**BASIS Administrative Costs Soar as Classroom Spending Declines in 2017**

***Basis Lost $3.1 Million in 2017 adding to $23 Million in Red Ink***

***(But parents still kicked in $13 million in fees and donations)***

Jim Hall

Arizonans for Charter School Accountability

BASIS Schools is one of the largest charter chains in Arizona with over 12, 000 students, yet they spend 50% more per pupil to run their schools than the average charter school and three times more than the average public district. Size should increase efficiency, but as BASIS grows nationally their administrative spending has sky rocketed - while classroom spending has gone down.

BASIS Inc., the for-profit company that manages all BASIS schools, spent $28 million on administration in 2017 as BASIS continued to lose money, posting a $3.1 million loss in 2016-17 according to their Annual Financial Reports, adding to the $23 million deficit in assets reported in 2016. (See Tables A, B, and C in the Appendix)

So how is BASIS dealing with the mounting red ink? The only reduction in spending seems to be in the classroom where regular classroom instruction was cut in 2017 by $262/pupil while special education instruction fell to a dismal $23/pupil. (See Table C in the Appendix)

Instead of cutting administrative costs, BASIS increased administration spending for such things as management fees, executive salaries and expansion by $7.8 million in 2017 to $2281/pupil - $645/pupil more than in 2016. Six BASIS schools spent over $1 million for just school administration - BASIS Scottsdale spent an unbelievable $1.7 million for school administration alone – enough to pay 14 principals $100,000 each with benefits. How can any school office cost $1.7 million to operate? Where does the money really go? (See Table A in the Appendix for BASIS administrative spending 2017)

The difference between the management costs of BASIS schools and public districts of a similar size is substantial. Four public districts that are about the same enrollment as BASIS spend $4 million less ***combined*** on General Administration than BASIS does. Overall BASIS spends nearly 4 times more on administration per pupil than similar sized public districts. See Table 1 below:

Table 1 Comparison of administrative expenditures at BASIS and four similar sized public districts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | 2017 Enrollment | General Administration | School Administration | Central Administration | Total |  Admin/pupil |
| Basis Totals  |  12,467  | $8,982,273 | $16,961,316 | $2,476,596 | $28,420,185 |   $2,281 |
| Glendale Elementary |  13,317  | $1,628,358 | $5,166,598 | $2,970,209 | $9,765,165 | $733 |
| Higley Unified  |  12,132  | $914,341 | $4,226,553 | $2,284,235 | $7,425,129 | $612 |
| Marana Unified |  12,052  | $1,356,748 | $4,783,301 | $3,089,272 | $9,229,321 | $766 |
| Litchfield Elementary |  11,639  | $1,128,366 | $2,844,601 | $2,360,453 | $6,333,420 | $544 |
| Total Four Districts |  49,140  | $ 5,027,813  |  $17,021,053  |  $10,704,169  |  $32,753,035  |   $667 |

School choice proponents argue that it is unfair to compare charter administration costs with district expenses, although the only difference we can find is perhaps in advertising costs. So let’s compare BASIS administration costs with other charters in the state. Legacy Traditional Academy has a similar number of students as BASIS yet spends *$10 million less* running their schools. Larger charter organizations, like BASIS, should be able to operate more efficiently because all schools can be managed by one central office, yet much smaller charters like Pointe Education Services with four schools and the Arizona School for the Arts with a single campus run their schools with half of the money per pupil as BASIS. See Table 2 below:

Table 2 Comparison of administrative expenditures at BASIS and three other Arizona charter schools

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | 2017 Enrollment | General Administration | School Administration | Central Administration | Total Administration | Admin/pupil |
| BASIS Total  | 12,467 | $8,982,273 | $16,961,316 | $2,476,596 | $28,420,185 | $2,281 |
| Legacy total | 11,042 | $626,725 | $5,069,980 | $11,338,817 | $17,035,522 | $1,543 |
| Point Educational Services | 1,362 | $118,669 | $735,358 | $700,992 | $1,555,019 | $1,142 |
| Arizona School for the Arts | 852 | $270,413 | $311,580 | $471,711 | $1,053,704 | $1,237 |

