**Fit Kids, Inc. dba Champion Schools**

**Program of Instruction Amendment Request**

**Rationale for the change in the Program of Instruction**

The essence of our Program of Instruction is to provide a rigorous content-rich curriculum emphasizing collaborative, integrative, relevant, project-based learning. Our belief is that ‘teaching up’ to at-risk students using this gifted and talented type curriculum accelerates their learning. Implementing this program, we achieved academic excellence serving a diverse, high need population earning an “A” rating in 2012-13 and 2013-14. We were recognized as a Title I Rewards School by Arizona Department of Education and 2014 “Charter School of the Year” by the Arizona Charter Schools Association.

**Proposed changes to the program of instruction**

To enhance our academic performance, we increased physical activity to develop both fine and gross motor skills, by utilizing sports to promote fitness and healthy lifestyle, thus a ‘sport-centric’ model.

**Curriculum**

Our adopted curricula are aligned to the Arizona Career and College Ready Standards.

Gap analysis is completed at the beginning of each year to ensure all Standards are covered in each grade level and content area. A Pacing Guide is developed and used to track teachers’ implementation of  standards and to measure mastery.

**Methods of Instruction**

Instruction K-3 includes a robust, intensive phonics reading program that covers all Five Pillars of Early Literacy: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. This Early Literacy is integrated with Social Studies and Science Content. Math curriculum is presented in a logical progression, designed to instill persistence in problem-solving and prepare students to understand advanced math.

Instruction 4th-8th Grade includes multiple blended-learning platforms that emphasize teaching critical thinking through argumentative writing using a personalized literacy platform for Literature, Informational Text, Listening Comprehension, Language Usage, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. Math curriculum connects math to the real world in ways that build confidence and true understanding.

**Formative and Summative Assessments**

Formative Assessments are used for a variety of diagnostic testing. A range of formal and informal assessment procedures are conducted by teachers during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve student performance. Summative Assessments are used to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit and at Benchmarks throughout the school year. These summative assessments are used to determine student needs for academic intervention.

**How the proposed changes of the program of instruction align to the mission and educational philosophy of the school**

Champion Schools is a powerful learning community for ALL students, regardless of their educational background. Our learning environment includes many opportunities to work collaboratively. We use project-based learning and utilize the community as a laboratory for students to have hand-on experiences. These types of learning activities activate the imagination, stimulate critical thinking and develop problem-solving skills. We believe in every child’s natural desire to learn and bring all of our students into the educational mainstream by the end of middle school. These proposed changes have refined our academic systems plan and adapted to the evolving academic requirements and standards.

**Proposed changes to the program of instruction, include the following:**

Champion Schools has created a comprehensive system of planning, implementing and measuring the effectiveness of our curriculum to specifically enhance student growth. We begin by studying our annual test results and disaggregating our data looking for trends that will help us drive improvement. A timeline is established for collecting data using screening and benchmark assessments, determining strategic interventions and setting measurable goals to be used in whole-class instruction. Based on successful results and practices, we have developed an Academic Blueprint for Success.  Curriculum Maps and Pacing Guides are utilized to create weekly lesson plans. Collaborative planning is required to group students in classes that are conducive to addressing academic strengths and remedial needs and ensure consistent educational experiences across grade levels. Teachers have a variety of instructional materials to use in planning and implementing the curriculum. The adoption of these materials is discussed and agreed upon in a committee of teachers and administrators. In addition to curriculum planning, professional development starts during teacher Pre-Service. Teachers utilize a variety of instructional strategies to implement lesson plans including: Direct Instruction, Learning Centers, SmartBoard, Computer and Tablet Technology, Flipped Classroom Techniques, and Small Group Interventions.  Teachers use data to guide their instruction and supplement prior year foundational skills wherever necessary. We implement a formalized, systematic process for data analysis. This data is integral to our comprehensive assessment system that includes a pre-test, three benchmark assessments, post-test, to continuously support and increase student proficiency levels. A positive learning environment is one of most influential factors in the success of a student and thus a whole school community. A disciplined environment allows teachers to clearly deliver aligned, well-planned, content rich curriculum effectively

**Timeframes for implementation, purchasing necessary resources, and training staff to effectively implement the changes**

Our Comprehensive Program of Instruction has evolved over nineteen years, with a emphasis on continuous while adhering to our core beliefs, and values. We have had the opportunity to see what works and try new instructional strategies, technology while maintaining consistency. Investment on our core curricula has been done and resources are added, refreshed and replaced as needed each school year. Staff Training is on-going both on-site as well as utilizing resources at the Arizona Department of Education and other educational organizations based on teacher needs.