

Issue

South Phoenix Academy, Inc. (SPA), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete enrollment cap notification request raising the enrollment cap from 150 to 576 students.

Background

South Phoenix Academy, Inc. was granted a charter in 2010, and opened South Phoenix Prep and Arts Academy (SPPAA) with grades K-4 in 2011. The original charter specified the enrollment of SPPAA was to grow from 150 in 2010-11 to 250 in 2011-12, and to 300 in 2012-13. SPPAA actually opened in August 2011 in a temporary facility at 4039 E. Raymond St., #3, in Phoenix, near the intersection of 40th St. and I-10. According to ADE, the 100th day enrollment at SPPAA was 62.

The charter holder submitted a blueprint for a new building under construction at 40th St. and Baseline Rd. in South Phoenix. The building will be occupied by SPPAA for grades K-4, and also South Valley Prep and Arts Academy for grades 5-8, operated by charter holder South Valley Academy, Inc., which is submitting a concurrent Enrollment Cap Notification Request. The two schools, under separate charters, currently share the temporary facility described above.

The blueprints show a total occupancy of 675. The board minutes state that “the capacity of the classrooms in the building is 675 but out [*sic*] student capacity of the facility is 576.”

The substantive review determined that the advertising/promotion plan and staffing plan provided did not demonstrate capacity to accommodate the timeline and size of the proposed increase, and also notified SPA that SPPAA, in its first year of operation, did not have data demonstrating eligibility to increase the enrollment cap.

On May 11, SPA submitted additional materials for the Board’s consideration, that addressed the concerns regarding the advertising/promotion plan and staffing plan, and provided school-generated academic data to provide evidence of making progress towards the Board’s level of adequate academic performance (LAAP). All of the submitted information is included in the [Notification Narrative](#):

- A summary of the Marketing – Approach plan
- A summary of the Marketing – Results
- Projected three-year enrollment for SPPAA
- A summary of the Staffing – Approach plan
- A summary of the Staffing – Results
- A report titled, “Report based upon benchmark testing and Galileo Data”
- Galileo benchmark data

Regarding staffing, the results provided state that “We currently have hired the Principal and all support staff, 7 Teachers and several aids for South Phoenix Prep & Arts Academy based on current enrollment of 200 students and have 50 teachers in the queue that have interviewed and are awaiting offers as enrollment increases.”

Regarding recruiting, the results provided state “200 Students have enrolled to South Phoenix Prep & Arts Academy” and describe a \$200,000 marketing campaign that includes print and broadcast media, social networks, direct mail, on-site activities, and canvassing in several zip codes in the target area. The projected enrollment number for FY13 is 360, based on the materials submitted by SPA.

Eligibility

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the notification approval process. This compliance check included a review of whether SPA met or demonstrated sufficient progress toward the LAAP.

As a school that was in its first year of operation, prior academic performance data was not available for SPPAA. To provide evidence of making progress towards LAAP, SPA submitted test results of Galileo benchmark assessments administered in November, February, and April to six 3rd graders and six 4th graders for Math and Reading. According to

