



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

FROM: Patrick Gavin, Executive Director
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing

SUBJECT: Leadership Academy of Nevada Charter Contract Amendment Request: Addition of a Program where Students may Earn College Credit Pursuant to [NRS 388A.246\(34\)](#)

DATE: June 28, 2018

Leadership Academy of Nevada, operating under a charter contract entered into in 2014, is located in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is currently rated as 3-star middle school and has yet to receive a rating for the high school. Leadership Academy serves 283 students in 6th through 12th grade. Leadership is requesting an amendment to its charter contract to allow it to begin offering dual enrollment credits for high school students starting in the 2018-2019 school year. As discussed below, Staff recommends approval of the amendment request, with conditions.

Summary of Request:

Leadership Academy of Nevada (LANV) is requesting to amend its charter school contract to incorporate a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) to offer dual-credit courses. The program at LANV will be called the Go First Program, and the school will hire a Special Projects Manager to serve as the liaison with CSN, work with students to select courses, ensure they purchase the appropriate textbooks, and work with families to ensure the enrollment process runs smoothly. The LANV Governing Board will have oversight of the program through periodical updates of the program at monthly board meetings.

Under the proposed agreement, CNS will provide new student orientation, review the placement evaluations and work with the student and Special Projects Manager to assist in student enrollment. Additionally, CSN will provide counseling for students, maintain academic transcripts, and work with the LANV Business Director to provide a timely and seamless process for tuition payment. LANV students will be charged the current rate of tuition and fees at each school, and CSN has agreed to waive the application fees for LANV students.

The proposed agreement between LANV and CSN will commence on July 1, 2018 and run through June 30, 2020, with the option to extend the contract by two additional years through mutual agreement by both parties.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests:

Pursuant to [NRS 388A.246\(34\)](#), a public charter school may provide a program where a student may earn college credit for courses taken in high school, a draft memorandum of understanding between the charter school and the college or university which the credits will be earned and a term sheet, which must set forth:

- (a) The proposed duration of the relationship between the charter school and the college or university and the conditions for renewal and termination of the relationship;
- (b) The roles and responsibilities of the governing body of the charter school, the employees of the charter school and the college or university;
- (c) The scope of the services and resources that will be provided by the college or university;
- (d) The manner and amount that the college or university will be compensated for providing such services and resources, including, without limitation, any tuition and fees that pupils at the charter school will pay to the college or university;
- (e) The manner in which the college or university will ensure that they charter school effectively monitors pupil enrollment and attendance and the acquisition of college credits; and
- (f) Any employees of the college or university who will serve on the governing body of the charter school.

Authority staff believes the submitted application by LANV meets the required standards as outlined above.

Additionally, pursuant to [NRS 389.160](#), the governing body of LANV must apply to the State Board for approval of the prescribed courses for which credits may be received, including occupational courses for academic credit, and the amount of credit allowed for the completion of those courses.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

LANV was classified as a 3 – star middle school during the 2017 – 2018 school year, and has yet to receive a designation for the high school.

The school did not receive any notices related to its financial performance during the 2015 – 2016 school year, and the school has exhibited sound organizational performance since it opened.

Authority Staff recommends approval, but with conditions that will ensure that all details related to the dual-credit program are in place prior to the 2018 – 2019 school year. The following should be submitted by the school to SPCSA:

- A fully – executed copy of the MOU between LANV and CSN
- Confirmation from LANV that the school has hired a Special Projects Director prior to the start of the 2018 – 2019 school year
- Evidence that the governing body of LANV has applied and been approved by the State Board, thereby permitting students to earn credits during the upcoming school year

It should be noted that the charter for LANV expires on June 30, 2020. This conditional approval does not supersede that obligation, nor does it imply that the school will be renewed. A renewal decision will be made separately at a public meeting through a vote of the SPCSA Board.

Total Current Enrollment Across All Campuses:

Grade Level	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Pre-K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	36	45	33	38
7	42	49	45	42
8	41	45	60	64
9	32	46	37	53
10	28	24	36	41
11	28	30	12	32
12	10	16	17	13
Total	217	255	240	283

Background:

Leadership Academy of Nevada Academic Performance

Year	NSPF Rating
2015	Elementary: N/A Middle School: N/A- New School High School: N/A- New School
2016	No star rating published by State
2017	Elementary: N/A Middle School: 3 Star

School Demographic Change since 2015

Leadership	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	255	1.5%	2.7%	67.0%	20.0%	0.0%	7.0%	1.5%	4.7%	0.3%	22.7%
Leadership	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
16-17	240	0.4%	2.0%	69.1%	19.5%	N/A	8.3%	0.4%	3.3%	0.0%	7.9%
Leadership	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	283	1.4%	2.1%	75.6%	11.6%	0.3%	7.7%	1.0%	6.0%	0.0%	11.3%

A – Asian

B – Black

C - White

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Two or more races

P – Pacific Islander

IEP – Individualized Education Plan –A student with a disability/special education student

ELL – English Language Learner

FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch