



JUNE 12, 2017

# Program of Instruction Amendment Report

American Charter Schools Foundation and  
Kaizen Education Foundation

**AGENDA ITEM: Program of Instruction Amendment Requests—American Charter Schools Foundation and Kaizen Education Foundation**

**Request**

Nine charters operated under the corporate entity, American Charter Schools Foundation (“ACSF”) and 5 charters operated under the corporate entity, Kaizen Education Foundation (“KEF”) have submitted a total of 14 requests to amend the charters’ programs of instruction at their alternative high schools to add methods of instruction for dropout recovery programs.

<b>Charter Holder requesting to amend its program of instruction</b>	<b>School Name</b>
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Alta Vista High School	Alta Vista High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Apache Trail High School	Apache Trail High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Crestview College Preparatory High School	Crestview College Preparatory High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Desert Hills High School	Desert Hills High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Estrella High School	Estrella High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Peoria Accelerated High School	Peoria Accelerated High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. South Pointe High School	South Pointe High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. Sun Valley High School	Sun Valley High School
American Charter Schools Foundation d.b.a. West Phoenix High School	West Phoenix High School
Kaizen Education Foundation dba El Dorado High School	El Dorado High School
Kaizen Education Foundation dba Maya High School	Maya High School
Kaizen Education Foundation dba Skyview High School	Skyview High School
Kaizen Education Foundation dba Summit High School	Summit High School
Kaizen Education Foundation dba Tempe Accelerated High School	Quest High School

**Background**

A dropout recovery program is a program that enrolls students who have already dropped out of public school and provides services designed to enable them to earn a high school diploma.

In accordance with the charter contract, when a charter holder makes changes or additions to its program of instruction, it is required to submit a program of instruction amendment request. Approval of the requests being considered today will serve to amend the program of instruction on file for each charter listed above. Prior to the Arizona Department of Education approving the operation of a dropout recovery program, the change in program must be filed with the Board.

**Governance**

The schools operated by ACSF and KEF are associated through a common education management organization, The Leona Group. ACSF currently holds ten charter contracts with the Board and operates a total of ten schools. KEF currently holds 16 charter contracts with the Board and operates a total of 17 schools.



### **American Charter Schools Foundation**

ACSF is governed by a corporate board. The corporate principals identified in the charter contract are aligned with the Arizona Corporation Commission. The corporate principals also act as the governing body and are responsible for the policy decisions of the schools.

<b>Corporate Board Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Linda Comer</b>	Chairman
<b>Theodore Frederick</b>	President
<b>Gina Conflitti</b>	Director
<b>John Matthews</b>	Director
<b>Matthew Proctor</b>	Director

### **Kaizen Education Foundation**

KEF is governed by a corporate board. The corporate principals identified in the charter contract are aligned with the Arizona Corporation Commission. The corporate principals also act as the governing body and are responsible for the policy decisions of the schools.

<b>Corporate Board Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Theodore Frederick</b>	President
<b>Jessica Brown</b>	Director
<b>Janna Wiseman</b>	Director
<b>Virginia Smith</b>	Director
<b>Gina Conflitti</b>	Director

### *Compliance*

As stated in Board policy, prior to an amendment request being considered by the Board, staff conducts a compliance check. The charter holders do not have any compliance issues.



## Summary of Current and Past Academic Performance

The academic performance of the 14 alternative high schools listed above that are requesting to amend the program of instruction is identified in the tables below.

### American Charter Schools Foundation

School Name	FY 2014 Letter Grade	FY 2016 AzMERIT ELA	FY 2016 AzMERIT Math	Five-Year Graduation Rate <sup>1</sup>	Dropout Rate <sup>2</sup>
		State Average 8% <sup>3</sup>	State Average 7%	State Average 49% <sup>4</sup>	State Average 17.37% <sup>5</sup>
<b>Alta Vista High School</b>	A-ALT	11	8	95%	1.99%
<b>Apache Trail High School</b>	C-ALT	4	5	39%	25.25%
<b>Crestview College Preparatory High School</b>	B-ALT	9	13	59%	17.57%
<b>Desert Hills High School</b>	B-ALT	12	8	53%	13.35%
<b>Estrella High School</b>	B-ALT	6	3	50%	11.43%
<b>Peoria Accelerated High School</b>	B-ALT	9	18	52%	15.13%
<b>South Pointe High School</b>	C-ALT	4	2	48%	23.31%
<b>Sun Valley High School</b>	C-ALT	9	11	75%	.35%
<b>West Phoenix High School</b>	C-ALT	5	4	45%	20.61%

