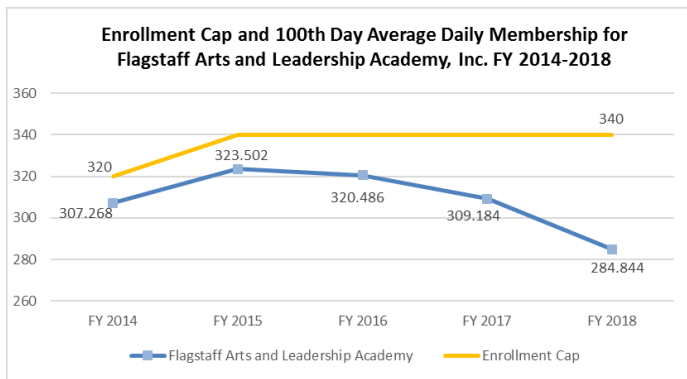
Total Schools	FY 2014 Letter Grade	Number of	FY 2017 AzMERIT and AIMS Science Greater than Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy
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		Charter Schools	ELA (>46%)	Math (>30%)	Science (>63%)
5	A	3	4	4	3
3	B	2	1	2	2
4	C	1	0	2	0
Total Number of Schools (Percentage of total)					
12		6 (50%)	5 (42%)	8 (67%)	5 (42%)

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	*
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	18%

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