At the school level, the difference between BASIS operational spending and the funds available to a public district school is staggering. A comparison of the school support and administration budget of Desert Foothills Middle School in the Washington Elementary District (WESD), where I was principal for six years, compared with BASIS Scottsdale Primary (BSP) is revealing.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Desert Foothills (enrollment 699) educates the most challenging middle school learning-disabled students in the Washington Elementary District in four self-contained classrooms and has 138 special education students total. 61% of students are on free/reduced lunch but the school receives very few Title 1 funds because of the greater need in other WESD schools. Desert Foothills has a counselor, librarian, nurse, office manager, student service specialist, program coach, 2.5 office techs, a .5 psychologist, an assistant principal/athletic director, and principal. These positions are funded through money from school administration, student support and instructional support budget categories. Desert Foothills total budget for these functions is $555,776 - $795/pupil. The smaller BASIS Scottsdale Primary (enrollment 520) spends 3 times more. [[2]](#footnote-2) See Table 3 below:

Table 3 Comparison of expenditures BASIS Scottsdale Primary and Desert Foothills Middle School

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | Desert Foothills | BASIS Scottsdale Primary |
| Enrollment 2017 | 699 | 530 |
| Special Education Students  | 138 | 9 |
| %Free/Reduced Lunch | 61% | 0 |
| Classroom Instruction | $1,992,723 | $2,301,954 |
| Student Support | $200,692 | $26,045 |
| Instructional Support | $51,442 | $166,421 |
| School Administration | $290,420 | $1,084,250 |
| Supplies | $13,222 | $56,619 |
| Total | $555,776 | $1,333,335 |
| Support and Administration/Pupil |  $795 |  $2,516 |
| Desert Foothills at BASIS spending levels/pupil -$2,516 |  $1,758,493 |   |

Desert Foothills spent $290,420 on school administration while BSP spent over $1 million. BASIS Inc. does not disclose staff positions except that each school has a Head of School, Head of Operations, Director of Student Affairs, and Director of Academic Programs.[[3]](#footnote-3) Overall, BSP spends $777,559 more for support and administration than Desert Foothills, for a school with 169 fewer students, no free lunch population and only 9 special education students.[[4]](#footnote-4)

BASIS Scottsdale Primary spends $2,516/pupil for support and administration. If Desert Foothills could spend at the same level as BASIS Scottsdale Primary, they would have an additional $1.2 million annually – 60% of the entire classroom budget of the school.

Desert Foothills could hire 60% more teachers at the school if they had the per pupil support and administration budget of BASIS Scottsdale Primary – or increase existing teacher salaries by 60%. And…maybe have more than $13,000 to buy all of the supplies, furniture, computers and equipment for the school each year.

You might wonder how Desert Foothills could have 138 special education students and receive so little instructional funding. The vast majority of their special education students are learning disabled, a category that is funded by the state at only $10/pupil in weighted Group B funds. Learning disabled students are primarily funded out of additional Group A funds that all schools receive, with the idea that all schools have similar numbers of learning disabled students. BASIS receives the same amount of Group A funds per pupil as Desert Foothills, even though they have almost no special education students.[[5]](#footnote-5)

On top of that, BASIS Scottsdale Primary is still receiving additional funding for being a “small school” – a scam that is being phased out by law but still is providing additional funds to BASIS even with a total enrollment of over 12,000 students. Group A additional funding for non-existent special education students at BSP plus the additional “small school” funds all BASIS schools receive nets BSP $1,051/pupil while Desert Foothills receives $582/pupil in additional funds.

Simply put, BSP receives $150,000 more per year in weighted state funding than Desert Foothills despite having 169 fewer students and 129 fewer special education students. See below Table 4 below:

Table 4 State weighted support for BASIS Scottsdale Primary and Desert Foothills Middle School[[6]](#footnote-6)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | BASIS Scottsdale Primary | Desert Foothills Middle School |
| Enrollment | 530 | 699 |
| Group A Weight | 0.158 | 0.158 |
| Small School Weight | 0.131 | 0 |
| Total Group A+Small School | 0.289 | 0.158 |
| Base Equalization Rate 2017 | $3,635 | $3,681 |
| Additional funding/pupil | $1,051 | $582 |
| Total Additional Funding | $556,773 | $406,537 |

We saw that BSP received $150,000 more in weighted funding from the state than Desert Foothills, so where did the additional $1million BSP spent for administration come from? The answer is out of parent’s pockets. BSP brought in $1,081,593 in fees and donations from its parents in 2017 – money they thought was going to supplement low teacher salaries.