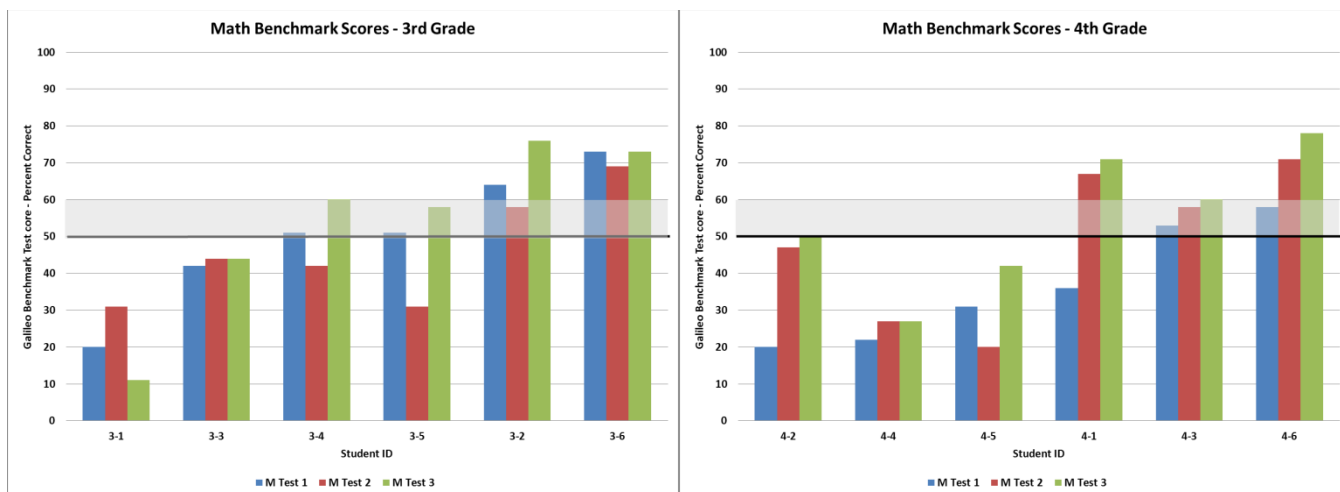
the report, "These are the scores of the students who entered school with us and are still with us now." This data represents 66% of the 18 students reported by ADE in 3rd and 4th grades on the 100th day.

The report submitted by SPA indicated, "Our calculations show the students are increasing in achievement at the rate of about 1-2% a week." Board staff was unable to confirm this conclusion from the data provided, which included only test percent correct scores, and did not include scale scores or normed percentile rankings that is available through the management tools of Galileo K-12 Online. In the report, SPA states "These tests are not recurring tests but benchmark testing that gauges standards that are on the AIMS test." In an effort to ascertain whether the data submitted provided evidence of improved pupil achievement, Board staff determined that an increase in test score of 25 percentage points represented an adequate indicator of improvement in pupil achievement, based on the rate of 1-2% per week given by SPA over the five month instructional period.

The table below provides the percent correct on each test by student, and a calculation of the change in percent correct between the Test 1 and Test 3. The scores of the student who did not have a score for Test 3 were not considered, as scores did not represent the full instructional period.

SPPAA Galileo Benchmark Assessment Results 2011-2012									
	Reading Test 1	Reading Test 2	Reading Test 3	Reading Change		Math Test 1	Math Test 2	Math Test 3	Math Change
Student ID	11/12/11	2/1/12	4/30/12			11/12/11	2/1/12	4/30/12	
3-1	29	24	29	0		20	31	11	-9
3-2	69	60	76	7		64	58	76	12
3-3	36	29	36	0		42	44	44	2
3-4	44	53	62	18		51	42	60	9
3-5	33	64	64	31		51	31	58	7
3-6	62	60	87	25		73	69	73	0
4-1	49	27	*			36	67	71	35
4-2	22	42	18	-4		20	47	50	30
4-3	73	58	87	14		53	58	60	7
4-4	24	24	31	7		22	27	27	5
4-5	29	36	22	-7		31	20	42	11
4-6	73	78	87	14		58	71	78	20

The graphs below, created by staff from data submitted by SPA, chart the scores of SPPAA students in Math over the three tests. In the report, SPA states, "All students whose scores were below 50% in a specific content area have been put on academic intervention plan." The black line at 50% indicates the score identified by the charter holder as the threshold for academic intervention.



These graphs show that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- **2 of 12 students (17%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 3 of 12 students (25%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 5 of 12 students (42%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 2 of 12 students (17%) had no change or a decline in scores.

8 students (3rd: 4, 4th: 4) scored below the threshold for academic intervention on at least one test. Of those students:

