

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Issue:** Consideration to award up to \$10,250,000 over three years from the Arizona Charter Schools Program to new or replicated charter school subrecipients serving disadvantaged students. Funds are supported by ED Office of Innovation and Improvement, Charter School Program, CFDA 84.282A.

Action/Discussion Item     Information Item

**Background and Discussion:**

On October 1, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of Innovation and 8367Improvement (OI) Charter School Program (CSP) awarded the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Charter Schools Program (AZCSP) section \$23,624,996 to increase the number of high quality public charter school serving disadvantaged students in Arizona.

In compliance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR §200.330, AZCSP awardees have been determined to be subrecipients of CFDA 84.282 A awarded to the Arizona Department of Education, Charter Schools Program, October 1, 2015. Subrecipients will also be known as non-federal entities.

In 2017, SBE awarded 6 subrecipients. This year (2018) subgrants will be awarded to 14 subrecipients. (See list of subrecipients and award amounts under **Recommendation to the Board.**)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Arizona Charter Schools Program is to 1) increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona serving disadvantaged students particularly in urban and rural settings, 2) improve student achievement to high academic standards in schools, and 3) improve high school student achievement and graduation rates.

The schools selected have a variety of strategies to improve student achievement. All of them have data driven strategies to continuously monitor student progress and in-house programs to align school staff with enhanced outcomes.

Much of the funding will go to support the material startup expenditures of opening a school. At the same time, considerable funding will go to building leadership and staff capacity to create school-wide cultures of learning.

**Contract Amount:**

The subgrant to each subrecipient for the initial project year will not exceed \$250,000. Additional awards for up to two additional years are dependent upon the availability of funds and the success of the school in meeting stated objectives. In any event the total awarded to any school will not exceed \$750,000 over three project years.

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**Contact Information:**

Peter Laing, Deputy Associate Superintendent, School Excellence Unit  
Kelly Koenig, Associate Superintendent of Student Achievement and Educator Excellence Division

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### **Source of Funds:**

Authorizing Legislation: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Public Law 107-110, Section 5201, Index No. 02451, CFDA 84282A

### **Responsible Unit at Department of Education:**

Educators and School Excellent Unit

Division Associate Superintendent: Kelly Koenig

AZ Charter Schools Program Section Project Director: Mark Francis

### **Dates of Subgrant Project Year:**

The agreements shall take effect when approved by the Board. The Project Year (up to three) starts February 1 of the first award year and ends on January 31, of the following calendar year.

### **Explanation of Subgrants:**

The Arizona Charter Schools Program start-up award is a competitive, discretionary grant. New charter entities list for recommendation successfully described in their application a compelling, school-wide vision for challenging curriculum, engaging instruction and rigorous assessment which will increase Arizona student achievement.

Application Award and Eligibility to apply:

The awarded schools have met one of the following definitions of educationally disadvantaged:

1. A school serving at least 40% racially and ethnically diverse students; or
2. A school serving at least 40% economically disadvantaged students eligible for federal lunch program support; or
3. A school serving at least 40% students with identified disabilities per IDEA; or
4. A school serving at least 40% English Language Learners (ELL).

Further Eligibility:

1. To be eligible for the full \$250,000 per school per annum award, schools must identify in their application that they expect to enroll 200 students by their third year of operation. Schools who indicate less than that will be awarded a reduced amount.
2. Schools that fail to meet their enrollment targets in the third year may have their awards reduced to reflect the lower enrollment.
3. Contingent upon their estimated and actual enrollment and continued federal funding, the award shall not exceed \$750,000 total per school through January 31, 2020.
4. After the first year award funding is dependent upon the availability of funds and the success of the charter school in meeting stated objectives in their application.
5. Schools must maintain a good faith effort to meet the goals described in its awarded application and must be in compliance with state and federal charter rules and regulations.

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6. All charter awardees agree to participate in regular monitoring by state and federal officials over the life of the grant.
7. If a school states in its plan that it will serve at least 40% disadvantaged students but intends to locate in a geographic area which does not contain an average of at least 40% low income families, the schools award will be placed on hold until it can demonstrate an enrollment of at least 40% disadvantaged students.

