

Program of Instruction Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Ombudsman Educational Services, Ltd., a subsidiary of Educational Services of America

CTDS:
07-87-67-000

Mailing Address:
1585 North Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
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Representative

Name:
Allison O'Neill

Phone Number:
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Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Description of changes

Change From:


The current program of instruction emphasizes individualized learning plans targeted on improving academic skills in seven areas of study using technology driven instruction.

Change To:

Ombudsman is proposing to amend the program of instruction to clarify the blended learning environment which includes two methods of instruction in our schools. Method 1: Deliver classroom instruction to promote student achievement and Method 2: Foster and facilitate small group and independent learning. Additionally, students are given a graduation plan that outlines needed requirements from the state and our course catalog by semester.

Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Narrative that describes 1) the change, to include rationale and background and 2) how the program of instruction change will support the educational philosophy and target population served. —  [Download File](#)

Performance Management Plan Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Allison O'Neill 12/14/2015

**Ombudsman Charter Schools
Governing Board Minutes for August 13, 2015 Meeting**

Meeting Location: 13832 N. 32nd Street, Suite #C-218, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Meeting Time: 10:00am Arizona Time

I. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

- A. Allison O'Neill called the meeting to order.
- B. Ms. O'Neill asked Charlene Podolsky to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Ms. O'Neill asked Caroline Damask to call roll for the meeting.

Present were Board members Allison O'Neill, Mark Claypool, Ron Grimsley and Charlene Podolsky.

Present as guests were Ms. Damask, Binky Jones, Emily Langfeldt, Rudy Flores, Carol Ruhnke and Jenny Balmes of Ombudsman.

D. Approval of Agenda

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 13, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Podolsky and seconded by Mr. Grimsley to approve the agenda. Ms. Jones stated that she would like to introduce two items under New Business. A vote was called and the motion to approve the revised agenda passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes of the July 9, 2015 Board Meeting

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of July 9, 2015. A motion was made by Mr. Claypool and seconded by Ms. Podolsky to approve the minutes. A vote was called and the motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015 Board meeting passed unanimously.

E. Public Comment

Ms. O'Neill asked for any public comment. None was available.

II. ACTION ITEMS – Charter 1

A. Approve SY16 Proposition 301 Plans

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 1. A motion was made by Mr. Claypool and seconded by Ms. Podolsky to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 1. Ms. O'Neill asked Ms. Jones to give an overview of the plans. Ms. Jones answered questions from the Board. A vote was called and the motion to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 1 passed unanimously.

B. Approve Program of Instruction

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 1. A motion was made by Mr. Grimsley and seconded by Mr. Claypool to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 1. Ms. O'Neill asked Ms. Jones to give an overview of the Program of Instruction for Charter 1. Ms. Langfeldt provided additional information to the Board. A vote was called and the motion to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 1 passed unanimously.

C. Approve Site Notification Request for Charter Northwest

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the Site Notification Request for Charter Northwest. A motion was made by Mr. Grimsley and seconded by Ms. Podolsky to approve the Site Notification Request for Charter Northwest. Ms. O'Neill asked Ms. Jones to give an overview of the Site Notification Request. A vote was called and the motion to approve the Site Notification Request for Charter Northwest passed unanimously.

III. ACTION ITEMS – Charter 2

A. Approve SY16 Proposition 301 Plans

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 2. A motion was made by Ms. Podolsky and seconded by Mr. Claypool to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 2. Ms. O'Neill asked Ms. Jones to give an overview of the plans. A vote was called and the motion to approve the SY16 Proposition 301 Plans for Charter 2 passed unanimously.

B. Approve Program of Instruction

Ms. O'Neill asked for a motion to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 2. A motion was made by Mr. Grimsley and seconded by Ms. Podolsky to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 2. Ms. O'Neill asked Ms. Jones to give an overview of the Program of Instruction for Charter 2. A vote was called and the motion to approve the Program of Instruction for Charter 2 passed unanimously.

IV. FINANCIAL ITEMS-Charter 1

None.

V. FINANCIAL ITEMS-Charter 2

None.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

VII. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Neill requested a motion be made to adjourn the August 13, 2015 Board Meeting. Mr. Claypool made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Grimsley seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Change From: Program of Instruction emphasizes individualized learning plans targeted on improving academic skills in seven areas of study using only technology driven instruction.

Change To: Ombudsman is proposing to amend the program of instruction to clarify the blended learning environment which includes two methods of instruction in our schools. Additionally, students are given a graduation plan that outlines needed requirements from the state and our course catalog by semester.

