



December 4, 2018

BY EMAIL (bscroggins@spsca.nv.gov; rherrick@spsca.nv.gov)

State Public Charter School Authority  
Attention: Brian Scroggins  
Acting Executive Director  
9890 S. Maryland Pkwy, Suite 200B  
Las Vegas, NV 89183

RE: Request for Acceptance of NSA's Charter  
School Application during the SPCSA's  
January 2019 Submission Period

Dear Mr. Scroggins:

**A. Introduction.**

As you know, we are working diligently on a charter school application for a proposed K-8 charter school to be called Nevada Strong Academy ("NSA"), and chartered by the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority (the "SPCSA").

I want to start by thanking you and your staff, including Mr. Herrick and Mr. Modrcin, for meeting with me, members of my Board, and our legal counsel (Mr. Gardberg) in recent weeks. We are so grateful for your time, input, and professionalism.

Many of our discussions focused on NSA's desire for the SPCSA to accept its charter school application by the January 15, 2019 deadline, so NSA's application may be reviewed during the January-to-May 2019 cycle (vs. the cycle after that). The reason is simple: speaking for everyone involved, ***we believe we are fully capable of, and on track to, open a high-quality, high-performing school in mid-August 2019.*** The school will primarily (based on geography) serve low-income and minority students. The school will be rolled out via a slow-growth plan—e.g., K-4 the first year, and additional grades added in subsequent years—so as to ensure ***immediate success.*** We believe delaying our application to a later cycle and thereby causing us to miss the 2019-2020 year would not be in the best interests of those children, NSA, or the SPCSA.

**B. Waiver Request.**

To be included in the January-to-May 2019 cycle, we have to make a formal request to the SPCSA Board. This letter is that request.

Under a relatively new Regulation listed as LCB File No. R089-16A, NSA was apparently obligated to submit a relatively perfunctory, two-page, non-binding Letter of Intent ("NOI") to the

SPCSA “not less than 120 days before submitting [its final] application.” The application deadline is January 15, 2019, so the NOI deadline was 120 days before, meaning September 15, 2018. For the reasons discussed below, NSA did not submit an NOI within that deadline.

Critically, however, that is not the final word. That new Regulation continues, “[t]he State Public Charter School Authority may, upon request and for good cause shown, accept an application to form a charter school at any time.” This letter constitutes NSA’s formal request to the SPCSA Board (at its upcoming December 14, 2018 meeting) to authorize NSA to submit its charter application to the SPCSA in the upcoming January-to-May 2019 cycle, notwithstanding the 120-day language. There is very good cause for the Board granting this request.

## **1. NSA’s Prior NOI & Application Process.**

As you know, NSA did not submit an NOI to the SPCSA in September because at that time it was exploring chartering with another authorizer, the Achievement School District (“ASD”). As of mid-September, NSA had already submitted a mid-May NOI and subsequent Application to, and was in the process of preparing for its formal ASD interview with, the ASD. Unfortunately, on the eve of the interview, a key NSA team member suddenly and without warning notified us that he was withdrawing from our project to proceed with a charter school project of his own. The timing of the departure was extremely disappointing. Although we replaced him within 48 hours with another Nevada charter school leader, Dr. Carrie A. Buck, in the interim period, NSA withdrew its ASD application.

If I may editorialize, we must be clear about what the missed September deadline does and does not tell us. It evidences NSA having detoured down an unsuccessful rabbit hole, a fact it is working (here and now) to correct. What it does not evidence is any failure on our part to focus on our two critical missions at this point: preparing the best charter school application our authorizer has ever received, based on our having the most well-conceived, fully developed mission, governance, academic, financial, facility, and potential partnership plans possible. Both of those tasks are 100% on track. In fact, if anything, on the basis of NSA having timely submitted a completed application to another authorizer, the SPCSA Board has assurances that:

- We are starting with an existing blueprint, a framework for our creating and submitting an even more comprehensive SPCSA application by the mid-January deadline. In allowing NSA to go forward, we are jumping back into an existing application process, not starting from scratch; and
- We are not merely “hoping” or “aiming” to file by January 15th, but can and will do so. Given the chance, we will deliver.

## **2. Confusion re. the Governing Regulations.**

In the midst of changing authorizer, we admittedly lost a number of days due to confusion in what specific NOI deadline(s) applied. Some of this confusion, We respectfully contend, was not due to any fault on our part.

Our first course of action was to review the applicable regulations on the Legislature’s website. That website listed—and inexplicably still lists today—NAC 386.125(1) as if it were a valid, binding, and effective regulation. (See <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-386.html#NAC386Sec125>.) The Nevada Department of Education’s website similarly asserts

that “[c]harter schools are governed by NRS 388A, NAC 386 and various other regulations and codes—check with your sponsor for clarification.” ([http://www.doe.nv.gov/Charter\\_Schools/.](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Charter_Schools/)) NAC 386.125(1) governs NOI deadlines and states:

A committee to form a charter school must submit to the proposed sponsor a letter of intent to form a charter school. The letter of intent must be submitted in the same fiscal year in which the application to form the charter school is submitted and must be received by the proposed sponsor not fewer than 15 days before the application is submitted.

