Education Plan

A.2 Target Population

The Paideia Academy of Chandler will target all K-8 students located in the 10 mile radius from the school site – 550 W. Warner Rd., Chandler, Arizona (Maricopa County). The school is conveniently located in close proximity to Loop 101 and Interstate 60. The close proximity to major interstate freeways makes the school a convenient and desirable place for parents living in close proximity to the school site, as well as those who live is far as the 10 mile radius and beyond and commute to their workplaces across Metro Phoenix area. The 10-mile area includes the Chandler-Tempe-Mesa-Phoenix (Ahwatukee)- Gilbert areas.

Target Area: Overview

The Paideia Academy of Chandler will be drawing students from eight school districts located in the 10 mile radius from the school site on 550 W. Warner Rd. Chandler AZ 85225. There are 288 public and 50 private schools in the targeted 10 mile radius. Besides studying the district demographics and enrollment, The Paideia Academy of Chandler has done a detailed study of the schools, surrounding the targeted location.

In the immediate vicinity of the proposed school (less than 0.5 miles radius, there are 20 public schools (15 district and 5 charter) and 3 private schools. Of the 20 public schools – 16 serve KG-8 grade students, one is high schools and one is a middle school. The three private schools serve KG-8 grade students. Total student population served in those schools (public and private) is 13,992.[1]

Within the 2.5-2.9 mile radius of the targeted location, there are 27 public schools (19 district and 8 charter) and 4 private schools. Of those, 19 serve KG-8 grade students, 5 are high schools (9-12 grade) and 3 are middle schools. Three of the private schools serve KG-8 grade students and one is a high school (9-12 grade). Total student population served in those schools (public and private) is 18,048. [2]

Within the 3.6-5.1 mile radius of the targeted location, there are 48 public schools (39 district and 9 charter) and 9 private schools. Of those, 28 serve KG-6 grade students, 10 are high schools (9-12 grade) and 10 are middle schools. Eight of the private schools serve KG-8 grade students and one is a high school (9-12 grade). Total student population served in those schools (public and private) is 41,441.[3]

Target Area: Student Community Overview

The Paideia Academy of Chandler will be drawing students from several school districts (Chandler Unified School District, Gilbert Unified District, Mesa Unified School District, Tempe Elementary and Kyrene Elementary School District) located in the 10 mile radius from the school

[1] U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.

site. There are 288 public and 50 private schools in the targeted 10 mile radius, serving over 70,000 students. Two of the districts – Kyrene, and Gilbert have predominantly White student population (67.8%, and 75.1% respectively) in contrast to Tempe Elementary and Mesa Unified. In Tempe Elementary, the poverty level of the population is 79.5%, which is well above the state average of 52.5%.[4] The poverty level of the other school districts is at or slightly below the state average. The enrollment distribution in the K-8 grades is highest and supports the growth of the school. We expect that the student population at The Paideia Academy of Chandler will have similar demographic characteristics.

Rationale

Based on the detailed analysis of the community the founders of The Paideia Academy of Chandler believe that the proposed program of instruction will meet the needs of the target population and will benefit the selected community. The Paideia Academy of Chandler will introduce the Paideia philosophy and learning methodology that has proven successful in educating diverse student population and closing the achievement gaps in public schools across the nation.

Analysis reveals that the student population in the target market area remains underserved, despite the numerous efforts by districts schools to restructure their governance and operations, renovate their facility base and build new campuses for smaller size schools (AZ Republic 2009, 2010).

Holistic approach toward the child, increased core subjects instruction data-driven decision making, motivated leadership, extended school year with balanced school and work load, plenty of opportunities for additional academic and enrichment activities aligned to instruction, safe and caring school environment and highly qualified teachers are just a few of the hallmarks of the educational program at The Paideia Academy. Small, effective school environment – effective campus design (small campus – 225 students max), smaller classes (25 students) - proven successful in educating the target population of The Paideia Academy completes the educational program.

The Paideia Academy will serve K-8 students in Chandler-Tempe-Phoenix-Mesa-Gilbert area, which represent a complex mix of diverse student population with different learning needs and styles. The Paideia Academy as planned, designed and implemented will increase the choices of parents in the target area for high quality educational programs that bring the necessary rigor and relevance for students to succeed when they graduate. Students, graduating 8th grade of the Paideia Academy will possess the necessary academic knowledge, skills and culture to join rigorous, high quality college prep high schools (district, charter or private) of their choice and will set the foundation for success later on in college and/or career.

[4] SchoolDataDirect/Arizona Department of Education on www.shooldatadirect.org