Where did the money really go?

One thing is certain – funds didn’t go to the classroom where spending in BASIS schools went down $262/pupil in 2017. BASIS parents are told that BASIS Inc. must charge fees for everything, including workbooks and class materials, because they are underfunded by the state. They also ask parents to donate $1500 annually to help the beleaguered BASIS Inc. pay teacher salaries. Last year Arizona BASIS parents paid $13 million to BASIS Inc., nearly $2 million more in fees and donations at existing schools than in 2016. (See Table E in the Appendix)

It is likely that the additional millions parents are forced to fork out is going to pay lavish salaries to BASIS Inc. owner Michael Brock and his corporate executives and is helping finance the world-wide expansion of the BASIS empire. BASIS now has charter schools in Texas, Washington D.C., and Louisiana in addition to five private BASIS schools in New York City, California, and Virginia. In 2015 BASIS opened the BASIS International School Shenzhen in China.[[7]](#footnote-7)

BASIS parents are not donating to support their children’s education – they are subsidizing the corporate profits of a company that is drowning in debt bent on the world-wide expansion of BASIS Inc. and the BASIS private school network.

Is it appropriate for private corporations to reap whatever profits they can squeeze out of their charter school business? Arizonans for Charter School Accountability simply asks for transparency in charter expenditures of public funds so parents and the public can decide for themselves if the $28 million in state tax revenue BASIS expends running their schools is justified. The public also needs to understand just how inequitable the funding mechanisms are for public districts that take every student, regardless of income, race, or disability while charter owners like BASIS Inc. receive more money per pupil to educate affluent, gifted children.

There are two separate systems in place in Arizona public education. One has accountability on many levels – a locally elected school board and oversight by the Auditor General that can sanction questionable spending (like the procurement issues at Scottsdale Unified). The other system allows charter owners complete freedom to spend tax money any way they choose without oversight by a local school board or the Auditor General.[[8]](#footnote-8)

 Imagine if Scottsdale Unified increased administrative spending $645/pupil while cutting classroom spending by $262/pupil. Or if Scottsdale Unified spent $2,200/pupil for administration while the average district spends $800/pupil. It is simply unthinkable…yet BASIS Scottsdale Primary, serving the same Scottsdale community, spends tax funds this way without question - and in secret. All decisions about salaries, construction, and spending are made at the corporate offices of BASIS Inc. and are not subject to open meeting laws and public record requests.

No one at the state level knows (or cares) how charter owners spend tax revenue. The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools is solely responsible for supervising charter schools in Arizona and they do not review charter spending. The Auditor General is not allowed to monitor charter spending…by law.

As a result, charters are left with no oversight regarding how they spend precious public funds. A charter owner recently closed at school at mid-year after pillaging the school for millions of dollars (see our report on the Bradley Academy at azcsa.org). BASIS cons parents out of $13 million a year while spending more on administration than any school system in Arizona.

The fact that one school in a neighborhood is accountable for the expenditure of public funds and another is not, simply because they are a for-profit business, is not acceptable. It is also unacceptable that public districts make all decisions in public meetings while charters are allowed to hide all spending decisions in corporate board rooms.

Separate is not equal. There should be the same transparency for all expenditures of public education funds in Arizona schools.

