

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- I. **Public Education Commission Meeting Date:** April 12, 2019
- II. **Item Title:** Middle College High School: Amendment Request – Increase Enrollment cap
- III. **Executive Summary and Proposed Motions:** Discussion and Possible Action on Charter School Amendment, Middle College High School

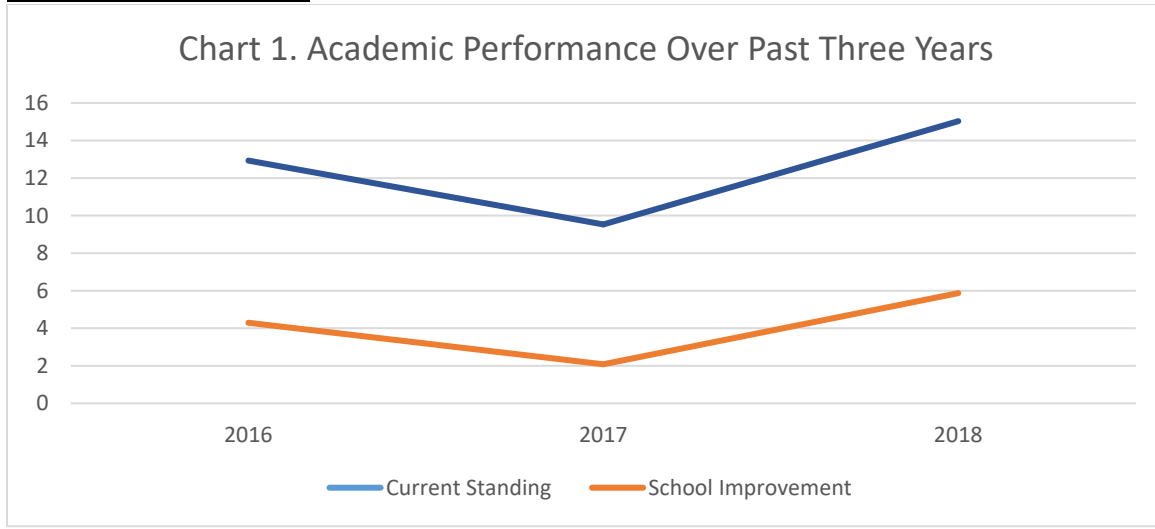
Request

- **Middle College High School requests to increase its enrollment cap by 20 students, from 100 to 120.**

Rationale for Request

“This request is responsive to community concern for an educational alternative to the current offerings of the local school district, with whom MCHS has twice attempted, unsuccessfully, to negotiate an enrollment increase (on May 1, 2017 and December 11, 2017). While historically the school has maintained an annual waiting list (varying between 18 students at its lowest; 43, at its highest), the applications that eventually comprise this list (following the June lottery) do not tend to arrive at the School until near the close of the academic year in May. This year, the School has already received enough applications to fill a quarter of its enrollment slots for the coming school year. Given this upsurge, the request to add 20 more students to Middle College High School is in direct response to increased community demand.”

## Academic Performance



## Additional Analysis on Amendment Request

Enrollment data confirms the school's assertion that it operates at or close to its current enrollment cap of 100 every year. Even with a withdraw rate around 10% over the past two years, 120<sup>th</sup> day student counts indicate enough interest in the school to keep it operating near capacity. Please note that with a student population of 100 a 10% withdraw rate is only 10 students.

Year	Percent of Students Who Returned in Current Year	Percent of Students Who Withdrew In Prior Year	40 <sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment
2016-2017	90%	6.12%	91
2017-2018	84.85%	9.86%	100
2018-2019	87.69%	9.72%	98

While academic performance dipped overall in 2017, the school did see a recovery in 2018. The overall grade in 2017 was a C, which increased to an A in 2018. As the school indicates in the required narrative (see attached appendix), the existing faculty-to-student ratio would be maintained. Therefore, it can be assumed that the enrollment increase would not have a negative impact on academic performance.

Note that the capacity documentation provided that indicates an occupant load of 68 is only for instructional space that is housed in the school's two portable buildings. The school further leases four rooms from UNM. PSFA states the school's classroom space could accommodate an enrollment of up to 159 students.