
AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Little Lamb Community School, Inc.

**The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, LLC – The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy
Replication Application Summary Report**

Little Lamb Community School, Inc. (LLCS), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete application for the replication of its Mission Montessori Academy school site in Scottsdale. The new contract will be held by The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, LLC and the proposed new charter school will be named The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, to operate a school in Chandler, Arizona, with a planned opening in August 2013.

LLCS is an Arizona non-profit corporation that was incorporated on September 30, 1991. LLCS currently holds one charter which operates one school site: Mission Montessori Academy (Scottsdale, K-8). Mission Montessori Academy meets the Board’s Academic Performance Expectations.

Replication Model – Mission Montessori Academy

Academics:

Mission Montessori Academy has experienced the following academic success as measured by state and federal academic accountability systems.

Fiscal Year	State Performance	Adequate Yearly Progress/ AMO
2012	A	Met
2011	Excelling/ A	Met
2010	Excelling	Met
2009	Excelling	Met
2008	Excelling	Met

The following statements were excerpted from the LLCS replication application regarding the Program of Instruction of the school to be replicated, Mission Montessori Academy.

“The Montessori philosophy of education is based on a profound respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each child. Its method honors the natural tendencies of children, their innate impulse to learn, and the sensitive periods when they are most receptive to acquiring specific concepts and understandings. In a prepared environment containing a multi-sensory sequence of manipulative materials for teaching all areas of curriculum, children learn through exploration. Self-correcting materials provide the immediate feedback that leads to self-discovery.”

“The Montessori philosophy as adopted and applied by Mission Montessori Academy has tremendously influenced the success of the existing school, including its mission, which is to provide the most natural and life supporting environment for the child, supporting and celebrating the unique greatness that is within each child, observing the child and continually adapting the environment to support the fulfillment of the child’s greatest potential physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.”

The dashboard below depicts the charter holder’s academic performance using the Academic Performance Framework.

Academic Performance Rating FY 2012

Charter Holder: Little Lamb Community School
Entity ID 79050

Charter School: Mission Montessori Academy
Entity ID 79126, Grades K-8

1. Growth

Traditional Elementary		1a. SGP		1b. SGP Bottom 25%	
School	School Year	Math	Read	Math	Read
Mission Montessori Academy	2011-2012	58	55	57.5	54
Points Assigned		75	75	75	75
Weight		12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

2. Proficiency

Traditional Elementary		2a. Percent Passing		2b. Composite School Comparison		2c. Subgroup ELL		2c. Subgroup FRL		2c. Subgroup SPED	
School	School Year	Math	Read	Math	Read	Math	Read	Math	Read	Math	Read
Mission Montessori Academy	2011-2012	87	94	14.7	11.4	NR	NR	NR	NR	75	67
Points Assigned		75	75	75	75	0	0	0	0	100	75
Weight		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	0	0	0	0	7.5	7.5

3. State Accountability & Overall Rating

Traditional Elementary		3a. State Accountability	Overall Rating
School	School Year	Grade	
Mission Montessori Academy	2011-2012	100	78.125
Points Assigned		100	
Weight		5	100

Overall Rating	Point Range
Exceeds Standard	> or = to 89
Meets Standard	< 89, but > or = to 63
Does Not Meet Standard	< 63, but > or = to 39
Falls Far Below Standard	< 39

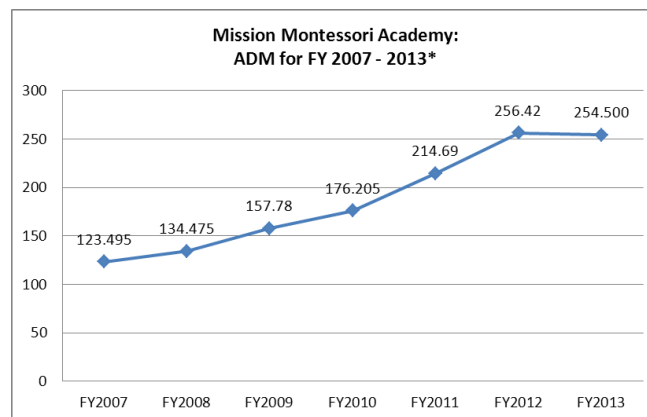
For additional information, see *Academic Performance Framework and Guidance*, available on the ASBCS webpage <http://asbcs.az.gov>

1/4/2013

Academic Choice:

A. Enrollment:

Since Mission Montessori Academy began operations in August 2000 enrollment has continually increased. The school started with 41 students enrolled in grades K-2. As of the 2012-2013 school year the school serves 278 students in grades K-8. Currently, the school facility is at maximum capacity.