Appendix

Table A BASIS Schools Revenue-Expenses 2016-17

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Charter Holder | Enrollment October 1, 2016 |  Total Maintenance Operation Expenditures | Total/Pupil |  Total Revenue from All Sources | Revenue/pupil | Revenue-Expenses |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Tucson | 804 | $6,417,747 | $7,982 | $5,997,512 | $7,460 | -$420,235 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Scottsdale | 1081 | $8,979,873 | $8,307 | $8,970,501 | $8,298 | -$9,372 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Oro Valley | 571 | $4,901,611 | $8,584 | $4,640,479 | $8,127 | -$261,132 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Peoria | 722 | $5,240,396 | $7,258 | $5,931,592 | $8,216 | $691,196 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Chandler | 897 | $7,276,769 | $8,112 | $7,239,209 | $8,070 | -$37,560 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Flagstaff | 634 | $5,098,472 | $8,042 | $5,063,342 | $7,986 | -$35,130 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Phoenix  | 781 | $5,890,411 | $7,542 | $6,349,326 | $8,130 | $458,915 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Tucson North | 1063 | $7,598,722 | $7,148 | $7,944,378 | $7,474 | $345,656 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Mesa | 648 | $5,273,050 | $8,137 | $5,059,221 | $7,807 | -$213,829 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Ahwatukee | 756 | $5,768,439 | $7,630 | $5,738,928 | $7,591 | -$29,511 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. OV Primary | 762 | $5,956,970 | $7,818 | $5,502,560 | $7,221 | -$454,410 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Prescott | 786 | $7,111,695 | $9,048 | $5,741,638 | $7,305 | -$1,370,057 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Phoenix Central | 880 | $7,038,077 | $7,998 | $6,581,607 | $7,479 | -$456,470 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Chandler Primary North | 522 | $4,423,797 | $8,475 | $4,047,893 | $7,755 | -$375,904 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Scottsdale Primary | 530 | $4,905,786 | $9,256 | $4,392,505 | $8,288 | -$513,281 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Chandler Primary | 441 | $4,045,384 | $9,173 | $3,582,902 | $8,124 | -$462,482 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Goodyear Primary | 589 | $3,835,601 | $6,512 | $4,160,512 | $7,064 | $324,911 |
| BASIS Schools, Inc. Goodyear | 186 | $1,826,425 | $9,819 | $1,454,287 | $7,819 | -$372,138 |
| Totals | 12653 | $101,589,225 |   | $98,398,392 |   | -$3,190,833 |

Table B BASIS Schools Administrative Expenditures 2016 -2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Charter | Year | General Administration | School Administration | Central Administration | Total Administration | Difference 2016-2017 |
| BASIS Schools, Tucson  | 2017 | $555,748 | $1,137,788 | $90,534 | $1,784,070 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $553,135 | $673,934 | $61,565 | $1,288,634 |   |
| BASIS Schools, OV | 2017 | $426,316 | $1,023,265 | $76,869 | $1,526,450 | $503,780 |
|   | 2016 | $377,655 | $495,952 | $149,063 | $1,022,670 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Scottsdale | 2017 | $840,876 | $1,724,393 | $112,686 | $2,677,955 | $1,524,680 |
|   | 2016 | $551,140 | $544,866 | $57,269 | $1,153,275 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Peoria | 2017 | $549,688 | $839,006 | $90,514 | $1,479,208 | $352,564 |
|   | 2016 | $506,151 | $563,176 | $57,317 | $1,126,644 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Chandler | 2017 | $675,361 | $1,460,552 | $97,432 | $2,233,345 | $1,019,313 |
|   | 2016 | $503,194 | $540,380 | $170,458 | $1,214,032 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Flagstaff | 2017 | $467,428 | $897,505 | $86,459 | $1,451,392 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $364,742 | $455,779 | $142,067 | $962,588 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Tucson North | 2017 | $745,367 | $1,079,525 | $124,302 | $1,949,194 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $622,963 | $602,457 | $87,404 | $1,312,824 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Phoenix | 2017 | $590,399 | $955,207 | $96,985 | $1,642,591 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $526,530 | $472,281 | $71,158 | $1,069,969 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Ahwatukee | 2017 | $531,311 | $853,631 | $300,883 | $1,685,825 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $464,647 | $426,066 | $289,705 | $1,180,418 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Mesa | 2017 | $468,006 | $784,042 | $267,009 | $1,519,057 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $403,737 | $482,606 | $263,972 | $1,150,315 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Phoenix Central | 2017 | $610,115 | $915,523 | $329,277 | $1,854,915 | $495,436 |
| BASIS Schools, OVP | 2017 | $508,000 | $814,999 | $93,777 | $1,416,776 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 | $458,821 | $569,424 | $280,419 | $1,308,664 |   |
| BASIS Schools, Prescott | 2017 | $533,652 | $1,101,896 | $301,971 | $1,937,519 | $495,436 |
|   | 2016 Average Spending | $450,990 | $611,030 | $284,680 | $1,346,700 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | Total more 2017 than 2016 | $7,859,261 |

