Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School
Renewal Executive Summary Report

I. Sources of Evidence for this Document

A.R.S. 15-183.I states that "[a] charter school that elects to apply for renewal shall file an application for renewal…which shall include a detailed business plan for the charter school, a review of fiscal audits and academic performance data for the charter school and a review of the current contract between the sponsor and the charter school."

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools determined that renewal of a charter is based on affirmative evidence in three areas:

- Success of the academic program, including academic achievement
- Viability of the organization, including fiscal management and compliance
- Adherence to the terms of the charter, including contract and legal compliance

Evaluation of the charter holder's success in these three areas is based on a variety of information that will serve as sources of evidence in determining renewal. These sources include:

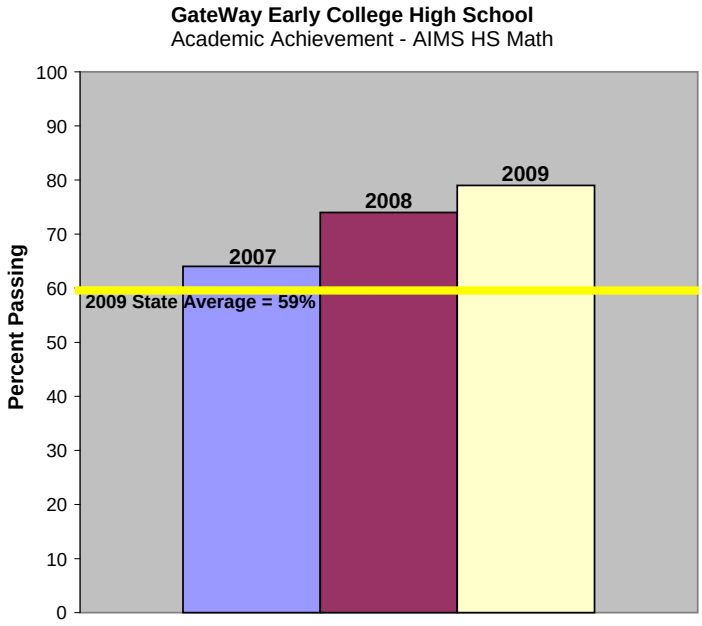
- Written application for renewal
- Student performance data
- Independent financial audits
- Five year interval summary reviews
- Site visit reports
- Monitoring reports

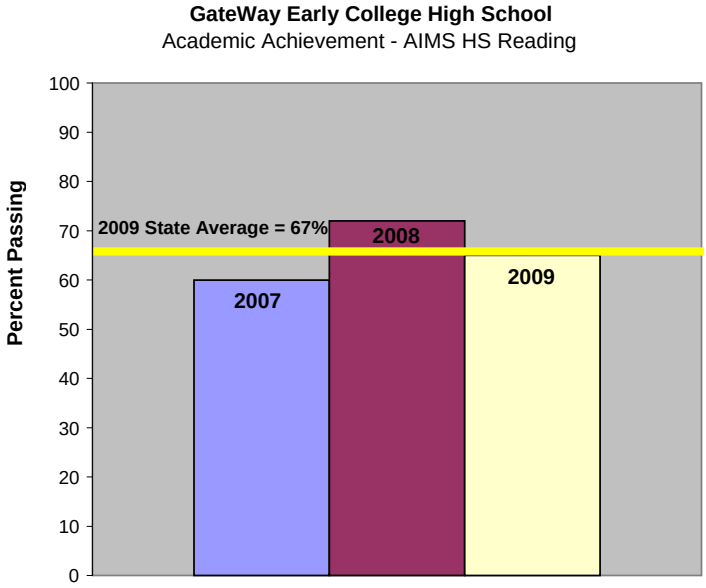
II. Profile

Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School was granted a charter by the State Board of Education (SBE), effective on July 1, 1995. Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School is a government entity and is not required to register with the Arizona Corporation Commission. The charter representative is Debra Thompson. The school, GateWay Early College High School, is located at 108 N. 40th Street in Phoenix and serves grades 9-12, and had a FY10 100th day ADM of 240.025.

