#### AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations - Vista College Preparatory, Inc.

#### Issue

Vista College Preparatory, Inc. (VCP) received No Rating for its academic performance in FY2014 and was required to submit data with any expansion request. VCP requested to add a new school site on January 22, 2016.

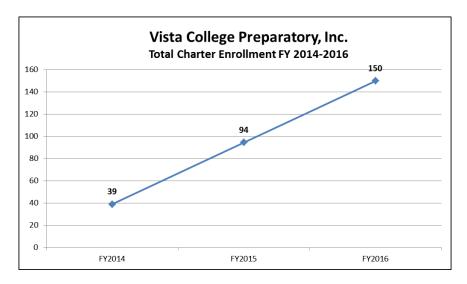
#### **Summary of Narrative Provided**

According to the narrative (presented in Appendix B: Notification Request Materials), VCP is adding a school site in order to meet the learning needs of Maryvale's underperforming student population. The Charter Holder provided an expansion plan that addresses the Charter Holder's capacity for opening a new school site and includes a description of the following: the need for high quality schools to serve the target population; a slow growth startup plan to begin with 4 classrooms (2 kindergarten, 2 first grade); current training of school leadership; and a marketing/enrollment plan. (presented in the Appendix B: Notification Request Materials). The Charter Holder intends to open the proposed campus for the 2016-2017 school year and serve grades K through 1.

#### I. Background

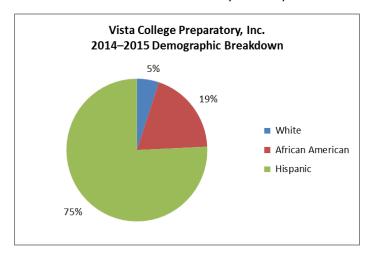
VCP was granted a charter in 2013, which is currently approved for grades K-5. VCP operates 1 school, Vista College Preparatory, which serves grades K-3 in Phoenix.

The enrollment cap for Vista College Preparatory is 349. The graph below shows average daily membership (ADM) for the charter based on 100th day ADM for fiscal years FY2014, FY2015 and 40th day ADM for fiscal year 2016.





The demographic data for VCP from the 2014–2015 school year is represented in the chart below.1



The percentage of students served by VCP in the 2014–2015 school year who are classified as English Language Learners, classified as students with disabilities, or are eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRL), is represented in the table below.<sup>1</sup>

School Name	English Language Learners (ELL)	Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL)	Students with Disabilities
Charter Holder	*	96%	5%

As stated in Board policy, prior to a request being considered by the Board, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the amendment and notification approval process. The Charter Holder is in compliance in all areas.

#### II. 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. Vista College Preparatory opened with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade in FY2014, added 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in FY2015, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in FY2016. Because no state assessment is administered to the grade levels served, academic performance dashboard data does not exist for Vista College Preparatory.

The Charter Holder was required to submit internal benchmarking data for FY2015 and FY2016 to demonstrate academic performance.

a Charter School

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Information provided by the Research and Evaluation division of the Arizona Department of Education. If the percentage of students in a non-ethnicity-based demographic group is 0% or 100%, the percentage for that demographic group was redacted.

#### **III. Demonstration of Sufficient Progress**

#### **Data**

As evidenced by internal benchmarking data provided by the Vista College Preparatory, Inc., the school has provided data and analysis generated from valid and reliable assessment sources that demonstrates comparative improvement or maintained performance year-over-year for at least the two most recent school years. (presented in Appendix A: Data Analysis)

Question	Valid and Reliable Data	Data provided for Current Fiscal Year	Data Demonstrates Improved Performance
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes
SGP Bottom 25% - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes
SGP Bottom 25% - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proficiency - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proficiency - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subgroup ELL – Math	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subgroup ELL - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subgroup SPED – Math	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subgroup SPED - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes

#### **IV. Financial Information**

The Charter Holder meets the Board's financial performance expectations set forth in the performance framework adopted by the Board. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit financial performance response.

#### V. Adherence to the Terms of the Charter

For fiscal year 2015, the Charter Holder meets the Board's Operational Performance Standard set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board and, to date, has no measures rated as "Falls Far Below Standard" for the current fiscal year.

#### **VI. Board Options**

Option 1: The Board may approve the New School Site Notification Request. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, to approve the request to add a new school site to the charter contract of Vista College Preparatory, Inc. for the operation of Vista College Prep - Maryvale.

Option 2: The Board may deny the New School Site Notification Request. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, to deny the request toad a new school site the charter contract of Vista College Preparatory, Inc., for the reasons that: (Board member must specify reasons the Board found during its consideration.)



# Appendix A: Data Analysis





# **Demonstration of Sufficient Progress Data Analysis**

Charter Holder Name: Vista College Preparatory, Inc. Required for: Expansion - New School Site

School Name: Vista College Prep Evaluation Criteria Area: Data

<b>Document Name/Identification</b>	Intended Purpose and Discussion Outcome							
FY15 DSP Data Submission	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the doc	cument was to demonstrate: academic performance in						
Spreadsheet	Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Math							
Vista College Prep New Site								
Information Data 2014	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of improved academic performance in Student Median Growth							
Copy of Growth Percentages	Percentile (SGP) – Math.							
2015-2016								
	The percentage of students identified as positive movement between performance categories, or maintained status as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard" on benchmark assessments has increased from 68% in FY15 to 71% in							
	FY16.	k assessments has increased from 68% in FF15 to 71% in						
	1110.							
	Final Evaluation:							
	☐ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	$\square$ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
	sufficient.	as insufficient.						
FY15 DSP Data Submission	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the doc	cument was to demonstrate: academic performance in						
Spreadsheet	Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Reading							
Vista College Prep New Site								
Information Data 2014	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of impro	oved academic performance in Student Median Growth						
Copy of Growth Percentages 2015-2016	Percentile (SGP) – Reading.							
2013-2010	The percentage of students identified as positive movem	ent between performance categories, or maintained status						
	as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard" on benchmar							
	FY16.							
	Final Evaluation:							
	☐ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
	sufficient.	as insufficient.						
FY15 DSP Data Submission	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the doc	·						
Spreadsheet	Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) bottom 25% – M	ath						
Vista College Prep New Site								
Information Data 2014	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of improved academic performance in Student Median Growth							
	Percentile (SGP) bottom 25% – Math OR Improvement – Math.							