Table C BASIS Schools Net Assets 2011-2016 from audits available at: <http://online.asbcs.az.gov/dms/browse/561>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Net assets (deficit), end of year  |
| 2011 | ($25,604) |
| 2012 | 688,632 |
| 2013 | ($1,517,149) |
| 2014 | ($5,708,917) |
| 2015 | ($13,312,226) |
| 2016 | ($22,989,424) |

Table D BASIS Classroom Instruction Expenditures 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Charter Holder | Enrollment October 1, 2016 |  1000 Regular Education all Classroom Instruction  |  1000 Special Education all Classroom Instruction  | Total Instruction | Instruction/Pupil | Special Education/pupil |
| BASIS Tucson | 804 | $2,509,846 | $54,241 | $2,564,087 | $3,189 | $67 |
| BASIS Scottsdale | 1081 | $3,835,531 | $105 | $3,835,636 | $3,548 | $0 |
| BASIS Oro Valley | 571 | $2,032,156 | $386 | $2,032,542 | $3,560 | $1 |
| BASIS Peoria | 722 | $2,287,140 | $928 | $2,288,068 | $3,169 | $1 |
| BASIS Chandler | 897 | $3,060,704 | $3,970 | $3,064,674 | $3,417 | $4 |
| BASIS Flagstaff | 634 | $2,209,025 | $8,568 | $2,217,593 | $3,498 | $14 |
| BASIS Phoenix  | 781 | $2,675,839 | $2,172 | $2,678,011 | $3,429 | $3 |
| BASIS Tucson North | 1063 | $3,147,800 | $5,143 | $3,152,943 | $2,966 | $5 |
| BASIS Mesa | 648 | $2,422,642 | $3,127 | $2,425,769 | $3,743 | $5 |
| BASIS Ahwatukee | 756 | $2,539,683 | $4,654 | $2,544,337 | $3,366 | $6 |
| BASIS OV Primary | 762 | $2,423,922 | $38,700 | $2,462,622 | $3,232 | $51 |
| BASIS Prescott | 786 | $2,696,639 | $16,435 | $2,713,074 | $3,452 | $21 |
| BASIS Phoenix Central | 880 | $2,438,202 | $14,644 | $2,452,846 | $2,787 | $17 |
| BASIS Chandler Primary North | 522 | $1,920,585 | $33,329 | $1,953,914 | $3,743 | $64 |
| BASIS Scottsdale Primary | 530 | $2,086,756 | $16,809 | $2,103,565 | $3,969 | $32 |
| BASIS Chandler Primary | 441 | $1,540,083 | $51,113 | $1,591,196 | $3,608 | $116 |
| BASIS Goodyear Primary | 589 | $1,591,468 | $37,621 | $1,629,089 | $2,766 | $64 |
| BASISGoodyear | 186 | $787,807 | $893 | $788,700 | $4,240 | $5 |
| Total |  12,653  | $42,205,828 | $292,838 | $42,498,666 | $3,359 | $23 |
| 2016 Instruction/Pupil |   |   |   |   | $3,621 | $30 |
| Change 2016-2017 |   |   |   |   | -$262 | -$7 |
| State Charter Average/pupil |   |   |   |   | $3,272 | $266  |

