EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item Name: Arizona Teachers Academy FY 2022 Budget

☑ Action Item

Requested Action: The board office asks the board to approve the FY 2022 budget for the Arizona Teachers Academy.

Background/History of Previous Board Action

• In FY 2021, the State appropriated $15 million to the board for the Arizona Teachers Academy (Academy). The board allocated the funds between the eligible institutions (the three universities, Maricopa Community Colleges and Pima Community College) in the budget approved in June 2020.

• In October 2020, the Governor’s Office granted the Academy an additional $6,000,000 in Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding. The board allocated those funds based on preliminary enrollment and waitlist counts.

• In November 2020, Arizona voters passed Proposition 207 which transferred $15.0 million into the Arizona Teachers Academy fund from the Medical Marijuana Fund. This was a one-time transfer.

• Also in November 2020, Arizona voters passed Proposition 208 which made changes to the statutes governing the academy and provided at least three percent of funds collected as part of the Student Support and Safety Fund to the Academy fund.

• In March 2021, HB 2832 was signed into law with an emergency clause which consolidated and clarified changes made to A.R.S. §15-1655 in the previous legislative session and Proposition 208. Major changes included:
  
  o Changing scholarship funding amounts from a scholarship slot amount to the actual amount of scholarship funding the student received.
  
  o Made teachers teaching dual-enrollment courses eligible for Academy funding to earn credits to meet the requirements of a Higher Learning Commission accreditation.

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- Clarified that summer terms do not count towards the calculation of a student’s service commitment.

- In April 2021, the board adopted changes to Policy 2-325 to conform to the changes in statute.

- The current FY 2022 state budget currently being proposed in the legislature continues to fund the Academy at $15 million.

Discussion

The current proposed FY 2022 budget and the Proposition 207 funds provides the Academy with $30 million in FY 2022 for tuition waiver scholarships, National Board Certification Support, Induction Services and Administration and Marketing. The amounts specified in statute for induction and National Board Certification support, as well as the limit for marketing and administration remain unchanged. Since the amount and timing of the Proposition 208 funds is unknown those funds are not included in this allocation.

The statute authorizes the board to allocate funds between the established programs. Board policy dictates that scholarship allocations shall be based on prior year enrollment then requires the Executive Director to make distributions for all funds for the various Academy programs.

The proposed budget uses the percentages paid to institutions for FY 2021 Fall and Spring semesters as a basis for scholarship amounts. For Induction Services the proposed budget uses the same amount as FY 2021 and provides funding for Maricopa County Community College District’s new induction program and an additional 100 Induction Services slots as a contingency. National Board Certification is funded at 284 slots which is the amount the Arizona K-12 Center has indicated they have interest for.

The board office recommends the following budget:

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<th>Scholarships</th>
<th>Induction</th>
<th>National Board</th>
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<td>Pima</td>
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<td>$ 391,772</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 28,900,000</strong></td>
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Induction Contingency $ 200,000
Marketing and Administration $ 900,000

**$ 30,000,000**
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Committee Review and Recommendation

Due to the timing of the state budget this was not previously considered by committee.

Statutory/Policy Requirements

A.R.S. §15-1655: Arizona teachers academy; tuition and fees scholarships; fund; annual report; definitions

ABOR Policy 2-325 “Arizona Teachers Academy”