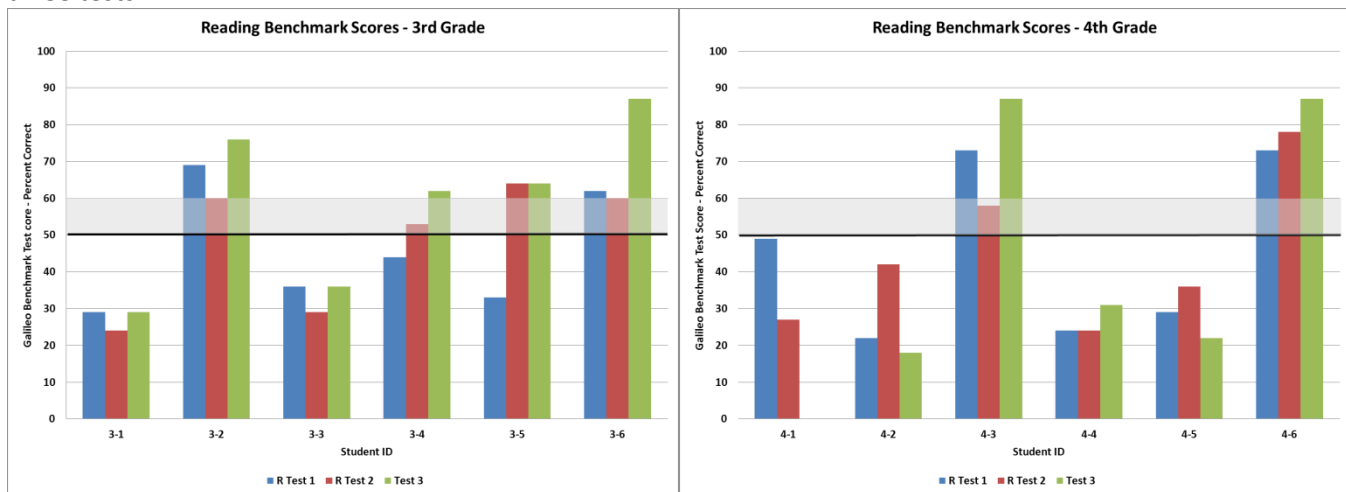
- **2 of 8 students (25%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 1 of 8 students (12.5%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 4 of 8 students (50%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 1 of 8 students (12.5%) had no change or a decline in scores.

4 students (3rd: 2, 4th: 2) scored above the threshold for academic intervention on all tests. Of those students:

- **0 of 4 students (0%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 2 of 4 students (50%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 1 of 4 students (25%) increased between 0 and 10 percentage points.
- 1 of 4 students (25%) had no change or a decline in scores.

These results indicate that a majority of students show little improvement in Math (≤ 24 percentage points) over five months of instruction, even those placed on academic intervention.

The graphs below, created by staff from data submitted by SPA, chart the scores of SPPAA students in Reading over the three tests.



These graphs show that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- **2 of 11 students (18%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 3 of 11 students (27%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 2 of 11 students (18%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 4 of 11 students (36%) had no change or a decline in scores.
- 1 student was not included due to incomplete test data.

