

# Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

## Charterholder Info

### Charter Holder

**Name:**  
BASIS School, Inc.

**CTDS:**  
00-00-00-000

**Mailing Address:**  
11485 North 136th Street  
Suite 110  
Scottsdale, AZ 85259  
> [View detailed info](#)

### Representative

**Name:**  
Michael Block

**Phone Number:**  
480-289-2088

**Fax Number:**  
480-289-2089

## Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

## Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade
- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

## New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Algebra II).

### **For K-8**

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#).


### **For 9-12**

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#). Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

### Add Grade Levels

K  
1st  
2nd  
3rd  
4th

### Curriculum Samples

 [Download File](#) — Special Exclusion for Associated Schools

### Effective Date

07/01/2014

## Attachments

**Board Minutes** —  [Download File](#)

---

**Narrative** —  [Download File](#)

---

**Timeline for implementation** —  [Download File](#)

---

**Additional Information\***

No documents were uploaded.

---

## Signature

**Charter Representative Signature**

Michael Block 10/02/2013

---

MINUTES of the  
Meeting of the joint School Boards  
BASIS Tucson South (to be BASIS Oro Valley Primary),  
BASIS Scottsdale East (to be BASIS Phoenix Central), and BASIS Prescott

October 2, 2013

Location  
BASSED Office  
Conference Room  
7975 N Hayden Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Members:

Present at location: None

Present - Telephonic: Erin Paradis, Mittida Raksanaves, Anthony Pitucco, and Carolyn McGarvey

Not Present: None

Also Present: Rebecca Krause, and Kristen Jordison (at location)

Minutes taken by: Rebecca Krause

1. Call to Order of the joint School Boards for BASIS Tucson South (to be BASIS Oro Valley Primary), BASIS Scottsdale East (to be BASIS Phoenix Central), and BASIS a) Carolyn McGarvey at 10:00 AM
2. Overview of BASIS Schools, Inc. new schools for SY 2014-2015.
  - a) Carolyn McGarvey informed the Board that BASIS would like to pursue three New Schools projects for SY 2014-2015; BASIS Prescott, BASIS Phoenix Central, and BASIS Oro Valley Primary. BASIS Prescott will open with grades 5-10 and eventually serve grades 5-12. BASIS Phoenix Central would open with grades K-6 and eventually serve grades K-8. BASIS Oro Valley Primary would be adjacent to the current BASIS Oro Valley campus and would serve grades K-6. Consequently, the current BASIS Oro Valley school will only serve grades 7-12 beginning in SY 2014-15. She noted that each of these projects has a secured charter but that the Board will need to amend order to accommodate the appropriate school names, locations and grade configurations.
3. Discussion and approval of Resolution OVP13-R01 to amend the BASIS Tucson South charter to rename the school "BASIS Oro Valley Primary" and amend the desired location to be in an area adjacent to the current BASIS Oro Valley campus.
  - a) Approval of Resolution OVP13-R01:
    - i. Motion to approve: Mittida Raksanaves
    - ii. Second: Erin Paradis
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Tucson South (BASIS Oro Valley Primary) School Board Members present

4. Discussion and approval of Resolution OVP13-R02 to amend the BASIS Tucson South (BASISOro Valley Primary) charter to add grade levels K-4.
  - a) Approval of Resolution OVP13-R02:
    - i. Motion to approve: Mittida Raksanaves
    - ii. Second: Anthony Pitucco
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Tucson South (BASISOro Valley Primary) School Board Members present
  
5. Discussion and approval of Resolution OVP-R03 to amend the BASIS Tucson South (BASISOro Valley Primary) charter to remove Michael Block as Charter Representative and add Craig Barrett, Kristen Jordison, and Carolyn McGarvey.
  - a) Approval of Resolution OVP13-R03:
    - i. Motion to approve: Anthony Pitucco
    - ii. Second: Mittida Raksanaves
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Tucson South (BASISOro Valley Primary) School Board Members present
  
6. Discussion and approval of Resolution PC13-R01 to amend the BASIS Scottsdale East charter to rename the school "BASIS Phoenix Central" and amend the desired location to be an area within the boundaries of the Phoenix Union High School District.
  - a) Anthony Pitucco inquired as to why the central phoenix location was chosen. Kristen Jordison responded that the school must abide by certain location requirements in order for it to be eligible to apply for Walton grant funding.
  - b) Approval of Resolution PC13-R01:
    - i. Motion to approve: Erin Paradis
    - ii. Second: Anthony Pitucco
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Scottsdale East (BASIS Phoenix Central) School Board Members present
  
7. Discussion and approval of Resolution PC13-R02 to amend the BASIS Scottsdale East (BASIS Phoenix Central) charter to add grade levels K-4.
  - a) Approval of Resolution PC13-R02:
    - i. Motion to approve: Mittida Raksanaves
    - ii. Second: Erin Paradis
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Scottsdale East (BASIS Phoenix Central) School Board Members present
  
8. Discussion and approval of Resolution PC13-R03 to amend the BASIS Scottsdale East (BASIS Phoenix Central) charter to remove Michael Block as Charter Representative and add Craig Barrett, Kristen Jordison, and Carolyn McGarvey.
  - a) Approval of Resolution PC13-R03:
    - i. Motion to approve: Anthony Pitucco
    - ii. Second: Mittida Raksanaves
    - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASIS Scottsdale East (BASIS Phoenix Central) School Board Members present
  
9. Discussion and approval of Resolution PR13-R01 to amend the BASIS Prescott charter to remove Michael Block as Charter Representative and add Craig Barrett, Kristen Jordison, and Carolyn McGarvey.
  - a) Approval of Resolution PR13-R01:
    - i. Motion to approve: Mittida Raksanaves

- ii. Second: Erin Paradis
  - iii. Motion passes by unanimous approval of the BASS Prescott School Board Members present
- 10. Call to the Public
  - a) No members of the public were present at the school board meeting.
- 11. Adjourned
  - a) Meeting adjourned by Carolyn McGarvey at 10:08 AM.