Under that plain language, NSA had (and has) until January 1, 2019 to timely submit an NOI to the SPCSA.

Unfortunately, when we checked with your staff “for clarification” on these issues, we learned NAC 386.125(1) is no longer in effect, owing to adoption of the 120-day language (cited above) in LCB File No. R089-16A. Although some of the provisions in R089-16A do not take effect until 2020, that 120-day language took effect on December 21, 2016.

Even now, our legal counsel is having difficulty finding a statement in the new regulations that NAC 386.125(1) is no longer good law. The substance of the provisions do appear to strongly contradict one another—15 days is not 120 days. But importantly, in similar situations, other newly adopted regulations expressly amended the NAC 386 provision in question. See, e.g., LCB File No. R087-16A, Section 2 (“NAC 386.435 is hereby amended to read...”); LCB File No. R131-16AP, Section 13 (“NAC 386.225 is hereby amended to read...”). LCB File No. R089-16A could have included language stating that it replaced or amended NAC 386.125, but did not do so. Its lead-in adds that 120-day provision (and several others) into NAC Chapter 388A, but there is no reference to NAC Chapter 386.

There were and are, moreover, other inconsistent references online to the SPCSA’s September deadline, the details of which we would be happy to address in the hearing, if the Board so requested.

In this context, with no disrespect to the Legislative Counsel Bureau intended, we believe some of the confusion here was and is beyond our control, and is one reason why good cause exists here to accept our application.

### **3. NSA Preparedness.**

There would be no point in our pushing this timeline if we could not submit an outstanding application by January 15, 2019, or open one or more grades in the 2019-2020 school year. Given where the entire NSA collective is, from myself to my Board to our volunteer parents and staff, we simply know we can. We have been working diligently for many months on NSA’s charter school application, fine-tuning the academic, financial, governance, logistical, and other provisions, and our state of preparations is (briefly) as follows:

- Governing Board. We have assembled an extraordinarily-talented Board, including the likes of former Henderson Mayor Andy Hafen and charter school leader Dr. Carrie A. Buck. The full list is included in Attachment 1.

- Academic & Financial Partner. We have brought on board Dr. Soner Tarim, the founder and former superintendent of the Texas-based Harmony Public Schools group (“Harmony”), currently building a new CMO intended to be national in scope, Royal School Services. Dr. Soner’s C.V., as well as a copy of his recent award as 2017 Texas Charter Schools Association “Leader of the Year” (in a large state where 675 charter schools serve approximately 270,000 students), are included as Attachment 2. Dr. Soner is planning on attending the Board’s December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to introduce himself and answer any questions.

As you may know, Harmony is one of the most successful charter schools in the country. It operates 56 STEM-focused public charter schools; employs 4,000 faculty and staff; and serves over 35,000 students—an astonishing 61% of whom qualify as “economically disadvantaged,” and 85% of whom are minorities. According to Harmony’s online literature, it boasts a 100% college acceptance rate. For more information about Harmony, please see Attachment 3.

Dr. Soner’s track record for success was so far-reaching that Texas eventually gave him carte blanche to open a new Harmony campus anywhere, at any time, on just 60 days’ advance notice. The Texas authorities’ 2010 authorization to that effect is enclosed as Attachment 4 to this letter. With Dr. Soner on board, there is no question that an application approved in May could and would lead to the opening of a school in August.

- School Facility. We have a school facility in hand. Both NSA and Dr. Tarim’s team have consulted with the operators of an existing (but underpopulated) private school. That school’s facility has 44 classrooms in 4 classroom wings, 3 computer labs, a multi-purpose room, media center, theater, gymnasium, commercial kitchen, and 8-acre athletic complex, all on a 20-acre campus.
- Pupil Demand. The intended location is extraordinary not just for its size and existing infrastructure, but for its location, too. We will open NSA’s campus on the East side of town, in the 89110 zip code. The location is within two miles of Futuro Academy and Equipo Academy, schools which have very significant waiting lists, given the relatively low performing CCSD schools surrounding them. It is also not far from vacant land already earmarked by NSA for the future construction and opening of a new, pristine school facility.
- Community Support. It takes a village. In the course of preparing our application, NSA has been humbled by the outpouring of support from academic, governmental, business, legal, and other leaders in the community. NSA has collected 30-plus letters of support and counting, including those from prominent local leaders, dignitaries and parents such as, Mayor March, Senator Keith Pickard, CSN, Nevada State College, UNLV, TFA, SCORE, Artificial Intelligence, Code Central, CCSD Leaders, Ed Tec, Opportunity 180, Think Law, Education Elements, Reading in Motion, Berklee Music, NV Prep, NV Rise, Futuro Academy, Coral Science, Pinecrest, and American Charter Development.

