

December 6, 2013

Mr. Vince Yanez  
Executive Director  
Arizona State Board of Education (ASBE)

Ref: CTDS: 07-02-60-203 (Kaplan Academy of Arizona)  
Sub: Revisions to Approved Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) Program

Dear Mr. Yanez:

The Higley Unified School District (HUSD) respectfully requests Staff's acceptance and approval of what HUSD considers to be important revisions to the District's previously approved AOI Application. In support of the District's request for ASBE Staff consideration and approval, the following explanation outlining the basis for the District's request follows.

#### **Background**

The Arizona State Board of Education (ASBE) awarded the Higley Unified School District (HUSD) an Arizona Online Instruction Program School on August 23, 2010. The name of the approved AOI School as submitted by HUSD was to be Higley Unified's Kaplan Academy of Arizona. At the time of the submission of the AOI application to ASBE Staff, HUSD approved a partnership with Kaplan Virtual Academy (KVA) to provide a Content Delivery System (CDS), Learning Management System (LMS), and Student Information System (SIS). The HUSD also contracted with KVA to plan and implement the District AOI during the 2011 school year.

After the 2011 school year, the partnership between HUSD and KVA was dissolved. Subsequently, HUSD initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure another online education content provider. After a thorough search and careful consideration, HUSD selected Edgenuity, Inc. to replace KVA as the district's online content provider. A primary consideration in the selection of Edgenuity was that the program met all stipulations outlined in the previously approved AOI application. The Edgenuity Program was highly recommended, their CDS currently supporting numerous other Arizona districts and approved AOI Programs. Use of the Edgenuity Program was initiated in July 2011 and implementation will progress throughout the 2012 school year.

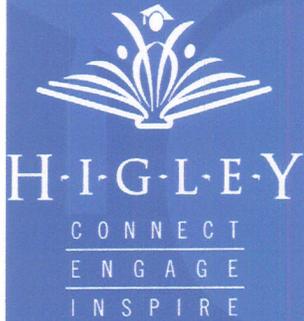
#### **Considerations**

The stipulations embedded within this request are in no way intended to change the intent or foundational philosophy embedded in the District's previously approved AOI application. The District strongly feels that its new partnership with Edgenuity will only improve the quality of the AOI Program School. The partnership with Edgenuity includes the use of District staff, teachers, and administrators to support daily operations, enabling HUSD to establish complete oversight and accountability of its AOI School. Securing this oversight, HUSD is expects to produce an effective and efficient online school program that will serve the needs of the HUSD student population. An effective AOI Program is also expected to improve retention by adding myriad content delivery and diverse schedule options for students seeking alternative paths to promotion or their high school diploma.

Specifically, First HUSD would like to first request that the word "Kaplan" be replaced with the word 'Online' in the name of the District's AOI School. Upon Staff's approval the AOI School would be identified as Higley Unified's Online Academy of Arizona.

Secondly, HUSD would like update the previously approved application, inserting Edgenuity in place of all entries that identify KVA as the provider of online content, the learning management system, and the student information system.

Lastly, HUSD would like Staff to accept the revised course descriptions specific to the courses offered by Edgenuity (Exhibit A). The Edgenuity course offerings are comparable to course offerings by KVA and those submitted in the previously approved AOI application.

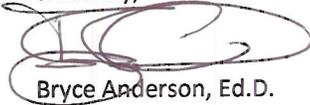


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**Request for Approval**

In consideration of this justification statement and the enclosed supporting documents, HUSD requests that Staff approve or recommend approval of the new District AOI School name and the additional considerations specific to a change in the District's online vendor partnership from KVA to Edgenuity. The HUSD sincerely appreciates Staff's expedited consideration of this request to approve this AOI Application update for CTDS 07-02-60-203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Anderson', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Bryce Anderson, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent

cc: Denise Birdwell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent