Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Empower College Prep

CTDS:
07-84-01-000

Mailing Address:
1718 West Colter
Suite 143
Phoenix, AZ 85015

› View detailed info

Representative

Name:
Brian Holman

Phone Number:
602-501-6602

Downloads

Download all files

Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- 4th Grade
- 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 Alegebra 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

3rd

Curriculum Samples

Download File — Third Grade Reading
Download File — Third Grade Writing
Download File — Third Grade Math

Effective Date
05/27/2013

Attachments

Board Minutes — Download File

Narrative — Download File

Timeline for implementation — Download File

Additional Information*

Download File — Written request to include amendment on regular agenda following review for sustantive completeness.

Download File — Demonstration of Sufficient Progress: As a result of its curriculum, plan for monitoring the integration of the Arizona Standards into instruction, on-going tracking of students' achievement, and professional development, Empower College Prep is demonstrating strong progress in accordance with its performance management plan in its charter that was approved in January of 2012.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Brian Holman 03/28/2013

Empower College Prep Governing Board Meeting

Agenda for December 17, 2012

5757 N. Central Ave., Lower Level B Building, 7 p.m.

Members Present: Kevin Erickson, Emily Pierson, Paola Garcia, Pat Welborn, Brian Mackay, Christopher Oye Waddell

Members Absent: Jessica Panu

Ex oficio member Brian Holman was present.

Andrew Collins was present. Mr. Collins was voted to be approved as a Board member, but has not yet been approved by State Charter Board and therefore is not yet a voting member.

Emily Pierson took the minutes because Jessica was at a funeral.

I. Approve Minutes of October 8, 2012 Governing Board meeting, and acknowledge lack of quorum at November 12, 2012 Meeting.

    A. We waived the reading of the October minutes

    B. Pat proposed that we pass the minutes Brian M. seconded the proposal

    C. Minutes were unanimously passed.

II. School Director Report-Questions and Answers

    A. Pleased with the building (cost, location, sharing spaces)

    B. Pleased with the teachers

    C. Kids are internalizing core values and generalizing content

    D. Waiting on EOY data in order to make instructional decisions

    E. Eliminate distractions of logistics (eliminate teacher need for transporting students)

    F. School and board need to continue to focus on:

        i. Enrollment (transient community)

        ii. Housing

iii. Tax credit

G. Questions and answers

i. What percent of students passed AIMS last year (as a means to predict MOY assessment)

1. This is reported in the academic committee report

ii. How does our retention rate compare to other first year charter experiences?

1. Compare with PCA

2. Paola has a connection with an experienced charter starter

iii. Possibility of partnering a high quality charter with an apartment complex

iv. Do we look at having higher class sizes in lower grades to account for attrition

III. Action Items

A. 3rd Grade Proposal: Amend charter to add 3rd Grade for the 2013-14 School Year

a. Original grade projections don't align with the reality of students in the area. Move on when reading law would prevent students from moving up to 4th grade

b. Extend to 3rd grade

c. Pat asked what's the breakeven point between adding more students and adding more staff

d. Emily made a motion to approve the plan to add a third grade to the charter. Paola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Academic Metrics

a. Emily shared the proposed academic measures

i. By the end of year the second year of operation, 95% of the students who are at our school both years will be operating academically at grade level as measured by AIMS and other assessments listed below

ii. In the first year, our growth goal is for our students to be in the 75th percentile of growth with 70% of students passing the state test this year
iii. Along the way, we want students to maintain or grow their current achievement on high stakes testing

b. Questions:

i. Where do students with special needs fall into these goals?

ii. How do our goals compare to other top tier charter school?

c. Pat moved to adopt the metrics proposed by Emily. Paola seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

C. Wellness Policy

a. Emily moved to pass the wellness policy. Pat seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Updates

A. Executive Committee-No meeting this month, verbal report (1 min)

i. Meet on a quarterly basis. Trying to operationalize the sub committees. Eventually get to the strategic planning committee.

B. Finance/Admin & Governance

i. Present Highbar and demonstrate Login

1. Brian, Andrew, and Kevin will schedule a conference call.

ii. Review Dashboard

1. Pat felt the dashboard was confusing

2. Andrew likes the form

iii. Introduce Board Meeting Draft Agreement Responsibilities and Expectations for Governing Board Members, including topic of the terms and succession of Board members

iv. Compliance Calendar

v. Other topics and Questions from Finance/Admin & Governance Committee

vi. Direction for Finance/Admin & Governance Committee

C. Academics

i. Review Dashboard

ii. Other topics and Questions from Academic Committee

iii. Direction for Academic Committee (clarity around Community Life-Family/Faculty/Staff role, etc.)

