Painted Desert Montessori Academy

7. Target Population and Enrollment of New School

7-1
The Replication Model School, Patagonia Montessori Elementary School (PMES), draws students from the communities of Patagonia, Nogales, and Sonoita. The total population in these communities is as follows: Patagonia has 913 people; Nogales has 20,837 people; and Sonoita has 818 people. The three cities have a total of 7,405 households. Median household income ranges from $27,500 to $57,212. Current students travel up to 15 miles to attend PMES. The school accepts students regardless of past academic performance. PMES currently holds a letter grade of “B” and received 178 of the 200 total points possible from the State of Arizona.

7-2
The target population for the proposed school is students in grades kindergarten through eighth located within 15 miles of the proposed site. The proposed site is near the intersection of Lower Buckeye Road and 247th Avenue in Buckeye, Arizona. We anticipate that the majority of students will commute from one of the many nearby communities (within our target market radius). Elementary schools near the proposed cite earn an average grade of “B” from the State of Arizona. All levels of academic performance will be welcomed at Painted Desert Montessori Academy.
The city of Buckeye, within this 15 mile radius, has a total population of 172,399 with 53,982 households. About 33% of the population in this radius is age 19 or younger. The median household income in the target radius is $63,192. The closest elementary school district is Buckeye Elementary School District (BESD). BESD has a state grade of B, and all of the schools in the district are Title I schools.

7-3
Market analysis of the target population revealed a rapidly expanding population with need for educational services. The City of Buckeye had growth of 678.28% from 2000 to 2010, 50,876 people. The proposed site falls within the Buckeye Elementary School District (BESD). On September 9, 2015, BESD Superintendent Dr. Kristi Sandvik released a video on YouTube about the growth of the district. She stated that if the growth rate of 3% continues, the district will need four additional schools by 2025. The district has enrolled an additional 200 students each year from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014 and again from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015. On average, elementary schools in BESD serve over 700 children on each campus. The local elementary charter schools, both under charter holder The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc. serve over 600 grade K-5 students at one campus and over 600 grade 6-8 students at another. These indicators all support successful enrollment of the proposed school.

7-4
Patagonia Montessori Elementary School (PMES) enrolls all pupils who submit an application, and proof of Arizona residency. In the event that applications exceed enrollment capacity, PMES follows the guidelines put forth in A.R.S. §15-184.

7-5
Open enrollment for the proposed school will begin in February 2016. The lottery to fill enrollment positions will be held in April 2016. Additional enrollment spaces and waiting lists will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional Information Requested

Target Population and Enrollment of New School Narrative.

7-1. Describe the population of the Replication Model School, including the demographic profile, academic performance of students entering the school, and distance travelled by current students.

- Provide a demographic profile for ethnic diversity, SPED, FRL, or ELL students for current students at Patagonia Montessori Elementary School.

Patagonia Montessori Elementary School is comprised of an ethnic population of 4% African American, 28% Hispanic, and 68% Caucasian. As of the October 1 SPED count, we have 8% of our charter school students receiving special services. PMES does not offer a lunch program, therefore does not collect financial data from enrolled students. However, we estimate that less than 20% of our students would qualify for such a program. 4% of our students are classified as ELL students.

- Provide academic performance for students entering Patagonia Montessori Elementary School.

While we do have some students entering our school from out of state or even international locations, most students entering Patagonia Montessori Elementary School are coming from Patagonia Public School or Elgin School. Patagonia Public School is a C rated school; Elgin is a B rated school.

The majority of our new students are at or just below grade level. However, they often preform at a much lower level than students that have attended Montessori since preschool.

7-2. Identify the target population of the proposed school, demonstrating a clear understanding of the students the school intends to serve, including whether the students will be primarily neighborhood or commuter, current levels of academic performance, and a demographic profile.

- Provide a demographic profile for ethnic diversity, SPED, FRL, or ELL students in the area Painted Desert Montessori Academy intends to serve.

At the local school district – Buckeye Elementary School District – 13.4% of the students have a SPED designation, 7.7% have an ELL designation, and the median free and reduced lunch rate for all of the schools in the district is 74.5%. Ethnic diversity for the district, pulled from the 2014 October 1 Enrollment report is below:

Buckeye Elementary District	
Ethnic Asian	*
Ethnic American Indian Alaska Native	54
Ethnic Black African American	441
Ethnic Hispanic Latino	2793
Ethnic White	1530
Ethnic Native Hawaiian Other Pacific	*
Multi-race non-Hispanic	122
Total	4998

- Provide the academic performance for students in the primary neighborhood or community Painted Desert Montessori Academy intends to serve.

The Buckeye Elementary School District is B rated and the Odyssey Preparatory Academy (the local charter elementary school) is C rated. The Buckeye Elementary School District grades are broken down in the table below:

School	**State Grade**
Buckeye Elementary School	C
Steven R. Jasinski Elementary School	C
Bales Elementary School	B
Inca Elementary School	B
Westpark Elementary School	B
Sundance Elementary	B