

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grade Level Change to Charter with Enrollment Cap Amendment Request

Request

Vista College Preparatory, Inc. (“Charter Holder”) submitted an expansion request to increase the grade levels the Charter Holder is approved to serve, from grades K-5 to grades K-8, and an enrollment cap expansion request to increase the enrollment cap from 687 to 936, both beginning in FY 2019. This expansion request accounts for 3 years of projected student enrollment.

See Appendix A: Amendment Request Materials and Support Materials.

The Charter Holder states that its goal is to begin serving students in 6th grade starting in FY 2019. Just like their previous two schools, Vista College Preparatory (“VCP”) and Vista College Prep-Maryvale (“VCP-M”), the intent is to start small. “We intend to incubate our 6th grade (42 students) at our downtown campus for one year and then move into a new building with our 6th and 7th graders during FY 20 for the permanent middle school location.” The requested increase in the enrollment cap accounts for the addition of the middle school grades and the addition of one grade per year at VCP-M, until they start serving K-5 in FY 2021. The staffing plan indicates that the VCP Assistant Principal “is getting the experience of running a school while also engaging in the planning and preparation for a middle school”. For FY 2019, four teachers will be hired to teach 6th grade. The enrollment targets are based on the elementary schools hitting their enrollment numbers and feeding into the middle school, thus requiring only a small number of new student enrollments per year. If the elementary enrollment targets are not being met then “we would need to do additional student recruitment, which we have extensive experience in at the elementary level.” The provided criteria for promotion in ELA and Humanities indicates the need for students to master a mix of classwork, homework, assessments, exit tickets, literary tasks, and seminars. In Math and Science, students must achieve mastery on assessments, classwork, exit tickets, and homework. The middle school’s grading scale will be based off the Phoenix Union High School District, to help prepare the students for high school.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Grade Levels	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8
Enrollment	383	687	766	936

Staff Recommendation

The Charter Holder has not met the criteria to receive a staff recommendation for expansion.

Staff Recommendation Criteria	Analysis
In operation for three years.	The Charter Holder has been in operation for 5 years.
“Meets Operational Performance Expectations” based on the dashboards for the most recent two prior years and the current year.	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Operational Performance Expectations.
“Meets the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations” based on the most recent dashboard.	The Charter Holder “Meets” the Board’s Financial Performance Expectations.
Grade level cohort is at capacity and could fill enrollment for new grade requested.	Grade level cohorts are at capacity. Enrollment can be filled for the new grades requested. As of April 2, 2018, ADE school finance indicates the average daily membership (“ADM”) for 5 th grade at VCP is 41.625 students. The

	Charter Holder has indicated in the provided narrative and enrollment matrix that the anticipated number of students in 6 th grade for FY 2019 is 42.
ADM is within 85% of current enrollment cap.	According to ADE School Finance, the Charter Holder currently has an ADM of 332.812. The current enrollment cap is 687 and is within 48% of its current enrollment cap. When the ADM is adjusted to account for Kindergarten as 1.0, the enrollment increases to 372.98, putting the Charter Holder within 54% of its current enrollment cap.
Each school operated by the Charter Holder: Performs at or above the average performance of a majority of schools within a five-mile radius of the school's location.	Vista College Preparatory performs at or above the average performance in ELA and Math. Information regarding nearby schools is provided on page 3.
Past enrollment trends indicate the charter will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years.	ADM in FY 2016 was 149.884, FY 2017 was 206.956, and FY 2018 was 279.35. This does not demonstrate the charter holder will exceed its enrollment cap within the next three years. Information regarding enrollment trends is provided on page 3.

Profile

The Charter Holder was granted a new charter in 2013.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Irene Carroll
Katherine Cecala
Grant Crone
Christopher Dang
Cassandra Hilpman-Breecher
Dawn Kennedy
Kelly McManus
Julia Meyerson
Charles Mitchell
Christina Spicer

School Profiles

School Name	Vista College Preparatory			Vista College Prep - Maryvale		
Date Open	August 2013			August 2017		
Location	Phoenix			Maryvale		
Grades Served	K-5			K-2		
FY 17 Letter Grade	A			N/A		
	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
ELA AzMERIT (39% ⁺)	N/A	66%	73%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Math AzMERIT (40% ⁺)	N/A	59%	67%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science AIMS (53% ⁺)	N/A	N/A	63%	N/A	N/A	N/A

*FY 17 State Average Passing



Additional School Choices Serving Grades K-5 within 5 Miles of Vista College Preparatory

Total Schools	FY 14 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 17 State Assessment Data Greater than State Average			Subgroups within (±5%) of Charter Holder's Subgroup Data		
			ELA (>39%)	Math (>40%)	Science (>53%)	FRL (±5%)	ELL (±5%)	SPED (±5%)
11	A	5	7	7	7	1	*	3
16	B	5	2	1	2	3	*	12
33	C	8	2	1	1	1	*	2
16	D	3	0	1	1	2	*	11
4	F	1	0	0	0	0	*	3
5	N/A	5	1	1	1	0	*	2