Copy of Growth Percentages 2015-2016	The percentage of students identified as positive movement between performance categories, or maintained status as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard" on benchmark assessments has increased from 14% in FY15 to 54% in FY16.  Final Evaluation:						
	☑ Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as insufficient.					
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the doc Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) bottom 25% – Re	·					
Information Data 2014 Copy of Growth Percentages 2015-2016	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of impro- Percentile (SGP) bottom 25% – Reading	ved academic performance in Student Median Growth					
	The percentage of students identified as positive movement between performance categories, or maintained status as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard" on benchmark assessments has increased from 66% in FY15 to 87% in FY16.						
	Final Evaluation:						
	☑ Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as insufficient.					
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the document was to demonstrate: academic performance in Percent Passing – Math						
Information Data 2014 Copy of Growth Percentages 2015-2016	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of maintained academic performance in Percent Passing – Math The number of students assessed in math increased by 62% from FY15 to FY16, from 108 students to 175.						
2013-2010	Data shows that in FY2015 66% of students were identified as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016 57%. In FY16 a greater percentage of students began the year as "falls far below standard" as compared to the prior year. Growth data for math indicates that a greater percentage of students demonstrated positive movement between performance categories, or maintained status as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard" on benchmark assessments. The movement of a greater percentage of students toward proficiency demonstrates that						
	Final Evaluation:						
	☑ Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evalua as insufficient.					



FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the document was to demonstrate: academic performance in Percent Passing – Reading							
Information Data 2014 Copy of Growth Percentages	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of improved academic performance in Percent Passing – Rea							
2015-2016								
	Final Evaluation:							
	☐ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
	sufficient.	as insufficient.						
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the opercent Passing Subgroup, ELL – Math	document was to demonstrate: academic performance in						
Information Data 2014	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of mai	intained academic performance in Percent Passing Subgroup,						
Copy of Growth Percentages	ELL – Math.							
2015-2016	The number of ELL students assessed in reading increases	sed by 55% from FY15 to FY16, from 47 students to 75.						
	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.	sed by 55% from FY15 to FY16, from 47 students to 75.						
	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:	tified as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016						
	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:   Data presented serve as evidence of improved	ified as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016  ☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:	tified as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016						
	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:  Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.	□ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site Information Data 2014 Copy of Growth Percentages	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:  Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.  Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the opercent Passing Subgroup, ELL – Reading	□ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as insufficient.						
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site Information Data 2014	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:  Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.  Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the content Passing Subgroup, ELL – Reading  The documents provided demonstrate evidence of increase.	□ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as insufficient.  document was to demonstrate: academic performance in						
FY15 DSP Data Submission Spreadsheet Vista College Prep New Site Information Data 2014 Copy of Growth Percentages	Data shows that in FY2015 57% of students were ident 55%.  Final Evaluation:  Data presented serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as sufficient.  Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the opercent Passing Subgroup, ELL – Reading  The documents provided demonstrate evidence of incre-Math.  The number of ELL students assessed in math increased	□ Data presented does not serve as evidence of improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated as insufficient.  document was to demonstrate: academic performance in						



☐ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of
academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated
sufficient.	as insufficient.



FY15 DSP Data Submission	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the document was to demonstrate: academic performance in							
Spreadsheet	Percent Passing Subgroup, Students with disabilities – Math							
Vista College Prep New Site								
nformation Data 2014	The documents provided demonstrate evidence of improved academic performance in Percent Passing Subgroup,							
Copy of Growth Percentages	Students with disabilities – Math.							
2015-2016								
		fied as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016						
	40%.							
	Final Evaluation:							
	☐ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	☐ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
	sufficient.	as insufficient.						
Y15 DSP Data Submission	Charter holder indicated the intended purpose of the o	document was to demonstrate: academic performance in						
Spreadsheet	Percent Passing Subgroup, Students with disabilities – R	eading						
Vista College Prep New Site								
nformation Data 2014	-	proved academic performance in Percent Passing Subgroup,						
Copy of Growth Percentages	Students with disabilities – Reading.							
2015-2016								
	40%.	fied as "meets standard" or "exceeds standard"; for FY2016						
	Final Evaluation:							
	☑ Data presented serve as evidence of improved	$\square$ Data presented does not serve as evidence of						
	academic performance, and thus is evaluated as	improved academic performance, and thus is evaluated						
	sufficient.	as insufficient.						



# Appendix B: Notification Request Materials

## Vista College Prep Board Meeting Minutes Special Meeting

Date: 12/17/15

Location: Telephonic

Board Members Present (Telephonically): Charles Mitchell, Chris Dang, Kelly McManus, Grant Crone, Katherine Cecala

Board Members Absent (Telephonically): Cassie Breecher, Dawn Kennedy, Irene Carroll

Staff Present (Telephonically): Julia Meyerson

The meeting was called to order by Charles Mitchell, Chair, at 2:36 pm

Call to the Public

Charles Mitchell introduced the special meeting by stating that that the meeting was called for one purpose, which was to discuss submitting a new school site notification request to ASBCS regarding the addition of a second campus.

#### Agenda Item - New School Site Notification

Ms. Meyerson reviewed the process and rationale for submitting a New School Site Notification to ASBCS. The board discussed the recommendations.

Mr. Dang moved to authorize Ms. Meyerson to proceed with Vista College Prep submitting a New School Site Notification request. Ms. Cecala seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Dated and posted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015.

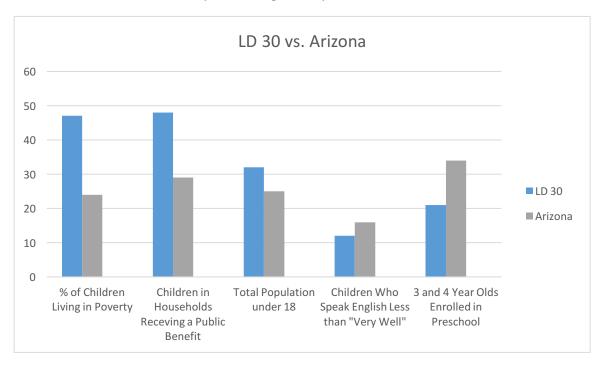
Respectfully submitted, Julia Meyerson

#### Vista College Prep - Narrative

1. Provide the timeline for implementing the expansion requested including the projected number of students served per grade for the first year, and including whether the *New School Site Notification Request* will be submitted in conjunction with any other amendment or notification requests which would warrant concurrent consideration.

Vista College Preparatory ("Vista College Prep") proposes to open an elementary school in the Maryvale neighborhood of Phoenix with the firm belief that all students, regardless of race, language or economic status can succeed if they have access to a high quality education.

Detailed below please find background on the need in Maryvale for a high performing elementary school as well as a timeline for implementing the expansion.



Vista College Prep targets the learning needs of Maryvale's rapidly growing<sup>1</sup> underperforming early elementary student population by providing an academically rigorous education, a highly structured school environment, and a focus on leadership development.

#### **Targeted Community and Key Demographics**

Forty-two percent of Arizona schools are failing to hit accountability targets, according to the *Arizona Republic*. Similarly, the Children's Action Alliance has found that "three out of every four 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Arizona are unable to read proficiently." <sup>2</sup> According to the Casey Foundation, "low-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more information, see the "First Things First." SFY 2012 Funding Plan. 2011.

http://www.azftf.gov/Documents/Jan%202011%20Meeting%20Materials/South%20Phoenix%202012%20Regional%20Funding%20Plan.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Children's Action Alliance offers extensive research on early care and education. This statistic is highlighted from their report in 2010: http://www.azchildren.org/display.asp?pageId=80&parentId=46. The recent data from 2011 shows the same statistic.

income fourth graders who cannot meet NAEP's proficient level in reading today are all too likely to become our nation's lowest-income, least skilled, least-productive, and most costly citizens tomorrow."<sup>3</sup>

While these numbers are alarming for the future of our state, there are schools, both charter and district, that are breaking the mold and producing strong academic results with all students. Unfortunately, few of these schools are located in our targeted student community of Maryvale.

Vista College Prep has identified two zip codes with a high-need student population (defining high need as a high percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch and few adequate options for elementary students to attain a high quality education) for a school location: 85009 and 85035. The primary school district in this region is the Cartwright Elementary District. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 74% of the population under 18 is Hispanic or Latino, 13 % is White Non Hispanic, and 6% is Black/African-American.<sup>4</sup> We estimate the local school district to have 87% of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch,<sup>5</sup> 10% of students who are classified as special education<sup>6</sup> and 21% of students who are English Language Learners.<sup>7</sup> The two identified zip codes are within Maryvale and fall within Legislative District 30 and Legislative District 19. In this neighborhood, the median household income is \$40,504 (compared to the Phoenix Metro median of \$54,713), 52% of mothers did not have a high school education (compared to 21% for the State), and 47% of children are living in poverty. <sup>8</sup> See **Figure 1** (above) for more information.

Maryvale falls into the First Things First South Phoenix Region, and according to a 2010 report, "the number of adults claiming unemployment insurance more than tripled between 2007 and 2009, growing faster than the number in Maricopa County and the state. The South Phoenix Region also "continues to experience the highest growth rate of children 0-5 and especially children ages 3-5." In fact as of 2012, "The largest population of children birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region was in the Maryvale Neighborhood." This serves to further emphasize that not only is an additional high-performing school necessary to help combat low academic performance, but there will be a statistical need for an early elementary school due to the population increase of elementary students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Casey Foundation's Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Children's Action Alliance: http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/LD-30-AIMS-2014.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Information gathered from the Arizona Department of Education: <a href="http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/">http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/</a> and <a href="http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages/">http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For more detail see the National Center for Educational Statistics:

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/district\_detail.asp?Search=1\&InstName=cartwright\&City=phoenix\&DistrictType=1\&DistrictType=2\&DistrictType=2\&DistrictType=8\&NumOfStudentsRange=more\&NumOfSchoolsRange=more\&ID2=04016\\80\&details=.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Children's Action Alliance: http://azchildren.org/default.asp publishes reports based on legislative districts. The two zip codes we have targeted are in LD 30 and LD 19.

<sup>2010</sup> First Things First – Needs and Assets Report:

 $http://www.azftf.gov/RPCCouncilPublicationsCenter/South\_Phoenix\_Needs\_and\_Assets\_\%20Report\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_Needs\_and\_Assets\_\%20Report\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_Assets\_\%20Report\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ South\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ Phoenix\_2010.pdffor\ Phoenix\ P$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 2012 First Things First – Needs and Assets Report:

https://www.azftf.gov/RPCCouncilPublicationsCenter/South Phoenix Needs and Assets Report 2012.pdf

Above, we have identified and analyzed several key areas of demographics including poverty, student growth rate, free and reduced price lunch percentages, and racial breakdown. Below are two additional indicators when analyzing Maryvale.

*Crime:* According to Valley law enforcement agencies, <sup>12</sup> in the last six (6) months there have been more nearly 1,000 crimes in our combined targeted zip codes of 85009 and 85035. Crimes reported in this analysis include property theft, violent crimes and "other."