## BASIS Tucson South (to be BASIS Oro Valley Primary)

1. Describe the rationale for the increase in grade levels served:

We desire to teach our students to develop a love for learning and high-level thinking and organizational skills. By offering students this opportunity in the early grades, a BASIS Oro Valley Primary K-4 curriculum can result in far fewer students on academic support in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and a seamless transition to the more rigorous academic approach in the BASIS upper grades. Just as the BASIS middle school curriculum is the reason why we enjoy so much success with our high school students, we anticipate greater overall academic success with the implementation of Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grades. We believe that children who move from our primary education program to our middle school program will enjoy more success, thereby increasing the likelihood that more students will continue through to the rigorous high school program.

Many of our incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders lack basic literacy skills in reading, writing and math facts. Although BASIS is an open-enrollment school, we believe many parents may not choose BASIS because they feel their child is already behind other incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Those same parents may otherwise be inclined to enroll their child at BASIS in Kindergarten. This expansion to the younger years could enable BASIS to reach a broader spectrum of children with even more impact on the community.

The key is to develop positive relationships with students and families that will last throughout their time on campus and beyond. An added benefit for families with more than one child will be to be able to have their children on one (or nearby) campus(es).

2. How do the additional grades support the mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction? How does the implementation of the existing program of instruction meet the needs of students at the grade levels being added?

The BASIS' mission is to provide accelerated liberal arts education at internationally competitive levels for all students. The rigorous college preparatory education at BASIS readies students for competitive admissions process, helps them become eligible for scholarships, prepares them to prosper at top colleges, and enriches their lives.

The BASIS middle school curriculum is, in many respects, the "magic bullet" behind this amazing rise to prominence. To prepare students for the demanding

BASIS upper school curriculum, we employ an accelerated middle school curriculum consistent with worldwide academic standards and especially designed to help students develop the academic and organizational skills they will need to be successful in high school and college.

By adding elementary grades to this already successful middle and high school program, we aim to foster even higher levels of achievement and mastery among our students.

Our goal is to provide an academic foundation for lifelong learning. Grade level increase will provide preparatory academic environment for children starting at an early age. From early on, students will have an opportunity to develop necessary organizational skills, build work ethic and teach personal responsibility and good study habits.

The curriculum will be aligned with the common core standards and the Arizona state standards and will prepare students for our advanced middle school and AP-based high school program. We currently use the Saxon Math program and will use that program in the early years.

3. Describe the level of proficiency that students must obtain to demonstrate mastery of academic core content and clear criteria for promotion from one level to the next.

The proficiency of the coursework for the additional grades of K-4 is consistent with the proficiency for the coursework for our 5-12 students. The proficiency level of each student will be based on the student's performance on multiple sources of assessment aligned with the Arizona Common Core Standards. Assessment will be aligned with success in the middle school BASIS program. Just like the Upper School, we set the end goal and bring the course work to the students, meeting them where they are and providing them with the tools for maximum growth to ensure they meet their educational goals.

We anticipate having five grading periods for K-4 as we do for 5-7. We will give percentage grades per grading period with year-end traditional letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) based on the periodic percentage grades.

We currently use standardized testing to allow us to judge teaching effectiveness and to see how our students are doing compared with nationally and internationally normed examinations. We currently administer TestWiz for formative assessments and will continue this practice for the early K-4 years.

Although BASIS has a very high level of achievement and rigorous promotion requirements, we have very few students who do not meet those requirements.

Students who are not performing are identified early and given academic support. Students not achieving a passing level on summative assessments are given the opportunity to study and have a second chance at passing before being passed over for promotion. We feel the two reasons for the high pass rates are because we have the support and uniform application of the passing criteria. These two policies will be consistently applied with high pass rates for the primary grades.

4. Not applicable
5. What changes in staffing will be needed to implement the new grades, and how will they comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines?

BASIS takes a unique approach to teacher recruitment, hiring, and training; we recruit and hire individuals who may not have gone to school to become a teacher, but who have vast knowledge in the discipline they teach as well as a love of the classroom. Hiring teachers who are experts in the subject they teach is especially important at BASIS because teachers play a central and critical role in curriculum development and syllabi design (with the provision that curriculum decisions are audited for consistency with the BASIS academic program and state standards).

As BASIS begins the elementary program it will maintain its focus on recruiting and training the best and brightest in the field. This will require that the teachers not only meet our criteria for excellence but also meet the requirements of Arizona's Highly Qualified. To ensure that the teachers meet the Highly Qualified requirements they will either hold a degree in elementary education or have a bachelors or higher degree and have passed the AEP or applicable reciprocal exam from another state.