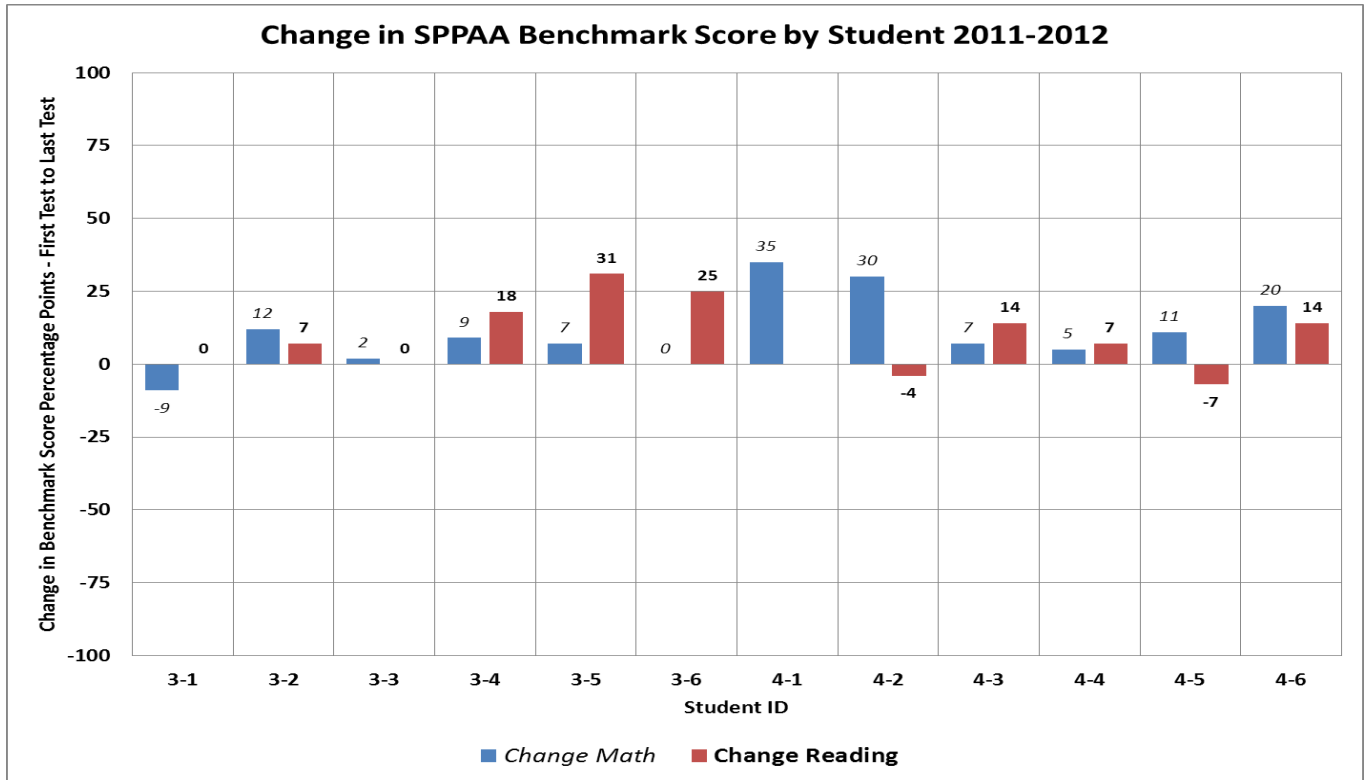
7 students (3rd: 4, 4th: 3) scored below the threshold for academic intervention on at least one test. Of those students:

- **1 of 7 students (14%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 1 of 7 students (14%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 1 of 7 students (14%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 4 of 7 students (57%) had no change or a decline in scores.

4 students (3rd: 2, 4th: 2) scored above the threshold for academic intervention on all tests. Of those students:

- 1 of 4 students (25%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.
- 2 of 4 students (50%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 1 of 4 students (25%) increased between 0 and 10 percentage points.
- 0 of 4 students (0%) had no change or a decline in scores.

These results indicate that 82% of students show little improvement in Reading (≤ 24 percentage points) over five months of instruction. 4 of 7 students placed on academic intervention in Reading showed no improvement or a decline.



The graph above shows the change in benchmark test scores in both Reading and Math by student. 6 of the 12 students show increases in both Math and Reading scores over the five month period.

Overall, the results of the benchmark assessments in both subjects indicate that 82-83% of students in either subject improve less than 25 percentage points over five months of instruction.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Phoenix Academy, Inc. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Phoenix Academy, Inc., increasing the enrollment cap from 150 to 576.

Option 2: The Board may deny the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Phoenix Academy, Inc. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the requests to increase the enrollment cap for the charter held by South Phoenix Academy, Inc., for the reasons that:

- The academic data and documentation provided by South Phoenix Academy, Inc. to support the increase in enrollment cap from 150 to 576 does not provide sufficient evidence that the Charter Holder has previously provided a learning environment that resulted in improved student achievement.
- (Specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration.)

Enrollment Cap Notification Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
South Phoenix Academy, Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-99-000

Mailing Address:
17667 North 91st Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85328
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Ronda Owens

Phone Number:
4807792000

Fax Number:
480-705-9045

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Enrollment Cap

From:
150

To:
576

Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)


Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Increase to Enrollment Cap Attachments

The following 2 attachments are only required if the enrollment cap is increasing.

Documentation that current facilities can accommodate requested capacity –  [Download File](#)

Narrative describing the staffing changes and recruiting efforts that will be made to reach capacity –  [Download File](#)

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Ronda Owens 05/11/2012

GENERAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

South Phoenix Academy, Inc dba South Phoenix Prep & Arts Academy Board of Trustees may go into Executive Session for confidentiality reasons at any time during the meeting, to receive pertinent information and legal advice with their attorney.