Health Data: A recent "Arizona Health Survey" listed the following key indicators regarding health data in South Phoenix:

- The rate of child uninsurance is double that of the White, non-Hispanic young child population.
- Almost 60% of Hispanic residents in South Phoenix rely on Food Stamps.
- Almost 70% of children receive at least one serving of soda every day

And, nationally, there is a higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes among Hispanic/Latino children than among White, non-Hispanic children.<sup>14</sup>

The majority of the adult population in the Cartwright Elementary District is Hispanic or Latino and only 1.3% of the population has earned a bachelor's degree. With an effective and quality education, the youth of this community "could become a potent new source of talent in the state, [as] Arizona's future economic and social well-being depends heavily on erasing the educational deficits of the state's young Hispanic residents." Vista College Prep's educational philosophy and program are designed to close the academic achievement gap for elementary students in South Phoenix and prepare each student for success in middle school, achievement in high school and graduation from college.

#### **Analysis of Public Schools in School Territory**

For the entire Cartwright Elementary District, the 2015 AZMerit test results are (for applicable grades to Vista College Prep):

- Grade 3: 25% passed math, 20% passed ELA (State Average: 41% math, 41% ELA)
- Grade 4: 24% passed math, 25% passed ELA (State Average: 42% math, 42% ELA)
- Grade 5: 14% passed math, 13% passed ELA (State Average: 40% math, 32% ELA)<sup>17</sup>

There is currently only one district option for elementary students to attend an A-rated school in the area we have targeted, and it has a substantially lower percentage of students that qualify

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Information gathered from the City of Phoenix: http://www.raidsonline.com/

<sup>13</sup> http://www.arizonahealthsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/ahs-2010-YgChildrenSoPhx-Dec10.pdf

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> This information is from a 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates of Educational Attainment for the Cartwright Elementary District, Arizona: http://www.factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\_14\_5YR\_S1501&prodType=table

<sup>16 &</sup>quot;Five Shoes Waiting to Drop on Arizona's Future." https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/sites/default/files/content/products/APC2001 5ShoesToDropOnAZsFuture.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The 2015 state results are located at the Arizona Dept. of Education: <a href="http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/">http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/</a>.

for free or reduced lunch in comparison to other schools in the targeted area. Of the 18 schools in our targeted area, there are four D-rated schools, eight C-rated schools, and five B-rated schools in addition to the one A-rated school. 18

A deeper analysis of school performance in the targeted zip codes can be found in **Figures 2 and 3.** There are 6 public schools in the 85035 zip code and 12 public schools in the 85009 zip code with comparable grades to Vista College Prep--not all are part of the Roosevelt Elementary District.<sup>19</sup> The District is comprised of 20 schools with a grade span of Preschool through 8. This chart lists all elementary public schools in Vista College Prep's targeted area. The grade levels, student body size (not all data is listed for K and 1 grade counts), and school type were gathered from NCES<sup>20</sup> (2009-2010 school year), the AZ Merit data and the percentage of students who qualify for Free or Reduce Price Lunch was gathered from the Arizona Department of Education,<sup>21</sup> unless otherwise noted.

Figure 2: Public Schools - 85035 zip code

igure 2. Public Schools - 83033 zip code									
School Name	Grade	Total Size	FRPL %	School Type	2015 AZ Merit School Average				
Charles W. Harris School	K-8	1,204	67% <sup>22</sup>	District	14% passed math, 17% passed ELA				
Imagine Elementary School at Desert West	K-5	819	92%	Charter	30% passed math, 22% passed ELA				
Joseph Zito Elementary School	K-5	699	86%	District	19% passed math, 16% passed ELA				
Manuel Pena Jr. School	K-5	922	87%	District	21% passed math, 20% passed ELA				
Palm Lane	K-8 950		92%	District	28% passed math, 16% passed ELA				
Peralta School	K-5	927	88%	District	21% passed math, 16% passed ELA				

 $\frac{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&State=AZ\&city=Phoenix\&zipcode=85041\&miles=\&itemname=\&sortby=name\&School=1\&PrivSchool=1\&College=1\&Library=1\&Status=Search+Finished\&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&State=AZ\&city=Phoenix\&zipcode=85041\&miles=&itemname=\&sortby=name\&School=1\&PrivSchool=1\&College=1\&Library=1\&Status=Search+Finished\&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&State=AZ\&city=Phoenix\&zipcode=85041\&miles=&itemname=&sortby=name\&School=1\&PrivSchool=1\&College=1\&Library=1\&Status=Search+Finished\&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&Status=Search+Finished&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&Status=Search+Finished&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&Status=Search+Finished&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&Status=Search+Finished&Records=20\&CS=B2A75947}{\text{http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1\&Status=Search=1\&$ 

http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/index.asp?search=1&State=&city=&zipcode=85035&miles=&itemname=&sortby=name&School=1&Status=Search+Finished&Records=12&CS=9BAF7638

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The school that received an A ranking is Magnet Traditional School. However, only 76% of their students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (data from NCES). Our goal is to serve a high population of students that qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, matching or exceeding the targeted area's average of 87% (data from Arizona Department of Education- October 2015 data: <a href="http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/files/2012/07/sy2015\_frpercentages\_publish2015.8.23.pdf">http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/files/2012/07/sy2015\_frpercentages\_publish2015.8.23.pdf</a> ).