### Kaizen Education Foundation

School Name	FY 2014 Letter Grade	FY 2016 AzMERIT ELA	FY 2016 AzMERIT Math	Five-Year Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
		State Average 8%	State Average 7%	State Average 49%	State Average 17.37%
<b>El Dorado High School</b>	C-ALT	4	2	32%	27.83%
<b>Maya High School</b>	C-ALT	5	10	38%	18.71%
<b>Quest High School</b>	C-ALT	4	3	23%	48.78%
<b>Skyview High School</b>	A-ALT	5	3	37%	20%
<b>Summit High School</b>	D-ALT	5	11	36%	22.7%

This information is provided to demonstrate the performance of the student population served at each school. Graduation Rate data indicates the extent to which each school is successful in graduating students in five years. Dropout Rate data is provided to indicate the potential population that can be served by the proposed program of instruction.

<sup>1</sup> The provided graduation rate is for the 2015 cohort. Per the Arizona Department of Education, graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates in the cohort by the number of students in the cohort.

<sup>2</sup> The provided dropout rate is from 2015. Per the Arizona Department of Education, "dropouts are defined as students who are enrolled in school at any time during the school year, but are not enrolled at the end of the school year and did not transfer, graduate, or die. When the dropout rate is calculated, year-end or exit codes are used to determine the percentage of students who are no longer enrolled in any Arizona public school prior to exiting as a graduate or completer. Students in grades 7 through 12 are included in the dropout rate calculation".

<sup>3</sup> AzMERIT data provided by the Arizona Department of Education. The provided state average reflects the average for alternative schools in FY 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Graduation Rate state average represents the unweighted average for alternative schools. This data was provided by the Center for Student Achievement. The data was derived from published data from the Arizona Department of Education.  
<http://centerforstudentachievement.org/alternative-schools-just-the-facts/>

<sup>5</sup> Dropout Rate average represents the unweighted average for alternative schools. This data was provided by the Center for Student Achievement. The data was derived from published data from the Arizona Department of Education.



## Request Summary

*Summaries of the documentation and narratives provided by the charter holders are provided below. Amendment request materials submitted by the charter holders are provided in Appendix A.*

### Rationale

The rationale provided for changing the program of instruction is “to ensure that students who are disengaged from school have an avenue to re-engage with their education and to continue to make progress toward high school graduation with structured support and mentoring”.

### Board Minutes

The submitted board minutes for American Charter Schools Foundation indicate that on May 11, 2016, the Board of Directors approved a motion to “approve a program of instruction amendment request for each alternative high school to add a drop-out recovery program”. Additionally, the submitted board minutes for Kaizen Education Foundation indicate that on May 11, 2016, the Board of Directors approved a motion to “approve a program of instruction amendment for each alternative high school to add a drop out recovery program”.

### Narrative

The requests are proposing to amend the program of instruction to add methods of instruction to support a dropout recovery program. The narratives provided with each of the requests included the same substantive information, included in the summary below.

Key components of the program would include access to tutoring provided by each school’s teachers, required sessions with an assigned mentor every two weeks, and access to career and college counseling, activities, and courses. Students would have “access to special education and related services” and would “participate in applicable state and district standardized tests”. Additionally, students will be provided with “opportunities to earn credit toward graduation” by participating in “on-site direct instruction courses taught by highly qualified teachers, computer-based education courses (on-site or offsite) taught by highly qualified teachers, work study credits, and community volunteering”.

Each of the schools included in this request are already designated as Alternative schools by the Arizona Department of Education, and the request is aligned with the mission of each of the schools. The charters intend to fully “roll-out” the dropout recovery programs in the 2017/2018 school year.