AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations – Trivium Preparatory Academy

Issue

Trivium Preparatory Academy (TPA) submitted a request to expand charter school operations to increase its enrollment cap from 460 to 610 and increase the site specific change to grades served to grades 6-12. TPA did not meet the Board's academic performance expectations for FY2013 and FY2014, and is asking for additional consideration from the Board to be eligible to apply for expansion requests that would include required information as described in the Academic Intervention Schedule. The charter is authorized for grades 6-12 and has an enrollment cap of 460.

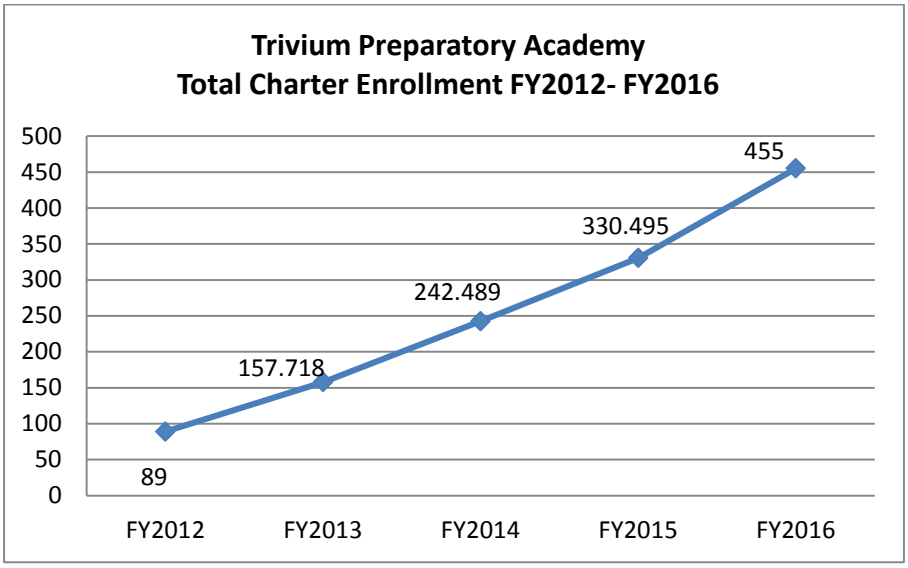
Background

The charter for TPA was approved as a replication in 2010. In the initial replication application, TPA indicated that it intended to serve grades 6-10 in year 1 with an enrollment cap of 242; grades 6-11 in year 2, with an enrollment cap of 300, and grades 6-12 in year 3, with an enrollment cap of 352.

Great Hearts Academies – Trivium Prep (GHA-TP) opened timely in 2011 serving grades 6 and 7, with an enrollment cap of 242. Board staff conducted a 1st year site visit of GHA-TP in December 2011, which was successfully closed out after addressing a single issue as noted in the 1st year site visit letter (see Appendix A). GHA-TP has been adding a grade every year and is currently serving grades 6 through 11.

On January 13, 2015, The Board approved permission for TPA to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request increasing the cap to 605 with the Data component of the Demonstration of Sufficient Progress. TPA came before the Board on May 18, 2015 for the increase in enrollment cap. The Board approved an increase of enrollment cap from 350 to 460 for Fiscal Year 2016. A partial increase was approved because the Charter Holder did not demonstrate improved academic performance in 4 of 6 required measures based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources.

The graph below shows average daily membership (ADM) for the charter based on 100th day ADM, with FY2016 ADM based on the estimated count figures.



(Data provided by Arizona Department of Education)

Academic Performance

As stated in the Board's Academic Performance Framework and Guidance document, a Charter Holder's academic performance will be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests. The academic performance of GHA-TP is represented in the dashboard below.

Great Hearts Academies- Trivium Prep

		2012 Small Elementary School (6-7)			2013 Traditional Elementary School (6 to 8)			2014 Traditional K-12 School (6 to 9)		
1. Growth		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	30	25	12.5	27.5	25	12.5	33.5	25	10
	Reading	42	50	12.5	47	50	12.5	45	50	10
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	50.5	75	12.5	31.5	25	12.5	29	25	10
	Reading	51	75	12.5	48	50	12.5	45	50	10
2. Proficiency		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	87 / 44	75	11.25	79.9 / 62.2	75	11.25	81.5 / 61.7	75	11.25
	Reading	100 / 74	100	11.25	99.4 / 79.5	100	11.25	95.9 / 79.9	100	11.25
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	37.4	100	11.25	2	75	11.25	3.2	75	8.75
	Reading	20.6	100	11.25	7.8	75	11.25	3.8	75	8.75
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
	Reading	NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
3. State Accountability		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		B	75	5	B	75	5	B	75	5
4. Graduation		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
4a. Graduation		NR	0	0	NR	0	0	NR	0	0
Overall Rating		Overall Rating			Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		70.94		100	59.06		100	60.66		85

The FY 2013 overall rating for GHA-TP on the Board's academic performance measures was 59.06 including points received for the letter grade of B as reported by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The FY 2014 overall rating for GHA-TP on the Board's academic performance measures increased to 60.66 including points received for the letter grade of B as reported by ADE.

Request

In the Letter of Intent submitted on September 29, 2015 (see Appendix B), the Charter Holder states the requested expansion in enrollment cap and increase in grade level is to complete the growth in grades identified in the replication application, and to support the additional enrollment to accommodate those grades. In FY2017, the Charter Holder plans to accommodate the addition of grade 12 as well as 35 additional students in grade 6. While the increase in grade levels falls within the range originally approved for the replication application, the enrollment cap expansion request exceeds the original application growth plan, which identified a final enrollment cap of 352.

In their description of their capacity to accommodate the expansion, TPA identified a number of substantial changes that have been instituted in staffing and instructional practices to improve the growth of all students and meet the Board's academic performance expectations. These include:

- Hiring a new Headmaster in July 2015. Her first action was to put in place a "highly proficient Leadership Team charged with implementing and monitoring school improvement actions with special attention given to increasing the comparative year-over-year rate of student growth across all performance levels.
- Aligning the Great Hearts classical curriculum to Arizona's College and Career Ready (ACCR) Standards.
- Providing training to teachers in analyzing student benchmark data for curricular and instructional needs.
- Working with teachers on the development of lesson plans that incorporate standards, strategies and activities "to increase students' understanding and mastery of the standards across all grades and performance levels."

- Monitoring of instruction that includes weekly review of lesson plans, daily formal and/or informal observations and evaluations of all teachers' classroom instruction.
- Replacing teachers who demonstrated an inability to increase their students' academic performance as measured by the students' comparative growth data from the school's internal assessment system over the past two years.

Board staff recommends that if the Board allows TPA to submit the Enrollment Cap Notification Request and Site Specific Change in Grades Notification Request, the Charter Holder would be required to submit required information as described in the Academic Intervention Schedule.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. 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 request of Trivium Preparatory Academy to be eligible to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request to increase the enrollment cap to 610 and a Site Specific Change in Grades Notification Request to increase up to grade 12 with the required information as described in the Academic Performance Intervention Schedule that includes benchmark data for FY 2015 and FY 2016. Following their submission, the results of Board staff's review of these items will be provided to the Board for its consideration of Trivium Preparatory Academy expansion requests.

Option 2: The Board may deny the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, the Board does not find sufficient support to consider an expansion request. The Charter Holder may submit requests in the future when the academic dashboard provides evidence of additional improvement.