<sup>19</sup> Information gathered from NCES:

<sup>&</sup>amp;Records=12&CS=9BAF7638

Information gathered from the Arizona Department of Education: <a href="http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/">http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/</a> and <a href="http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages/">http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/</a> and <a href="http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages/">http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Information gathered from: http://www.education.com/schoolfinder/us/arizona/phoenix/arts-academy-at-south-mountain/#students-and-teachers

Figure 3: Public Schools - 85009 zip code

School Name	Grade	Size	FRPL %	School Type	2015 AZ Merit School Average
Alfred F. Garcia School	K-8	615	92%	District	17% passed math, 17% passed ELA
Alta E. Butler School	K-8	775	92%	District	16% passed math, 17% passed ELA
Arthur M. Hamilton School	K-8	346	87%	District	4% passed math, 11% passed ELA
Esperanza Elementary School - Isaac	K-5	470	90%	District	23% passed math, 20% passed ELA
J.B. Sutton Elementary School	K-5	784	94%	District	15% passed math, 19% passed ELA
Jack L. Kuban Elementary School	K-8	414	94%	District	27% passed math, 22% passed ELA
Magnet Traditional School	K-8	523	76%	District	38% passed math, 47% passed ELA
Mitchell Elementary School	K-5	600	83%	District	16% passed math, 15% passed ELA
Moya Elementary	K-5	478	86%	District	16% passed math, 22% passed ELA
P.T. Coe Elementary School	K-5	763	87%	District	13% passed math, 16% passed ELA
William R. Sullivan Elementary School	K-8	639	86%	District	9% passed math, 12% passed ELA

Of the 18 schools (charter and district) in our targeted zip codes, only one school achieved over 25% on the 2015 AZ Merit test for ELA (less than 5% of total elementary schools in the area). Only four schools achieved over 25% on the 2015 AZ Merit test for math (less than a quarter of total elementary schools in the area).

At Vista College Prep, we believe that a strong literacy foundation will change the trajectory for our students. While there are four schools in our targeted area that are above 25% on the AZ Merit test, only one of the schools out-achieved the state average, and 76% of their students qualify for free or reduced lunch, below the averages for the vast majority of the other schools within the targeted area. Therefore, there is not one school in our target zip code that is educating as high of a percentage of children who qualify for free or reduced price lunch while concurrently achieving at a high level in reading proficiency (as indicated on the AZ Merit test). Vista College Prep's curriculum, schedule, and 215 minutes of literacy instruction, are specifically designed to address the literacy gap that is causing an academic achievement gap for students in low-income communities.

### **Timeline**

• January 30, 2016: Facility Identified

• June 30, 2016: 100 student applications

• August 1, 2016: Day One of School

#### **Projected Enrollment in Year One**

Grade K: 42 StudentsGrade 1: 42 Students

At capacity we plan to have three classes per grade (21 students per class), however, since we are moving into a new community, we wanted to plan conservatively. Therefore, in our first year we are planning for two classrooms per grade, and then in year two move to three classes per grade.

#### **Enrollment Increase**

We have currently been approved to increase our enrollment to cover a second K-1 campus. However, we would like to propose that we ensure both campuses have K-5 capacity with grade-level caps. The enrollment increase would be as follows:

- Current Campus (812 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave): 63 students per grade, Total = 378 (K-5)
- Second Campus (Maryvale): 63 students per grade, Total = 378 (K-5)

# 2. Provide the number of instructional days the new school site will serve.

Just like Vista College Prep's current campus we will open with a longer school year and school day. We will be open for 182 days and from 7:40-4:00 pm (M-TH) and 7:40-2:30 pm (F).

- 3. Summarize the organization's capacity:
  - a. to support the quality and long-term academic success;
  - b. to support the quality and long-term operational success; and
  - c. to support the quality and long-term financial viability of the proposed growth of the charter until capacity is reached.

#### **Quality and Long-Term Academic Success**

Vista College Prep's growth is dependent on providing an exceptional academic model. As we think about continued growth and expansion, we would never propose another campus unless we had strong academic success at our current campus. As detailed below, we believe our model has demonstrated proven success and that we have the internal capacity and drive for long-term academic success through replication.

#### **Background on Founder:**

Julia Meyerson, Vista College Prep (Executive Director). Ms. Meyerson joined Teach For America (TFA) upon college graduation and taught in the South Bronx as a first grade teacher. During her two years in the classroom, she achieved solid academic gains with her first-graders. Later selected as a Corps Member Advisor, she was responsible for managing incoming TFA corps members and training them to become successful teachers. Realizing the tremendous impact of state and local policy on transforming education, Ms. Meyerson went on to join the Democratic Governors Association. Starting as the Assistant to the Executive Director, Ms. Meyerson was promoted each year, and most recently served as the organization's Policy Director where she had a unique opportunity to work with innovative governors, business leaders and policy experts on the pressing issues facing state and local governments. In 2011, Ms. Meyerson was accepted into the highly selective Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, and also participated in the Arizona Charter Schools Association Charter Starter Program. Eager to make a positive contribution to her home state of Arizona, Ms. Meyerson is the Executive Director for Vista College Prep and *ex officio* non-voting member of the Governing Board. Ms. Meyerson earned a BA at the University of Southern California and a MS in Teaching at Pace University.

The formal planning for Vista College Prep began in July 2010, when she attended her first meeting with the Director of Talent Recruitment for Building Excellent Schools. Ms. Meyerson applied for the competitive Building Excellent Schools Fellowship in December 2010 and was accepted in January 2011. Her year-long Fellowship began in August 2011 and continued through August 2012. From August 2012 – January 2013, Ms. Meyerson acted as project manager for the authorization and successful start-up of Vista College Prep. In January of 2013, Vista College Prep was unanimously approved by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools to open as a slow growth school. Our application passed the administrative and substantive review without any edits required.

**Description of the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship:** The mission of Building Excellent Schools is to develop and support school leaders who have the capacity to lead consistently high

performing schools and who view solid academic achievement as a necessity for transforming children's lives. BES develops in leaders the ability to: articulate a powerful vision; translate vision into reality; develop their own skills; develop the skills of others; drive student achievement.

The Fellowship includes the following elements: individual in-school observations and consultations with school principals and their senior staff, written evaluations and recommendations, an off-site retreat with leadership teams from all participating schools, development by leadership teams of building-level action plans, follow-up visits and retreats to confirm progress and update action plans. BES, in collaboration with participating schools across the country, has documented best practices and has developed nationally recognized leadership training materials. In addition to the services described above, the Building Excellent Schools leadership training, school design, and ongoing support include the following programmatic components:

- Dedicated training space for leadership seminars and off-site school "action team" meetings.
- Opportunities for cross fertilization of ideas and best practices with other BES participants through a regular series of informal events and focused workshops.
- Development of additional leadership trainers, recruited from the graduates of Building Excellent Schools.

