
AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Presidio School

**Presidio School
Presidio De Las Sierras
Replication Application Summary Report**

Presidio School (2007 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence) submitted a complete replication application for the 2010-2011 school year. The corporate entity seeks a charter to replicate the K-8 portion of Presidio School. The school will be named Presidio De Las Sierras.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Presidio School is to “offer homeless adjudicated and otherwise troubled youth who have experienced chronic academic/school failure with an individualized course of instruction that not only focuses upon academic correction and remediation, but engenders self worth and prepares them for a productive future. In addition to a positive and structured school climate, the Presidio School will have a working partnership with experienced community based agencies to ensure that each student has the best possible living situation as well as supportive services and case management assistance. As part of the academic program, students will participate in life skills training career counseling, employability skills training career counseling employability skills training and when appropriate, vocational skills training and/or on the job training. Following satisfactory completion of an individualized academic program leading to graduation, students will be assisted in obtaining employment and/or higher education.”

The mission of Presidio De Las Sierras is to “offer Mastery Learning, a self-paced individualized instructional method where failure is not an option and where all students are assisted in meeting AZ State standards. Presidio’s individualized course of instruction emphasizes opportunities for accelerated course completion while requiring attainment of high academic standards. Presidio offers a curriculum rich in arts and humanities blended with 21st Century learning opportunities. Presidio provides a safe and positive educational atmosphere where students are taught the value of respect, responsibility and diversity.”

Academics:

Presidio School was selected as a 2007 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The kindergarten through 8th grade curriculum is developed around E.D. Hirsh’s Core Knowledge Sequence. The Core Knowledge Sequence provides a framework for strong, sequential, and specific content to be taught in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts. Core Knowledge requires that students have a strong grasp or mastery of key concepts and information before continuing to the next level. Presidio has purchased and uses the Baltimore Curriculum, a core knowledge sequenced curriculum, which has proven successful in schools across the country. The school will use 21st century pedagogy that builds technological, informational, and media fluency; develops thinking skills; uses project based learning; incorporates problem solving as an integral teaching tool; employs assessments that are timely, appropriate, detailed and reflective; is collaborative in nature, effectively utilizes enabling and empowering technologies; and draws on contextual learning.

Presidio adopted Bloom’s theory and established a 75% mastery level for all students in all grade levels. On any assignment where 75% is not achieved, the instructor re-teaches the aspects that the student does not as yet grasp and the student is afforded the opportunity to “re-do” the assignment until mastery is achieved.

The instructional program philosophy of Presidio De Las Sierras has four goals:

All students will be

1. enrolled in curriculum that promotes critical thinking, problem solving and life skills acquisition; builds on individual strengths, interests, background, experiences, and prior knowledge; lends itself to the integration of disciplines; and promotes active inquiry learning;
2. taught in an environment that promotes development of a positive self-image, a sense of self-worth, individual identity and self-reliance;
3. actively involved in the learning process and demonstrate responsible behavior-students will take responsibility for the consequences of personal actions, accept responsibility for successes as well as failures;
4. able to “future think” in order to set realistic short-and long-range life goals.

The school will use comprehensive assessment data to assist its predominantly Title I population to score above the state averages. Test data from course work assessments as well as from state mandated assessments will be identified and reviewed by the Director of Curriculum and then given to department heads so that needed curriculum changes can be identified and completed in a timely manner. In order to assure that the students are prepared for increasingly rigorous course work, students must pass AIMS assessments with a “Meets” or “Exceeds” determination on the majority of the exams and cannot score “Falls Far Below” on any assessment in order to be promoted to the subsequent grade level. The school will require 8th grade students to meet AIMS assessments in order to graduate and be eligible for promotion to high school.

Presidio School has experienced the following academic success as measured by AZ Learns.

Presidio

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Highly Performing	Pending
2007-2008	Performing Plus	Pending
2006-2007	Performing Plus	No

Market Analysis:

Presidio De Las Sierras plans to target Title One students in Sierra Vista Arizona as well as the rural areas along Highway 92 from Sierra Vista to Palominas. The school will offer a Core Knowledge curriculum and offer a more expansive arts curriculum. It is anticipated that the school will have a total enrollment of 320 students. There are currently three charter schools in Sierra Vista with a total enrollment of 742 students. All three charters have an AZ Learns Profile of Performing. There are six district elementary schools that are all Performing Plus with the exception of one school that is Highly Performing. Presidio De Las Sierras has the potential to offer these students a high quality educational alternative. Sierra Vista has an estimated growth rate of 13%.

Presidio School’s enrollment in grades K-8 has shown a consistent increase in the number of students for the last five years. Over 70 percent of Presidio School’s population is Title I. The enrollment practices for Presidio School are fair and equitable and encourage enrollment of students from every socio-economic and racial group without regard for any possible disabilities. Presidio School currently has a waiting list for grades, K, 1, 5, 6 and 7. The remaining grades have only a single opening at each grade level. Presidio School offers open enrollment and enrolls students on a first come first served basis from the waiting list.

Presidio De Las Sierras will adhere to the enrollment criteria established in statute.

Governance Structure:

Presidio School non-profit is requesting to replicate its current K-12 school and has submitted two replication applications. Presidio School is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation, which was established February 23, 1996. The Corporate Board of Directors also serves as the school governing body. The Board of Directors consists of five members. The day to day oversight and supervision of each school’s operation and the effectiveness of the on-site school principal will be the duty of the Presidio School Co-Directors, Tom Drexel and Terry Garza. The School Board of Directors will meet monthly to oversee the following: monitoring general policies of the schools related admissions, health and safety, curriculum and assessment; facility use, and the implementation of established policies and procedures. The Board will also make all major academic and fiscal policy decisions; assure that the schools adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws; and approve all budgets and the Annual Financial Report. Presidio’s business structure does not utilize contractual services. The Director of Finance and Human Resources is responsible for the financial operations.

	Presidio School	Presidio De Las Sierras
Instructional Program		
Grade Levels	K-12	K-8
Special Emphasis	Mastery Learning @ a minimum of 75% proficiency Self directed curriculum	Mastery Learning SMART Technology Infusion Strong Humanities & Arts
Methodology	Self-Paced individualized instructional method Differentiated Instruction Core Knowledge-Based (K-8)	Self-Paced individualized instructional method Core Knowledge-Based with SMART Technology
Demographics		
Location	4601 E. First Street Tucson, AZ 85711	Sierra Vista, AZ
Enrollment	380	180
Ethnicity	N/A	N/A
Organizational Structure		
Principals		
Authorized Representative(s)	Thomas Drexel Terry S. Garza	Thomas Drexel Terry S. Garza
Corporate Principals	George Barnett Martin Carrillo Thomas Drexel Terry Garza Ruben Suarez	George Barnett Martin Carrillo Thomas Drexel Terry Garza Ruben Suarez
Governing Board	George Barnett Martin Carrillo Thomas Drexel	School Staff: Thomas Drexel Terry Garza Community: Ruben Suarez

	Terry Garza Ruben Suarez	Martin Carrillo George Barnett
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Suggested Motion:

Approve the replication application and approve the charter for Presidio School Inc. to operate Presidio De Las Sierras serving grades K-8.