D. Development

i. Tax credit report—Angelica sharing total raised and whip around sharing amount raised, pledges, and next steps

ii. ECP Brand

iii. Tax Credit partnerships with other organizations

iv. Helping with housing and counseling help

v. Guest speaker program

vi. Ties with local churches and temples

vii. Fundraising event

viii. Staff appreciation lunch

ix. Other topics and Questions for Development Committee

x. Direction for Development Committee

xi. Tax Credit explanation and board members shared updates on tax credit commitments.

V. Open comments from the public

A. None

VI. January Action Items

A. Next meeting is January 21st at 9am

VII. Emily moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded and motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Disclosure Statement

Disclosure Statement: Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, Empower College Prep hereby states that all notices of the meetings of Empower College Prep and any of its committees and subcommittees will be posted outside the B Building of 5757 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85012. This office is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except legal holidays. Such notices will indicate the date, time, and place of the meeting and will include an agenda or information concerning the manner in which the public may obtain an agenda for the meeting.

Dated this day of February 8, 2012.
Empower College Prep
By Brian Holman-Lead Founder, Authorized Representative

Narrative

For nearly 20 years, Arizona charter schools have existed to serve two purposes—give parents academic choices for their children, and provide a learning environment to improve student achievement. It is for these same two reasons that Empower College Prep seeks to amend its charter that was approved last year for Grades 4-12 to add a 3rd grade, beginning in the 2013-14 school year.

Background and Support for Expansion

Empower College Prep was founded to empower children from low-income communities to compete academically with students from any school in the country when they graduate; combine what they learn with their unique gifts and interests to solve real-world problems; and to internalize the values necessary to excel in college, maximize their impact in the world, and fulfill the purpose for which they were created.

In its first year of operation, Empower College Prep has pursued the fulfillment of its mission to increase the educational and life opportunities of children in low-income communities by faithfully executing its instructional plan. Empower College Prep enrolled students in its target market, over 90% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch. About 20% qualify for special needs, and the percentage of students who passed the state AIMS test at their previous schools was about 10% lower than the average at those schools. Our mission is to empower these children to go to college and change their world. To fulfill this mission, the majority of our founding staff is alumni of Teach For America who designed and implemented an accelerated curriculum to increase the academic achievement of our students. This curriculum includes three hours of Reading instruction and two hours of Math instruction each day. Consequently, every child who entered our school scoring Falls Far Below at the end of third grade moved up to Approaches in 4th Grade on the Winter Galileo assessment.

Opening a third grade is a necessary step for our school to remain true to its mission of serving families in low-income communities and ensuring their children have the greatest possible educational and life opportunities. If 4th grade remains our lowest grade, then students in greatest need of our accelerated curriculum will not be eligible for our school when HB2732 takes effect this year, which requires that students shall not be promoted from the third grade if they are reading far below the third grade level. *More than 11 per cent of the fourth-graders who enrolled in our school this year did score Falls Far Below on their 3rd Grade Reading test at their previous schools. On the Galileo AIMS-predictive tests given this winter, 100% of these scholars scored Approaches on the 4th Grade assessment.* Additionally, many of our families have requested we open lower grades so all of their children would be able to attend our school.

In order to give parents the academic choices they desire for their children, and to provide a learning environment that improves student achievement, we seek to amend our charter to add a 3rd grade for the 2013-14 school year.

As is illustrated below, amending our charter to add 3rd grade better supports the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter.

	Empower College Prep Charter	Implementation in current 4th-12th Grade Model	Implementation in 3rd-12th Grade Model
Philosophy	Every child can learn and go to college. A school's purpose is to partner with families to ensure every child has this opportunity to discover and fulfill his or her purpose.	We have enrolled children who are most at-risk of not going to college, and we are achieving significant academic growth to put them on track for college-readiness. Next year, however, students who are most at-risk in Reading would not be eligible for our school in this current 4th-12th grade model, due to HB2732.	All students, including those most at-risk due to being Falls Far Below in Reading, would be eligible to attend our school.
Methods of Instruction	Our program of instruction incorporates an accelerated curriculum that combines conceptual understanding with a gradual release approach to ensure retention and real-world application. In our instructional program, students receive 3 hours of Reading instruction and 2 hours of math instruction every day.	We have seen 100% of the students who would not be able to attend our school if HB2732 had gone into effect this year go from Falls Far Below on the 3rd Grade AIMS to Approaches on the 4th Grade AIMS-predictive Galileo test. Next year, however, students who are Falling Far Below in Reading would not be able to enroll in our school if our lowest grade is 4th grade, because they would not be able to promote from 3rd grade.	All students, including those in greatest need of an accelerated curriculum, would be eligible to attend our school.
Special emphasis	Empower College Prep's special emphasis is serving students in low-income communities, especially those who are currently	Currently, 96% of our student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Over 11% of 4th graders entered school scoring Falls Far Below in Reading,	All students, including those who are currently performing far below grade level in Reading, would be eligible to attend our school.