Academic Success at Vista College Prep's Current Campus: By the time Vista College Prep opened in August 2013, we had spent two years studying the highest performing charter schools across the country through Building Excellent Schools. Throughout the fellowship, we visited, studied and learned from schools where over 90% of students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch and over 90% of students achieve at the highest academic levels. Now, nearly three years later, Vista College Prep is a high-performing kindergarten through fifth grade tuition-free, public charter school educating a high minority and low-income student population—97% of our students qualify for free or reduced price lunch, 94% of our students are minority students, and 43% of our students are considered English Language Learners. Vista College Prep opened in August 2013 with kindergarten and first grade. We added second grade last year, third grade this year, and will continue to add a grade each year until we reach capacity as a K-5 elementary school.

This past year Vista College Prep scholars achieved an average of 1.4 years of literacy growth as measured by the STEP assessment. In the last <u>two</u> years, our scholars have achieved <u>three</u> years of literacy growth! In addition, Vista College Prep scholars dramatically exceeded the national median on the nationally normed TerraNova assessment (and beat all of our scores from last year!). Looking just at last year's numbers, 86% of our students achieved their growth goals for literacy. And, looking at our math interims, our students increased their proficiency score by an incredible average of 24%.

Additionally, as you compare our academic data from this year to last year, you will see nearly identical metrics. The growth plans for our second campus have in no way impeded our

academic gains at our current campus. This was also the first year that we took on three classes of kindergarten, already showing that the growth at our current campus has not impacted our academic performance, and in some cases showing even better performance at this point in the year, as compared to last year. One other note on the academic data is that we expect even stronger performance at the end of the year, as we adjusted our assessment cycle to account for more assessments in the second semester rather than the first as we believe that will help our scholars grow even faster.

As we think about supporting long-term academic success, we believe that our highly collaborative model, shared curriculum, leadership training and constant self-reflection will be the key to ensuring we meet the very high goals we have set for ourselves.

Highly Collaborative: At Vista College Prep's current campus, we have carved out a significant time for professional development across each grade and across the school. Our teachers are teaching the same lessons each day which allows for targeted feedback and strong collaboration between the teachers and instructional coaches. This same level of collaboration will exist at our new campus and will increase as we now have two campuses working with the curriculum and working to constantly improve the curriculum. We firmly believe that as we grow, we will continue to get better. Our model is very lean, which has meant that we have had a small team, doing a significant amount of work. We are excited to bring in new staff to support the strong creation of curriculum materials and constantly improve.

**Shared Curriculum:** A critical component to our future success will be in shared curriculum. As we propose to open a K-5 campus, we will only be opening with grades that we have proven success in. Additionally, our K-1 curriculum is incredibly strong as reflected in our data. As you can see our kindergarteners and first graders this year are significantly more advanced than even the year before. This year, nearly 100% of our kindergarten students came in significantly below grade level. As of October, we had nearly 70% of students at or above grade level in kindergarten. The strength in sharing curriculum across two campuses will allow our team to have more purposeful planning meetings and allow a better management of data/data comparison. Since we know our curriculum works, we are excited to use this as a tool for strong, sustainable growth. This is also a best practice that we have seen at high performing networks like Uncommon Charter Schools.

Leadership Training: As we think about the growth of our organization, we have been highly strategic with our leadership training. As a result of a \$200,000 grant from the Louis J. Calder Foundation over the course of the last two years, we have been able to prepare for the opening of a second campus with the hiring of both principals to lead our two campuses. This year both principals are undergoing an intensive training program. Some of the training we have developed ourselves and some we are seeking from outside organizations. The new-to-our organization individual (who we hired this past year) has now gone through a summer program with Building Excellent Schools. Both individuals will also participate in a week-long residency next semester with principals at Uncommon Charter Schools. We are strategic about our growth, and

leadership is the most important piece—both leaders will now have been through a full year of training as we prepare to open our second campus.

Constant Self-Reflection: The most important piece of our organization is rooted in a constant desire to improve. Whether that is operationally or academically, we are always seeking new ways to push and challenge our organization to get better. Specific to academics, we are constantly seeking out best practices from the highest performing schools in the country. As we have discussed, we recently received a grant from the Arizona Community Foundation that is designed to support the strategic growth of Vista College Prep. Part of this grant has allowed us to once again bring out the founders of the Uncommon Charter Schools (North Star, specifically) elementary model. To be able to brainstorm and push ourselves even further is rooted in our entire organization. We give our leaders and teachers time to reflect on what is going well and what needs improvement. This drive will be present at both campuses.

#### **Quality and Long-Term Operational Success**

Vista College Prep has a strong foundation in operational success. This starts with our high functioning, and very strong Governing Board. Vista College Prep's founding board began its work in October 2011 and has remained engaged in the school's development and now operation through regular and thoughtful conversation. The full founding group established standing monthly meetings in Phoenix starting in February 2012, reviewing progress on the charter application and developing the community support for the school. We are pleased to share that our current Governing Board, which still meets monthly, is comprised of all of our Founding Board members, plus two additional individuals, listed below. Collectively, the Governing Board brings the following skills and expertise: Finance, Development/Fundraising, Community Organizing, Marketing, Real Estate and Facilities, Law, Human Resources, Business/Strategic Planning, Networks, Governance/Board Experience, Education, and Policy.

**Key Leadership:** Our Governing Board members represent a diverse group of civic leaders with vast expertise and an array of leadership experience that will be essential to the strong governance of Vista College Prep. Below please find detailed biographies for each Board Member.