(Data is from Arizona Department of Education)

*FY13 is based on estimated enrollment summary as of 11/14/12

B. Retention Rate:

Little Lamb Community Schools, Inc. provided a table of the retention rate of students from one year to the next at Mission Montessori Academy when a subsequent grade level is offered at the school. As the school added new grade levels, the retention rate in the newly added grade levels increased to fall within a range consistent with the established grade levels. The information provided indicates that for the current school year over 80% of students that were previously enrolled in each grade level in K-3 and 6-7 returned to the school. This demonstrates that the existing charter is providing an academic choice for parents and pupils that is supported by a stable enrollment pattern.

Retention Rates, LLCS, 2009-2013 (by school year)

Mission Montessori Academy: Retention Rate				
Grade	SY 2009-2010	SY 2010-2011	SY 2011-2012	SY 2012-2013
KG	100%	100%	100%	100%
1	87%	70%	85%	85%
2	80%	75%	85%	85%
3	54%	93%	92%	98%
4	91%	95%	81%	78%
5	45%	50%	53%	51%
6	60%	11%	80%	80%
7	n/a	n/a	31%	94%
8	n/a	n/a	40%	29%

C. Enrollment Practices

The enrollment practices of The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy will follow the same procedures described as being in place at Mission Montessori Academy.

All eligible pupils who submit a timely application during the Open Enrollment period will be enrolled. In cases where the number of applications exceeds capacity, pupils will be selected through an equitable process such as a lottery.

Enrollment preference is provided to pupils returning to the charter school in the second or any subsequent year of its operation and to siblings of pupils already enrolled in the charter school. Enrollment preference may be given to pupils that are children of employees of the school, employees of the charter holder, members of the governing body of the school or directors, officers, partners or board members of the charter holder.

Replication School – The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy

School Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide the most natural and life supporting environment for the child, supporting and celebrating the unique greatness that is within each child, observing the child and continually adapting the environment to support the fulfillment of the child’s greatest potential physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

Market Analysis:

The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy will target students 4th through 8th grade in the Tempe-Mesa-Gilbert- Chandler area along the Loop 101 corridor.

Census data provided by the applicant indicates that the population in the target area is characterized as:

- Well-educated, with high school degrees held by over 80% on average of the population, and close to 50% of the population with college degrees.
- Over 50% of the population in the targeted zip codes is married.
- Over 40% of the residents in the target area have lived in the same home for the last 5+ years.
- The population in the target area is predominantly White (70%), followed by Hispanic (20%).
- The percentage of people living below the poverty line is 9%.

Governance Structure:

The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, LLC is a non-profit corporation with two members – JoDene Tryon and Michael Tryon. The Corporate Board of The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy and the governing body of The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy school are one and the same.

	Mission Montessori Academy	The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy
Instructional Program		
Grade Levels	K-8	4-8
Special Emphasis	Montessori philosophy	Montessori philosophy
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally aware initiatives • Multicultural perspective for lessons • Multi-sensory sequence of manipulative materials • Self-correcting materials to provide immediate feedback • Community-building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally aware initiatives • Multicultural perspective for lessons • Multi-sensory sequence of manipulative materials • Self-correcting materials to provide immediate feedback • Community-building activities
Demographics		
Location	12990 East Shea Boulevard Scottsdale, AZ 85259	10 mile radius stretched along the Loop 101 corridor including: Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert, and Chandler.
Enrollment	254.500 (estimated enrollment summary as of 11/4/12)	120
Organizational Structure		
Authorized Representative(s)	JoDene Tryon	JoDene Tryon
Corporate Principals	JoDene Tryon Michael Tryon Kathleen Stordeur	JoDene Tryon Michael Tryon
Governing Board	JoDene Tryon Michael Tryon Kathleen Stordeur	JoDene Tryon Michael Tryon

Board Options:

Option 1: The Board may approve the replication application package. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the replication application and grant the replication charter to The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, LLC to establish The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy charter school to serve grades 4-8.

Option 2: The Board may deny the replication application. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the request for the replication charter of The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy to establish a charter school for the reason: (list the specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration).