ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL

Karen Butterfield

January 28, 2013

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

SUBJECT: Arizona Charter School Program Awards for February 1, 2013- January 31, 2016

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Butterfield, Ed. D.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: January 10, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In August of 2009, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) Charter School program awarded the Arizona Department of Education $47 M to increase high quality public school options in Arizona. The Agency created the Arizona Charter Schools Program (AZ CSP) office to administer the grant.

"Charter schools have an important role to play in the overall strategy of promoting successful school reform and school turnaround models," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "(Arizona) has an opportunity to be selective and provide new high-quality public charter school choices for students and parents."

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

Over the past three years, ADE awarded 56 schools. This round of Sub-Grants will be awarded up to $4,140,000 for 6 schools.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [ ] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

Motion to approve the Arizona Charter School Program awards listed in the attachments.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO [ ]

CONTRACT ABSTRACT

Proposed contract between the State Board of Education, acting for and on behalf of the Department of Education and the following parties:

Name of Contracting Parties:

See attached list of awards

Purpose:

The purpose of the Arizona Charter Schools Program is to 1) increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings, 2) improve student achievement to high academic standards in schools, and 3) to 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:

Not to exceed $230,000 per school per annum contingent upon continued federal funding and not to exceed $690,000 total per school through January 31, 2016. 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. All charter awardees agree to participate in regular monitoring by state and federal officials over the life of the grant.

Source of Funds:

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

Responsible Unit at Department of Education:

Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders
Division Associate Superintendent: Karen Butterfield
Deputy Associate Superintendent, Charter Schools Program: Mark Francis

Dates of Contract:

The agreements shall take effect when approved by the Board, and shall terminate on January 31, 2016.

Explanation of Contract:

The Arizona Charter Schools Program start-up award is a competitive, discretionary grant. Successful replicated or new charter entities which describe in their application a compelling, school-wide vision for challenging curriculum, engaging instruction and rigorous assessment which will increase Arizona student achievement are encouraged to open new schools. Preference points are awarded to schools serving 1) over 75% Free and Reduced Lunch student membership and 2) grades 9-12.

Previous Contract History

None of these 6 schools have previously received an AZ CSP award.

Number Affected (Students, Teachers, and Public, as appropriate)

Six charter school entities serving students in low socio-economic areas with a history of low academic performance.

Method of Determining Contract Amount(s)

Selection Process:

A competitive application was reviewed by a 5 person panel consisting of an ADE program director, 2 successful charter school operators, 1 member of an education non-profit, and 1 staff member from the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

Method of Determining Contract Amount:

1. The Range of AZ CSP school populations in their 3rd year is 200 students to 600 students.
2. 200 students in Year Three was the criterion for maximum funding. All schools have met that criterion and are eligible for $230,000 per year for the life of the grant.

Evaluation Plan:

Each awarded charter entity is required to produce an annual report which will align with 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 evaluation instrument which assesses the following:
    a. Academic standards and continuous improvement,
    b. Governance,
    c. Ethical Leadership,
    d. Business and Financial Practices.

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.

Attachment

Charter School Entities - 2014-2016 Grant Cycles

Awards, not to exceed $230,000 per Project Year, are supported by a US Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Charter School Program.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Alhambra Preparatory Academy	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
2. College Bound Prep	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
3. EAGLE College Prep Glendale	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
4. EAGLE College Prep Mesa	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
5. SySTEM	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
6. Western School of Science and Technology	$230,000	$230,000	$230,000
Sub total:	$1,380,000	$1,380,000	$1,380,000
Total:	$4,140,000		