#### **Governing Board Members (Officers Noted)**

Charles Mitchell, CEO-All About People (Board Chair). As CEO, Mr. Mitchell oversees all company day-to-day operations, including recruitment of employees and staff, and is responsible for directing all legal efforts relating to the business. Mr. Mitchell was instrumental in leading the company from start-up to \$17 M in revenue within the first three years of operation. He also serves on the local, regional and national boards representing Arizona and California for INROADS, a national internship program for talented minority youth. Mr. Mitchell was recently appointed as the Small and Local Business Advisor to Mayor Greg Stanton. Mr. Mitchell earned his BS at North Carolina A&T State University, MBA at the University of North Carolina, JD at American University, and graduated from Harvard Business School's

Owner/President Management Program. As board chair, Mr. Mitchell brings strong executive leadership and acumen in business, law and finance to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Cassie Hilpman Breecher, Vice President of Education-Valley of the Sun United Way. Ms. Breecher leads VSUW's strategy, community partnerships, and collective impact model work in education along a birth to career continuum, as the organization invests more than \$50million in improving outcomes for children and youth in Maricopa County and around the state. Ms. Breecher is a Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Fellow, and serves on a variety of community boards in and around Phoenix. Ms. Breecher earned a BA in Political Science at The Colorado College and Master's Degree in Education at Arizona State University. Ms. Breecher brings a wealth of leadership experience within education and a connection to both local and national networks of high performing educators to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Kelly McManus, Senior Legislative Affairs Associate-Education Trust (Secretary). After teaching as a seventh and eighth grade Literacy teacher in Philadelphia through Teach For America, Ms. McManus moved to Arizona to continue her commitment to education as the Manager of Public Partnerships for Teach For America-Phoenix. In this role, Ms. McManus represented Teach For America at the Arizona Legislature. Additionally, Ms. McManus served for three years as the Government Affairs Director for Stand for Children Arizona, working on education policy development, advocacy, and implementation. Ms. McManus earned a BA at Wake Forest University and MS in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. McManus brings experience in education, education policy, and development to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Katherine Cecala, President – Junior Achievement of Arizona (Treasurer). Ms. Cecala was most recently the COO at Valley of the Sun United Way where she led the strategic business operations including administration, finance, pledge processing, facilities, technology, legal services, and human resources for non-profit dedicated to improving lives in Maricopa County. Ms. Cecala is active in the philanthropic community and currently serves on numerous boards as a member and as Treasurer. Ms. Cecala earned a BS at Louisiana State University and a JD at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Ms. Cecala brings critical experience in business operations, finance, governance and human resources to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

**Dawn Kennedy, Dir. of Corporate Tax Credits-Brophy Community Foundation (Board Member).** Ms. Kennedy recently retired as the Executive Director for the Brophy Community Foundation, where in just one year she raised over \$1 million in Arizona tax credits. She is active in the philanthropic community and has led and served on numerous boards and committees including the Arizona Science Center, Paradise United Methodist Church Preschool and the Phoenix Public Library. Ms. Kennedy earned her BS from Arizona State University and her JD from the University of Arizona. Ms. Kennedy brings strong expertise in development, fundraising, and non-profit management to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Christopher Dang, Attorney-Quarles and Brady LLP (Board Member). Mr. Dang analyzes health care regulations to guide national health care providers and suppliers in their business operations. He also manages multi-state legal compliance surveys on state food and drug, professional practice, facility licensing, and business laws. Before attending law school, Mr. Dang taught 8th grade Language Arts in St. Louis with Teach For America. Mr. Dang earned a BA and JD from The University of Arizona. Mr. Dang brings an outstanding background in education and law to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Irene Carroll, Co-Founder and Principal – Funding the Gap (Board Member). Ms. Carroll is co-founder and principal of Funding the Gap, LLC, a real estate capital advisory & mortgage brokerage services firm with a focus on charter school facilities financing. Her extensive and successful business background coupled with her philanthropic passion and experience give her a unique advantage in helping charter schools obtain necessary funding and provide short and long term financial planning services. She serves on the Board of Rancho Feliz Charitable Foundation, and as Project Manager for a decade-long undertaking in Agua Prieta, Mexico overseeing the design of an entire housing community complete with education and child care facilities. For this role, Ms. Carroll was awarded national recognition as Outstanding Woman of the Year in Construction in 2004 by Arizona State University and the National Association of Women in Construction. Ms. Carroll obtained a BS in Accounting from the University of Texas at El Paso and is a Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Carroll brings expertise in real estate, finance and accounting to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Grant Crone – Principal (MMPR Marketing). A principal at the Phoenix-based, MMPR Marketing, Grant Crone is recognized as an expert in the public relations & marketing fields. Named the 2014 Public Relations Man of the Year by "Arizona Foothills Magazine," Grant spearheads his firm's client strategy & marketing efforts, including the full ecosystem of branding, digital marketing, public relations and social media. A member of both the Scottsdale League for the Arts and the Phoenix Children's Hospital Emerging Leaders, Grant also serves on the governing board for Vista College Preparatory. A Valley native, Grant attended high school at Brophy College Preparatory, and earned his undergrad degree at Fordham University in New York City. Grant and his wife Julie live in Phoenix with their one-year-old son. Mr. Crone brings extensive marketing expertise to the Governing Board of Vista College Prep.

Specific to our new campus, and on a monthly basis, Vista College Prep's Executive Director presents the Board with our planning year dashboard for our second campus in Maryvale. This looks different than the academic and finance dashboards we use on a monthly basis during the school year. Our planning year dashboard (included in the monthly Executive Director report) details a variety of metrics including the following:

- Student Recruitment
- Established Partnerships
- Volunteer Engagement
- Fund Development
- Board Recruitment

#### Staffing

Once the school year begins for our second campus, the Governing Board will review Vista College Prep's academic dashboard. The dashboard includes metrics such as:

- Key Student Demographics
- Key Staff Demographics
- Student enrollment (as well as identified areas of absences/tardies, etc.)
- Academic Performance

We also review the Finance Dashboard on a monthly basis (discussed more in the Financial Sustainability section below).