	performing below grade-level, to close the achievement gap and ensure every child has the opportunity to attain an excellent education.	which means they would be ineligible to attend our school next year if 4th grade is still our lowest grade, due to HB2732.	
Mission	Empower College Prep's mission is to empower children in low-income communities to compete academically with children from any school in the country, go to college, and change the world.	We are achieving significant academic gains with students in low-income communities and building the mindsets necessary for college and proactive citizenship with all students, including those students who are most at-risk of not attending college and becoming proactive citizens. In our current model that begins in 4th grade, however, the children who are in greatest need and are most central to our mission would not be eligible to enter our school, because they would be retained in 3rd Grade.	All students, including those from low-income communities who are currently performing lowest academically, would be eligible to attend our school, engage in our accelerated curriculum, and be on a path to go to college and change the world.

Promotion

Our promotion requirement for our 3rd Grade will comply with state law—specifically, a student must receive a score of Approaches, Meets, or Exceeds in Reading on the state test in order to promote to 4th grade. Additionally, promotion requirements for 3rd graders will be consistent to our students in Grades 4-8 from our charter, section A.3.1:

English/Language Arts:
For grades 4-8, students must:

1. Grow at least one grade level, as measured by the same diagnostic test students take at the beginning of the year,

OR

2. Maintain an average of 70% or higher on all unit summative assessments throughout the year measuring proficiency on Common Core standards.

Math:
For all grades, students must:

1. Score 60% or higher on a cumulative summative assessment measuring proficiency on Common Core standards.

OR

2. Maintain an average of 70% or higher on all unit summative assessments throughout the year measuring proficiency on Common Core standards.

Science:
For all grades, students must:

1. Score 60% or higher on a cumulative summative assessment measuring proficiency on Arizona state standards.

OR

2. Maintain an average of 70% or higher on all unit summative assessments throughout the year measuring proficiency on Arizona state standards.

Social Studies:
For all grades, students must:

1. Score 60% or higher on a cumulative summative assessment measuring proficiency on Arizona state standards.

OR

2. Maintain an average of 70% or higher on all unit summative assessments throughout the year measuring proficiency on Arizona state standards.

Changes in staffing

As a result of adding a third grade, Empower College Prep will hire one additional teacher who is Highly Qualified, in accordance with federal guidelines, and who has a fingerprint clearance card. Additional qualifications for the teacher include:

- Have an SEI endorsement
- Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and teach in the subject they majored in, or have at least 24 credits in their teaching area. Teachers will be Highly Qualified in at least one, and preferably two, of the following areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Civics and Government, History, Geography, Elementary Education, and Special Education.
- Demonstrate strong proficiency in instruction and management, and the ability to lead students to significant academic gains through previous teaching experience, student teaching, or a proven internship (e.g. Teach For America's Summer Institute), preferably in a low-income community with a significant number of students who do not speak English as their first language.

- Demonstrate strong content knowledge of the subject they teach across at least three grade levels.
- Demonstrate a relentless commitment to fulfilling the mission of Empower College Prep and its values.
- Demonstrate a high level of personal integrity, professionalism, and urgent drive to succeed.
- Demonstrate the ability to give and receive constructive feedback.
- Demonstrate the ability to form and maintain positive relationships with students and families.
- Demonstrate strong organizational, planning, and implementation skills.

Timeline

Our timeline for implementation is as follows:

- October-November, 2012: Seek input and engage in dialogue with the parents and families of our current students.
- December, 2012: Empower College Prep Governing Board approves the change at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting.
- January, 2013: Empower College Prep develops the curriculum sample and other documents required for the amendment request to add grade levels to our charter.
- February, 2013: Empower College Prep submits amendment to add 3rd Grade for the 2013-14 school year, and begins search for top-quality candidates to teach 3rd grade, including conversations with Teach For America staff and alumni.
- May, 2013: If application is deemed administratively and substantively complete, Empower College Prep's authorized representative and Board member(s) will attend the meeting of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools to seek approval of its amendment to open a 3rd Grade.
- May-June, 2013:
    - A teacher will be hired to ensure the 3rd grade curriculum and resulting academic growth of our third-grade students will fulfill the school's mission of providing an accelerated academic path and align to the school's Performance Management Plan.
    - Marketing and community advertising will ensure parents are aware of the opportunity for 3rd Graders to attend Empower College Prep.
- July, 2013: New students and families will participate in an orientation to Empower College Prep, which will include an assessment of students' reading and math levels, and an overview of the school's values, systems, and procedures.
- August, 2013: Empower College Prep will open its 2013-14 school year with students in Grades 3-6.