Meeting Minutes for 1/30/12:

1. Call to Order - Call to order at 622pm
2. Attendance: Zyzick Owens, Dominick Sirianni, KJ Weihing, Swen Anderson, Ex Officio: Deb Coleman
Absent: Zeenat Hasan
3. Open Call to the Public: If the item is not an Agenda Item, the Board may or may not wish to address the issue at this time. Please register with the Secretary of the Board to Speak at the Open Call. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes per person.
4. Agendas: Review and approve to previous Board Meeting minutes: Motion to review and approve by Zy Owens, Armando Villareal seconds, all were in favor.
5. Review and approval of all Board Members - Swen Anderson makes a motion to approve the following board members Dominick Sirianni, KJ Weihing, Zyzick Owens, Armando Villareal, Swen Anderson as Board Members and Deb Coleman as ex Officio, KJ Weihing seconds and all were favor.
7. Discussion and action regarding enrollment count. Cap was 150 students and it needs to be increased by the budgeted capacity. The capacity of the classrooms in the building is 675 but out student capacity is 576. KJ makes a motion to increase student capacity to 576, Zy Owens seconded the motion, all were in favor.

8. Principals Report:

- Staff recognition and reports

- Upcoming events and announcements: Feb 2nd and 3rd are parent teacher conferences, Feb 9th a school wide trip to Mesa Arts Center, Feb 13-17th is the Galileo testing for the second block grades 5-8, Feb 16th is Ultimate Frizbee game, March 6 the art teacher is taking the class to ASU art museum and parents are welcome to attend, March 7th is the 3rd quarter awards day, March 9th is the dance company performance 6-8pm, March 10th and 11th the Ostrich Festival takes place and the dance company is going out to perform, March 28th are spring pictures and also 8th grade promotion pics, march 30th is the talent show, April 16-20th are the AIMS test.

- Data: Discussion and review of Galileo, Dibels Reading and Math data and decisions on academic levels, discussion regarding disaggregated student achievement data identifying gaps among student subpopulations. Teachers are currently working on the Student Achievement Plans to discuss with parents at the parent teacher conferences to let parents know exactly where children are in math and reading. This breaks the each area down into standards so parents understand where students are deficient or succeeding. Galileo mirrors AIMS key code so we can ensure they are successful. Board discussed implementing bubble sheet testing in weekly quizzes to allow students to have increased exposure to AIMS style testing. Students are demonstrating improvement in all areas and some student are showing a year's growth already. For the students having difficulty the Principal has set up tutoring in mornings and after school along with differential instruction in the classroom.

The Board Discussed the following items. Mrs. Coleman presented information to the Board on items 9-14.

9. Discussion regarding education strategies used to close achievement gaps among student populations. Taking data from Galileo at the end of the school year so we can review and create a better strategy.

10. Discussion regarding support for increased academic achievement as measured by state assessment.

11. Discussion regarding South Phoenix strategic plan: Academic, Athletic and Art Philosophy and Facilities. - The strategic plan initially promotes increased learning for our students and to focus primarily on academics and secondly to promote a well rounded student through arts and athletics. Our model is to grow our school with a low student teacher ratio.

12. Discussion regarding achievement and relative program adjustments to achieve annual improvement.

Once we receive more data we can work on setting goals for continuous improvement.

13. Discussion regarding measuring progress.

14. Discussion regarding involvement of parents and community members in planning, program design and implementation of the charter school. Mrs. Coleman has started a Parent Advisory Board and has included monthly activities for parents and children to participate at the school.

15. Discussion regarding policies and procedures to contract services. Currently there are contract procedures in place with Skyline Education, inc. Skyline Education is currently reviewing lease to own contracts for phones, cameras, bell, intercom and security systems.

16. Discussion regarding access to Board Agendas and minutes on website. Board Minutes and information are loaded on the website (www.southvalleyschools.com) and available at all times.

17. Discussion regarding next Board Meeting date. - March 27th at 6pm.

18. Discussion and consideration regarding any of the above items.

19. Motion to adjourn made at 7:15pm. KJ Weihing made the motion to adjourn, Armando Villareal seconds the motion, all were in favor.