The dashboards are designed to help the Governing Board monitor key indicators of Vista College Prep's success. This document is already created and provides a formalized and sustainable system for providing oversight over Vista College Prep's resources. Each Board member has a clear sense of how Vista College Prep's management team is progressing toward goals. We review each benchmark and goal on a monthly basis and adjust course as necessary.

Additionally, from a strong operations perspective and place of leadership, we are able to handle challenges and address them swiftly. One example is with student recruitment during our first year of operation. Upon authorization in January of 2013, we began nearly seven months of strong student recruitment. We ended the summer with over 107 applications. This included multiple touch points, such as community fairs, home visits and school open houses. On day one of school, we had 33 students show up. At that point, we messaged to staff that they had an incredible opportunity to use all of the instructional strategies that they had been taught over the summer and shorten their learning curve, as they would be teaching very small class sizes. We were determined not to let the low enrollment impact staff morale and most importantly, instruction. As we continued contacting families who had committed to enrolling, we found that a primary driver for our low enrollment was a lack of reliable access to transportation. Being a low dollar state, we had never considered or budgeted for a bus. However, as we continued talking to families we realized that transportation was a barrier to enrollment. If we truly wanted to serve the students we set out to serve, we needed to provide access to transportation. Additionally, as we further reflected, the choice to attend our school could not be realized unless parents and families had access. And in our case, that meant transportation. So, after extensive research we purchased a used school bus and contracted with a local company to provide drivers. Now about 50% of our students ride the bus. On top of purchasing a bus, we increased our local canvassing to every night and on the weekends during the month of August. We ended that first month of school with 55 students. Throughout the year we gained new students through referrals and word of mouth, and ended our first year with 64 students. As we have planned for future years, a significant amount of our newly enrolled students are now siblings or referrals from current students—nearly 70%. We view our parents as ambassadors of our school, and have worked to build strong parent involvement, which has resulted in an increase in enrollment.

#### We have done this by:

- Partnering with local groups to offer workshops on increasing parent advocacy, beginning college savings, and learning English
- Strong participation in all community events (including fundraising to support our playground build through KaBOOM!)
- Nearly 100% attendance at all parent-teacher conferences
- Ensuring that all critical information is translated in both English and Spanish, all parent-teacher conferences have a translator in each classroom, and all front office staff are bilingual

Additionally, we continue to attend all community events, purchase targeted flyer drops, build key partnerships, and canvass neighborhoods around our bus stops. The challenge with ensuring solid student enrollment was a learning experience that continues to strongly inform our work. We are a highly reflective organization and are constantly assessing how we can improve and get better, a key component to long-term operational success.

#### **Quality and Long Term Financial Viability**

As indicated on our Dashboard, we meet the Board's Financial Performance metrics. We are a conservative organization and budget accordingly. Additionally, we have extensive financial experience on our Board, providing strong oversight, as well as community members who are supportive of the school in this area. A critical step that we have also taken this year is working with a financial advisor as we take on new construction at our current campus. This also serves as one additional check for our organization as we weigh possible lending opportunities and evaluate any risk. Also, our financial statement audits have always been submitted on time, with an unqualified audit opinion and with no control deficiencies.

Aside from the monthly financial reporting that occurs at our Board meetings where we are discussing our financials, our Executive Director is fully immersed in the work of preparing and creating a sustainable school model as we grow. This is the primary work of our Arizona Community Foundation grant as we work with individuals like Jay Kaprosy and Mac Woods to think strategically about long-term sustainability.

As we think specifically about the financial viability of our proposed growth until we reach capacity, we will follow the same structure as our current campus, which is our commitment to slow growth—critical for strong academics as well as operations. We believe this approach to slow growth, which is modeled off of the highest performing schools nationwide is critical to our mission. Due to Arizona's low funding, and specifically, due to Arizona's half funding for kindergarten, we understand that part of our work is focused on closing the financial gap as well.

As such, we are an organization with a strong commitment to outside fundraising. We know that we need some seed funding to begin a campus (as we start K-1). We believe that will adjust as we continue to grow and as economies of scale set in. Vista College Prep has received strong

support from local/national foundations and corporations in the form of grants, donations and in-kinds. Below are some of the Foundations and Organizations we have received support from:

- Walton Family Foundation
- US Department of Education (AZCSP)
- AZ Department of Education Mathematics and Science Partnership Mini Grant
- Louis Calder Foundation
- Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation
- Rodel Foundation of Arizona
- KaBoom! and Shutterfly Foundation

Vista College Prep is an organization with exceptional attention to detail and a commitment to conservative budgeting. We not only have the experience on our Board to sustain our growth in reviewing our financials and supporting our growth until we reach capacity, but also have an Executive Director who is capable of monitoring our school budget and providing strategic direction on growth that aligns with our mission and in no way compromises our strong financial position.



# CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

VISTA-9 OP ID: DL

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) 12/15/2015

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to

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Felika nombardero

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Cestie Lamsardara

January 21, 2016

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Vista College Preparatory (VCP) intends, subject to continued negotiations, successful underwriting, and approvals, to lease the property at 4520 West McDowell Road, in Phoenix, AZ from Prayer Assembly Church of God in Christ ("Landlord") for the period of two years or until VCP is able to secure an alternative space that can accommodate additional students. No money has changed hands and no binding commitments have been made in regards to this lease. Rent shall be based on market rates. All terms and conditions of the lease shall be evidenced by a written agreement and remain subject to the approval of both Landlord and VCP.

This letter is intended to evidence the availability of the facility and the ongoing negotiations of the parties and does not create legally binding duties, obligations, or responsibilities on either party. Either party may terminate negotiations at any time, in such party's sole and absolute discretion.

Thank you,

Julia Meyerson

**Executive Director** 

Vista College Preparatory, Inc.

Landlord Acknowledgment:

Candy Carter, Church Administrator

Landlord

Prayer Assembly Church of God in Christ