Table E BASIS Fees and Donations 2016-2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Charter Holder | Revenue Charter Activities (Fees) |  Other Revenue from Local Sources (Donations) | Total 2017 | Revenue Charter Activities (Fees) |  Other Revenue from Local Sources (Donations) | Total 2016 | Change 2016-2017 |
| BASIS Tucson | $415,856 | $571,876 | $987,732 | $724,496 | $232,032 | $956,528 | $31,204 |
| BASIS Scottsdale | $792,425 | $920,744 | $1,713,169 | $554,406 | $794,143 | $1,348,549 | $364,620 |
| BASIS Oro Valley | $279,295 | $217,500 | $496,795 | $274,307 | $140,532 | $414,839 | $81,956 |
| BASIS Peoria | $408,390 | $272,068 | $680,458 | $414,952 | $303,348 | $718,300 | -$37,842 |
| BASIS Chandler | $617,194 | $494,064 | $1,111,258 | $491,468 | $323,198 | $814,666 | $296,592 |
| BASIS Flagstaff | $278,200 | $219,334 | $497,534 | $279,843 | $187,140 | $466,983 | $30,551 |
| BASIS Phoenix | $452,741 | $419,193 | $871,934 | $451,391 | $415,102 | $866,493 | $5,441 |
| BASIS Tucson North | $432,365 | $304,074 | $736,439 | $410,845 | $287,885 | $698,730 | $37,709 |
| BASIS Mesa | $209,266 | $205,626 | $414,892 | $276,441 | $177,064 | $453,505 | -$38,613 |
| BASIS Ahwatukee | $439,038 | $254,162 | $693,200 | $440,722 | $239,348 | $680,070 | $13,130 |
| BASIS OV Primary | $251,693 | $551,003 | $802,696 | $516,064 | $316,351 | $832,415 | -$29,719 |
| BASIS Prescott | $264,741 | $377,192 | $641,933 | $438,618 | $221,501 | $660,119 | -$18,186 |
| BASIS Phoenix Central | $415,335 | $695,499 | $1,110,834 | $689,140 | $217,655 | $906,795 | $204,039 |
| BASIS Scottsdale Primary | $300,688 | $780,905 | $1,081,593 | $234,739 | $95,158 | $329,897 | $751,696 |
| BASIS Chandler Primary | $273,609 | $380,098 | $653,707 | $401,413 | $185,216 | $586,629 | $67,078 |
| BASIS Goodyear Primary | $173,194 | $283,340 | $456,534 | $280,023 | $23,224 | $303,247 | $153,287 |
| BASIS Goodyear | $77,065 | $97,530 | $174,595 | $63,658 | $118,277 | $181,935 | -$7,340 |
| Total | $6,081,095 | $7,044,208 | $13,125,303 | $6,942,526 | $4,277,174 | $11,219,700 | $1,905,603 |

**Appropriate expenses from Support and School Administration Codes**

**(**available athttps://www.azauditor.gov/sites/default/files/USFRCS.pdf)

**Support Services—Students**—Activities designed to assess and improve the well being of students and to supplement the teaching process: including attendance and social work services; guidance services; health services; psychological services; speech pathology and audiology services; and occupational/physical therapy related services.

**Support Services—Instruction**—Activities associated with assisting the instructional staff with the content and process of providing learning experiences for students, including improvement of instruction (curriculum development and staff training for instructional staff), library/media services, instruction-related technology, and academic student assessment. This function also includes curriculum directors, special education directors, or others who supervise staff performing this function.

**Support Services—School Administration**—Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for a particular campus, including office of the principal services.

1. BASIS Scottsdale Primary was selected because all of their students are in grades K-8 as are students from Desert Foothills. BASIS schools that include high school students have different funding formulas. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Appendix page 11 for an explanation of appropriate expenditures for student support, instructional support, and school administration [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.basised.com/scottsdale-primary/our-school/school-managers/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Special education enrollment is from the 2017 Charter School Student Enrollment Summaries available at http://www.ade.az.gov/Districts/EntitySelection.asp [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See the Arizona Central article about Group A overfunding of charter schools at: https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona-education/2017/11/09/arizona-sent-85-million-wrong-schools-special-education-low-income-students/834571001/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/19adefundingformulasjlbcpres.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.basisschools.org/> under “Schools” tab [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Arizona charter school boards are only responsible for setting school policies. The Auditor General is not allowed, by law, to monitor or sanction charter schools. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)