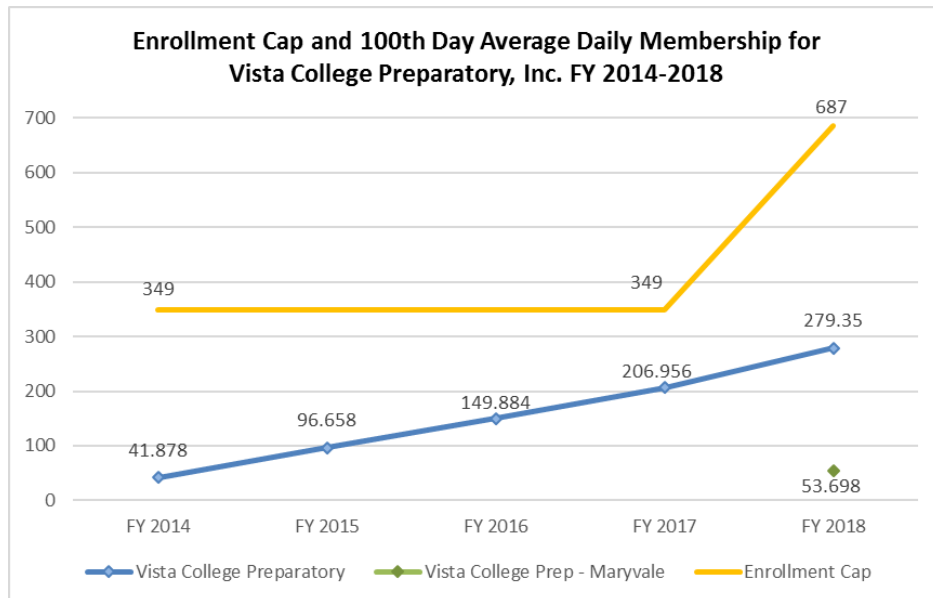
*Because the percentage of ELL students is not available for the Charter Holder, comparison to nearby schools is not possible.

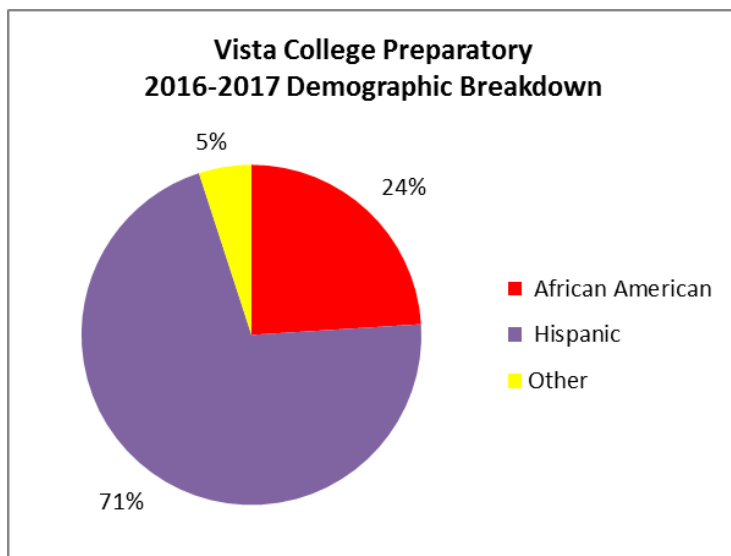
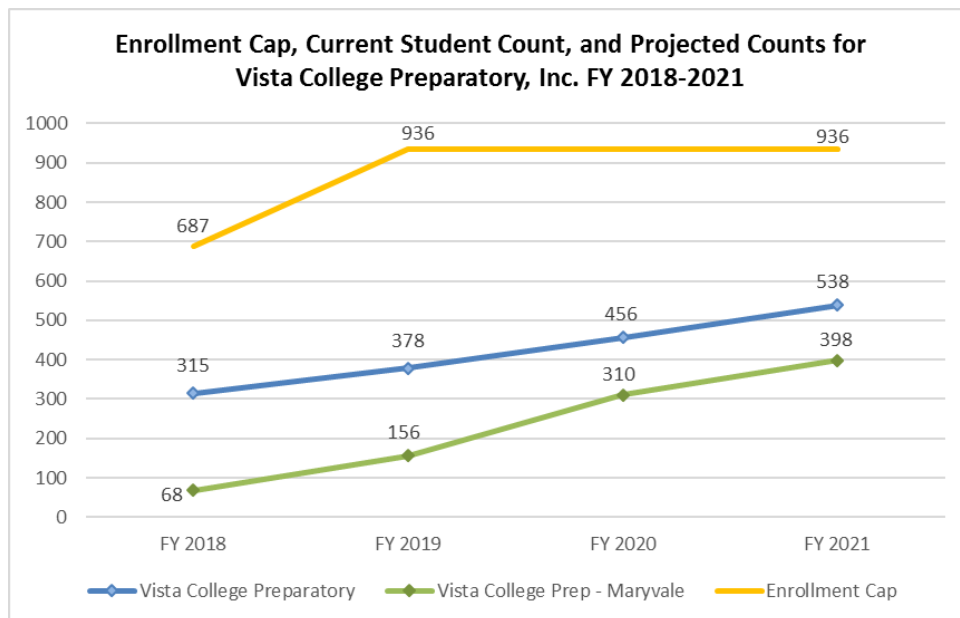
Comparison of Nearby Schools to Vista College Preparatory

Total Schools	FY 14 Letter Grade	Total Charter Schools	FY 17 State Assessment Data Greater than Vista College Preparatory		
			AzMERIT ELA (>73%)	AzMERIT Math (>67%)	AIMS Science (>63%)
11	A	5	3	2	5
16	B	5	0	0	0
33	C	8	0	0	0
16	D	3	0	0	0
4	F	1	0	0	0
5	N/A	5	1	1	1
Total Number of Schools		27 (32%)	Total Number of Schools performing better than Vista College Preparatory (Percentage of Total)		
85			4 (5%)	3 (4%)	6 (7%)

Enrollment and Demographic Data

100th Day Average Daily Membership for FY 2014–FY 2018.





2016-2017 Subgroup Data	
Free and Reduced Lunch	58%
English Language Learners	*
Special Education	15%

**If the percentage of students is 0% or 100%, or the group includes less than 10 students, the percentage for that group is redacted.*

Vista College Prep-Maryvale opened in FY 2018; therefore, demographic and subgroup data for the school is not available.