Narrative

Description of Change

Ombudsman is proposing to amend the program of instruction to clarify the blended learning environment which includes two methods of instructional approaches in our schools. Additionally, students are given a graduation plan that outlines needed requirements from the state and our course catalog.

Curricula, Methods of Instruction, Methods of Assessment

Ombudsman has intentionally shifted the role of the teacher and the role of curriculum platforms to provide students an opportunity to learn through classroom instruction and independently.

Ombudsman uses evidence based instructional practices and differentiates instruction based on the needs of a specific student. Our teaching model is supported by Marzano's instructional strategies to ensure that we have high rates of student growth and achievement. Depending on the subject area, the teacher will utilize one of two instructional methods:

Method 1: Deliver classroom instruction to promote student achievement. The teacher will use curriculum maps, units, syllabi and curriculum platforms and resources to develop lesson plans designed to engage all learners in the classroom. Technology, such as interactive whiteboards, computers and tablets, is used to engage, reinforce or extend the learning.

Method 2: Foster and facilitate small group and independent learning. The emphasis is on the curriculum resources, such as curriculum platforms, texts, assignments and other resources, to drive the instruction. Students have more control over pace and time and work in courses required to earn a diploma. This approach is typically used in the learning lab environment.

Maximizing these two instructional methods ensures that all students, regardless date of entry, are positioned for success. Additionally, the Ombudsman RTI framework allows for extended instructional time, called Extended Opportunity Program (EOP), to provide students with a math intervention or enrichment plan designed to improve their overall math and reading competency as well as AZMerit performance.

Curricular resources are identified by the Ombudsman Curriculum and Instruction Department and vetted through the Academic Quality Review (AQR) board. The Curriculum and Instruction Department reviews graduation guidelines, state/national standards, curriculum guide(s) for Arizona to determine the courses that can be offered. The charter holder, directors and teachers work with the Curriculum and Instruction Department and AQR board to participate in the piloting and selecting of the resources



prior to full scale implementation. Curricular resources are evaluated for academic and financial efficacy on an annual basis. *Please see the Appendix for a list of currently used curricular resources.*

The method of assessment defined in the original chart still applies.

Rationale for Amendment

Ombudsman is an Alternative Charter that has educated more than 10,000 students since the charter was first established. The Measures of Stages of Alternative Education Youth Development outlines the typical development of an alternative youth and supports our decision to change. Changing the perception of school and focusing on student engagement are the critical first stages of re-engaging students.

Shifting the emphasis on the role of the teacher will allow for increased opportunity for alternative students to build relationships, deepen content knowledge and allow for more focused intervention, both academically and behaviorally. Additionally, facility improvements allow for teachers to have their own classroom to facilitate the new instructional methods.

Alignment to Mission and Educational Philosophy

Ombudsman's mission is to provide personalized, evidence-based education to students who would benefit from an alternative school setting. We offer programs and related services to students in one or more of the following categories: student with behavioral issues, students identified as dropouts, students with poor academic standing, students with adult responsibilities and adjudicated youth.

The curricula, methods of instruction and methods of assessment outlined in this document align to our mission. We are proposing a program of instruction amendment to provide a quality alternative school setting for our students.

Improving Pupil Achievement

Ombudsman has been piloting these instructional methods for two years at select schools. The data show that credit attainment improved significantly and the schools were able to maintain an average persistence rate of 90%. Additionally, the selected schools had only one AZ safe reported incident each during the 2014-2015 school year. This number is consistent with the previous year's data for the selected schools.

In addition to Arizona accountability frameworks, Ombudsman recognizes the importance of internally evaluating program effectiveness. Specifically, we will measure attendance rates, proficiency and growth rates on assessments, graduation rates, percent of credits earned, the number of AZ Safe reported incidents, survey results, AzMERIT scores, and other meaningful metrics. Where possible, we will compare these metrics both school-wide and on a student level. In addition, we survey students to determine student satisfaction.

Proposed Timeline

Expansion of the current pilot and full scale implementation will take place upon approval of the amendment. No additional amendments will be submitted in conjunction with this proposed amendment, but site notification requests will continue to be provided as facilities are related, upgraded and renovated.



Performance Management Plan

The current Ombudsman PMP outlines specific goals for academic achievement in the areas of math and reading. The action steps detailed in that PMP will be revised to show tighter alignment to courses tested under AZ Merit and will include implementation of the methods of instruction outlined previously. While the assessment portion of our PMP will not change, we will further clarify the utilization of assessment results to provide academic intervention based on our RTI framework.

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