Mission Statement (as provided in the contract):
To provide effective, accessible and responsive educational services in a multicultural environment resulting in student development and success.

III. Academic Performance





Fiscal Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
2009	Performing Plus	Yes
2008	Performing Plus	Yes
2007	Performing Plus	No

IV. Fiscal Compliance

As detailed in the Audit and Fiscal Compliance section of the *Renewal Summary Review*:

- The charter holder has failed to timely submit its annual audit for one or more years.
- The fiscal year 2006 audit identified an issue which required a corrective action plan.
- No repeat issues were identified.

As an SBE-sponsored charter, Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School would normally follow the Uniform System of Financial Records for Charter Schools and State procurement regulations. However, since the charter school operates as part of the Maricopa County Community College District, it follows the requirements established for college districts.

V. Legal and Contractual Compliance

For the previous five fiscal years –

- The charter holder has timely submitted the Annual Financial Report.
- The charter holder has timely submitted the Budget.
- All Declarations of Curricular and Instructional Alignment were submitted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) in a timely manner.
- ADE sent the charter holder a noncompliance letter in the fall of 2009 for not updating the HQT report on time. The Highly-Qualified Teacher report, updated on June 14, 2010, indicated 18 core teachers with two being reported as non-highly qualified.
- In 2010 ADE Academic Achievement Division conducted an on-site review and findings were entered in ALEAT, Cycle 4 for compliance monitoring. Cycle 6 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Compliance Monitoring in 2005-06 met compliance. Cycle 1 in 2006-07 and Cycle 2 in 2007-08 also met compliance.
- In 2003 and 2008 a Corrective Action Plan was required by ADE Exceptional Student Services for noncompliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

VI. Renewal Application

A. Education Plan

Academic performance of the schools operated by the Charter Holder met the Board's level of adequate academic performance, including status and growth measures, for each of the previous three years. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit any portion of the academic section of the renewal application.

B. Detailed Business Plan

Organization

According to the applicant, the organizational reporting structure of the GateWay Early High School consists of the Principal who directs and coordinates the administrative, instructional and counseling activities. The principal reports directly to the President of GateWay Community College. GateWay Community College is part of the Maricopa County Community College District, where the President of the college reports to the District Chancellor and the Chancellor reports to the elected Governing Board. Under the Maricopa Governance system, policies are adopted by the Governing Board and administrative regulations are adopted by the Chancellor.

In addition to the attached organizational chart, the structure of gateway Early College High School is as follows:

- Arizona Department of Education/Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
- Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board
- Maricopa County Community College District Chancellor
- GateWay Community College President
- GateWay Early College High School Principal
- GateWay Early College High School Teachers and Staff

Sustainability

Fiscal Viability

GateWay Early College High School is affiliated with Maricopa County Community College District (District). As a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, the District is subject to the oversight of the District's Governing Board. The District's elected Governing Board establishes policy and sets spending priorities through the strategic planning process. The Financial Advisory Council, which has a broad based membership representing students, faculty, staff, administration, and the Governing Board, is responsible for the supervision and coordination of the district wide budget process. The District routinely monitors and reports on revenue collections and actual expenses compared to budget at each college. College Fiscal Services organizes and implements fiscal services at a college with an emphasis on budget and cash control in accordance with policies and procedures of the District Business Services Division. The application states that emphasis is placed on maintaining the financial stability of the District, and each fiscal year, the budget is developed with this objective. The District also has a 15-year plan, which, the application states, helps it to align its key components of the strategic and financial planning with estimated trends in funding as well as linking long-term strategic directions with estimated long term budget resources. GateWay Early College High School relies solely on average daily membership funding to support its operations. Site level personnel with fiscal authority include the Vice President of Administrative Services, Principal, Budget Manager, Manager College Fiscal Services and Tech II Fiscal Services. (For more information, please see the application's "Sustainability" section.)

For fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009, the independent certified public accountant issued an unqualified (or "clean") opinion on Maricopa County Community College District's financial statements. The Budget Plan submitted as part of the renewal application is for GateWay Early College High School and duplicates fiscal year 2010 revenues and expenses for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. In the three projected fiscal years, revenues equal expenses. The Budget Plan does not include the actual ADM used or any assumptions or notes. Based on information obtained from

ADE's website, the school's fiscal year 2010 ADM is 240.025. However, due to its enrollment cap, the school's fiscal year 2010 funding has been capped at 225. If the charter school amended its enrollment cap, it could receive the funding generated by the 240.025 ADM instead of the 225. It is not clear from the information provided whether the Budget Plan includes known cuts to State funding in fiscal year 2011.

Strength and Stability of the Governing Body

As Governing Board members are elected by the general public, candidates for the Board collect signatures in order to be placed on the election ballot and the candidate with the most votes in each precinct is declared elected. The college district, while restricted in statute from being active regarding the election of Board members, may distribute informational pamphlets on a proposed bond election.

Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board members:

Mr. Randolph S. Elias Lumm – President
Mr. Jerry D. Walker – Secretary
Dr. Donald R. Campbell – Member
Ms. Colleen Clark – Member
Mrs. Debra Pearson – Member

The Governing Board of the Maricopa County Community College District serves as the Governing Board of the GateWay Early College High School. The Board is comprised of five persons elected from the election precincts in Maricopa County. They are elected to six-year terms. The elections are staggered wherein one board member is up for election in one election year; two board members are up for election two years later; and another two board members are up for election two years thereafter. Board profiles and terms of service information were included in the application package.

Training and orientation of Board members takes place in January, following the November election. Training includes an overview of Board statutory duties and Board operations (including meeting formats, executive sessions, open meeting law and rules of order), a review of the structure of the Maricopa Community Colleges (district vs. college), as well as visits to locations throughout the district.

Strength and Stability of the Corporate Board

Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School Corporate Board members:

Mr. Randolph S. Elias Lumm – President
Mr. Jerry D. Walker – Secretary
Dr. Donald R. Campbell – Member
Ms. Colleen Clark – Member
Mrs. Debra Pearson – Member
Dr. Rufus Glasper – Chancellor, Maricopa County Community College District
Dr. Eugene Giovannini – President, GateWay Community College
Ms. Debra Thompson – Vice Chancellor for Business Services (Charter Holder)

Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick – Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

The application did not include information on the role of the charter holder or the governing body in monitoring the school's academic performance.

Succession Plan

Charter Holder: Vacancies of members of the Governing Board are filled by appointment by the county school superintendent for the unexpired term where the vacancy occurs. If the term that is unexpired is more than two years, the county school superintendent may make an appointment for a term which shall be until the next regular election for the district board members or leave the vacancy until the next regular election. During the absence or disability of the Board President, the Board Secretary acts as the President.

Instructional Leadership: According to the application package, the succession plan for GECHS instructional team includes support for teacher and staff development and the hiring of highly qualified individuals. GECHS is a small school with two administrators, five support staff and twelve teachers. All employment opportunities are posted on the Maricopa Community College web site and employees are hired following Maricopa Community Colleges hiring practices and policies. Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications of the position before they are able to be interviewed by the high school committee comprised of high school leadership, staff, parents, students, and college level administrators. GECHS offers salaries through a board approved, competitive salary schedule with steps for both longevity and level of education.

Once hired, all staff members have opportunities for professional development. Individual professional development plans are used to inform decisions regarding funding of professional development including related or required activities. Staff may be offered stipends for becoming highly qualified in additional academic areas. Instructional staff participates in Classroom Site Fund pay for performance based upon attainment of annual goals and other benchmarks.

Facilities Plan

Gateway Community College's comprehensive development plan indicates the college has begun the process of expanding the campus through the addition of two new instructional buildings, funded through bond elections in 2006, slated for completion by the 2012-13 school year. This expansion will make available four additional instructional and computer rooms to the high school. This will allow the possible expansion of the high school to meet its charter enrollment cap of 400 students (100 students per grade level). GWECHS is currently able to enroll 260 students due to the limitations of its physical space.

VII. Staff Recommendation

Based upon the information in the application, academic performance over the charter term, fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance, I move to approve the renewal application and transfer of the sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and grant a renewal contract for Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of GateWay Early College High School.