### **Previous Contract History**

None of the awarded schools has previously received an AZ CSP award. (Some subrecipients may be in a network whose member schools have received this subgrant.)

### **Method of Determining Subrecipient Awards**

A competitive application was reviewed by a 3 person panel consisting of, members of education non-profits, and a former staff member from the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

Subrecipient leadership teams also participated in a 90 minute interview conducted by a 3 person panel consisting of two AZCSP staff and the former Director of Accountability, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

### **Evaluation Plan:**

Each awarded charter entity is monitored for academic, financial and operational compliance with its grant application and the following:

1. The US ED Charter Schools Program SEA monitoring instrument;
2. Education Department General Administration Regulations (EDGAR);
3. The Arizona Charter Schools Program monitoring instrument which assesses the following:
  - a. Academic Standards and Continuous Improvement,
  - b. Governance, and Leadership,
  - c. Business and Financial Practices.
4. AZCSP Risk Assessment Framework Procedure

A key strategy in the evaluation process is regular on-site visits by the AZ CSP staff to awarded schools to evaluate effectiveness and identify leading indicators (predictors) of success.

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### Subrecipient Backgrounds

**Abraham Lincoln Prep School (Grades K-8)** is an outgrowth of Pioneer Prep Academy, a high performing elementary school in Maryvale. It plans to open in farther west Maryvale (85037).

**Academy of Math and Science – Desert Sky (Grades K-8)** is part of the Academy of Math and Science network with high performing elementary schools in Flowing Wells (Tucson) and central Phoenix. It will locate along the Maryvale I-10 corridor (85035).

**Alexander Hamilton Community School (Grades K-8)** is an outgrowth of Pioneer Prep Academy, a high performing elementary school in Maryvale. It plans to open in and around Laveen (85009).

**Arizona Autism High School (Grades 9-12)** is an expansion of its nationally recognized central Phoenix elementary school (85014).

**ASU Prep South Phoenix (Grades 9-12)** will bring its successful downtown model to south-central Phoenix (85040).

**ASU Prep Tempe (Grades 9-12)** will bring its successful downtown model to Guadeloupe (85283).

**EAGLE College Prep (Grades K-8)** will bring its successful Maryvale model to the central I-17 corridor (85015).

**Edison Project (Grades K-8)** will replicate its successful model developed in the Prendergast District to Glendale (85307).

**New Horizon High School** is a new school developed by an experienced and successful team of educators which previously lead the Gateway early-college program. It will locate in Mesa (85210).

**New Learning Ventures (Grades K-8)** is a new school based on a private school model offering innovated gifted programs to central Phoenix students (85004).

**Phoenix International Academy (Grades K-8)** is a new school developed by an experienced and successful team of educators from central Phoenix. It will locate in downtown Glendale (85301).

**Self Development Eastmark (Grades K-8)** is an outgrowth of its highly successful Mesa campus. It will locate in southeast Mesa (85212).

**Self Development Scottsdale (Grades K-8)** is an outgrowth of its highly successful Mesa campus. It will locate in south Scottsdale/north Tempe (85281).

**Vista College Prep Maryvale Middle School (Grades 6-8)** is an expansion of its highly successful central Phoenix campus. It will locate in Laveen (85009).

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**Recommendation to the Board**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Arizona Charter School Program, Project Years 2019 - 2021 Subrecipients.

Awards, not to exceed \$250,000 per Project Year, are supported by a US Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Charter School Program. This subgrant award obligates only one year of payments with the option to fund years two and three dependent upon fund availability and annual review of school progress to meet its goals. All schools are Title I schools. One school is eligible for only two Project Years (PY).

School	PY 2018-19	PY 2019-20	PY 2020-21
Abraham Lincoln Prep School	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Academy of Math and Science – Desert Sky	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Alexander Hamilton Community School	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Arizona Autism High School	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
ASU Prep South Phoenix High School	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
ASU Prep Tempe	\$250,000	\$250,000	X
EAGLE College Prep	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Edison Project	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
New Horizon High School	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
New Learning Venture	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Phoenix International Academy	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Self Development Eastmark	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Self Development Scottsdale	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Vista College Prep	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
 Subtotal	 \$3,500,000	 \$3,500,000	 \$3,250,000
 Total	 \$10,250,000		