



## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

# Desert Star Academy Realizes 100% Annual Enrollment Increases and a New Building by Partnering with Charter School Capital



Desert Star Academy is a pre-K through 8th grade charter school in Fort Mohave, Arizona and run by its dedicated founder and director, Margie Montgomery. Their mission is to create academic scholars, citizens, and productive community leaders. Their experienced, passionate teaching staff focuses on providing rigor in the classroom and creating a culture of building confidence in their scholars as the foundation for learning and growth. Their inspiring culture, curriculum, and proven academic success are just a few reasons for their astronomical year-over-year growth from 62 students in 2014 to over 450 scholars expected this year.

## CHALLENGES

- In the beginning, they had very little capital to get started, purchase curriculum, furnishings, and cover operational expenses.
- With true-ups in November and expected increases in students each year, they were continually facing significant budget gaps
- Their incredible rise in enrollment after their first year resulted in Desert Star Academy quickly outgrowing their space.
- Desert Star Academy not only needed a new middle school facility, but the capital to support the education of their scholars.

## SOLUTION

- To get the school up and running, Charter School Capital helped provide the capital needed to cover expenses.
- To bridge funding gaps, Charter School Capital purchases payments due to Desert Star Academy and provides the funds they need in advance of state payment distribution dates
- To address their facilities needs, Charter School Capital bought land in 2016, completed construction on a new middle school in 2017, and provided a long-term lease to the school as well as capital for curriculum, technology, and furnishings.

## THE RESULT

The funding and facilities support provided by Charter School Capital helped facilitate Desert Star Academy's continued impressive growth. It enabled them to increase enrollment; hire new staff; purchase materials, technology, and curriculum; acquire new furniture; cover basic operational costs; and importantly, add a needed middle school campus. Executive Director, Margie Montgomery, the life force behind Desert Stars achievements, is looking toward to their future. In addition to her dream of building a gym and several additional classrooms for her scholars, she is working closely with Charter School Capital on a plan for the school to become financially independent while continuing their growth trajectory.

“Charter School Capital is highly vested in our school's success and the support is great! They helped me become a better business manager and I can honestly say that we wouldn't be where we are today without the support of Charter School Capital.”

**MARGIE MONTGOMERY**  
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR  
DESERT STAR ACADEMY



## CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL

We are the nation's leading provider of growth capital and facilities financing to charter schools. Over the last 10 years, we've put more than \$2 billion to work for 600+ charter schools educating more than 1,000,000 students across the country.

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## CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL

# Dedicated to Supporting Charter School Success

## WHY PARTNER WITH US

1

### MISSION DRIVEN

We are 100% dedicated to the charter school space and measure our success by the number of students we serve. Our ultimate goal is to help the charter school movement grow and flourish, and be able to serve more students. We take pride in the social impact that we're supporting by helping charter schools succeed.

2

### INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

We find innovative solutions to your financing challenges and pride ourselves on having the ability to be as creative, flexible, and innovative as possible to meet your specific needs – when you need the support. We take on all the administrative pieces of your financing, so you can focus on your mission—educating students.

3

### DEDICATED & RESPONSIBLE PARTNER

Our in-depth process and procedures ensure that we finance charter schools ethically and responsibly. And, our near-zero percent default rate is a testament to our fiscal responsibility. Our knowledgeable, dedicated team of finance professionals will work together with you to find sustainable solutions to ensure that your school succeeds now—and as you grow.

4

### YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

When you no longer need Charter School Capital, that means we've done our job and your school has become financially stable, successful, and set up for future growth. We want your school to be healthy and your operations sustainable so you can continue to serve more and more students.

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

Charter School Capital is a trustworthy, reliable funding source. They are a true friend and ally to charter schools, the movement, and the children we serve.

**CAPRICE YOUNG, CEO & SUPERINTENDENT,  
MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

It was a blessing to find Charter School Capital. We couldn't have even looked at a building like this without them. They were responsive, communicative, and very much about the school kids.

**FREDDY MENDOZA, FOUNDER AND TEACHER,  
ARIZONA COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY**

With Charter School Capital, our organization can stand alone. They have done such a good job of making us feel part of something...You don't get that feeling with a bank.

**DR. KRIS SIPPEN, PRINCIPAL,  
SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER**