Attached (as Attachment 5) is an NOI in the form solicited by the SPCSA back in September, giving you additional information about NSA.

#### 4. Adjudication on the Merits, not a Technicality.

At the end of the day, we are not asking for any substantive action on NSA's coming application. We are only seeking a waiver of a relatively mechanical, procedural NOI deadline, so that we may submit our application in the upcoming January-to-May cycle. That is the simple essence of our request: please judge us on our merits, not technicalities.

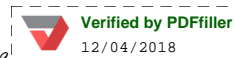
To be clear, by accepting our application in January, the SPCSA would obviously not be committing itself to granting NSA a charter. It would merely be reviewing NSA's application in an earlier cycle (January 2019) as opposed to a later one (July 2019). The Board would retain full power and authority to correct deficiencies, demand additions and corrections, condition its decisions, and—if it were viewed as reasonable and necessary—postpone the school's opening to the 2020-2021 school year. I will of course devote every minute through January 15<sup>th</sup> guaranteeing that does not happen, but if you were to grant the requested waiver, postponement would of course remain an arrow in the Board's quiver.

In conclusion, I would be so grateful, speaking on behalf of the entire NSA team, if the SPCSA Board were to waive the mid-September NOI deadline, accept the attached NOI, and permit us to submit a charter school application by the January 15th deadline. For all of the reasons above, there is strong cause to do so.

Thank you so much for your time, efforts and attention. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely Yours,

*Annette Dawson Owens*



Annette Dawson Owens

CC:

State Public Charter School Authority  
Attention: Ryan Herrick  
Legal Counsel  
9890 S. Maryland Pkwy, Suite 200B  
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Enc:

1. NSA's Governing Board
2. Dr. Soner's C.V. & Leadership Award
3. Harmony Information & Campus List
4. Harmony's Pre-Authorization from the Texas Authorities
5. NSA's Notice of Intent

## **Attachment 1**

### **NSA's Governing Board**



## About the Founder



Annette Dawson Owens has a history of advocating for students inside and outside of the classroom. She enthusiastically enjoys being an educator, but realizes most students do not have access to a high-quality school in our urban areas. For this purpose she is embarking on a mission to found Nevada Strong Academy serving students in Kindergarten-8th grade.

### **Annette Dawson Owens**

Lead Founder of Proposed Nevada Strong

## Board of Directors



**Carrie Buck**  
**Sam Castor**  
**Monty Coon**  
**Lindsey Dalley**  
**Andy Hafen**  
**Kurt Harris**  
**Kenya Jackson**  
**David Jones**  
**Bea Soares**

## **Attachment 2**

### **Dr. Soner's C.V. & Leadership Award**



## **Bio Soner Tarim**

Dr. Soner Tarim is the founder of Harmony Public Schools and he has been an educational advocate for nearly 30 years, encouraging students in underserved communities to pursue learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. He is a driving force for STEM education throughout Texas and the United States. He brings decades of experience developing innovative educational programs for K-12 schools to Harmony, which has garnered state and national recognition for its high academic standards.

Dr. Tarim established first Harmony in August 2000 in Houston Texas and he was the first principal/CEO at Houston campus while serving 200 students. By 2017, Harmony has grown to 54 campuses and 34,000 students throughout Texas. During his 17 years of service as a CEO, Harmony has earned the reputation as one of the best charter schools in the country with many of its campuses recognized on prestigious high school rankings, such as U.S. News & World Report and Children-at-Risk. These successes have only increased demand for Harmony with nearly 24,000 students on its waitlist annually.

In 2017, under Dr. Tarim's leadership, Harmony was a finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The Broad Prize for Urban Education recognizes school districts and charters in urban areas for closing the achievement gap by improving academic performance of low-income and minority students. Dr. Tarim was also the recipient of the 2017 charter school Leader of the Year recognized by the Texas Charter School Association. TCSA recognizes charter leaders that advocate for charters at the state and national level, have successfully replicated high performing charters that are innovative in their approaches to educating all students, and serve as a mentor to other charter leaders.

Currently, Dr. Tarim is a Pahara-Aspen Institute Education Fellow. He has also been selected to attend a year-long fellowship program at the Broad Foundation Academy starting in 2019. Dr. Tarim holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and is a trained biologist and ecologist. He taught courses in biology, ecology, general science, and physical education at the high school, college and graduate-school levels, and spearheaded scientific symposiums and international science Olympiads.

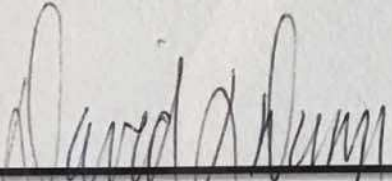
Recently, Dr. Tarim formed, The Royal School System, an independent and non-profit charter management organization to replicate his STREAMS-360 model nationally similar to what he has done in Texas. Dr. Tarim continuously works toward building meaningful partnerships, maintaining effective communications and positive relationships with high-level corporate and civic leaders to advance high-quality, rigorous education throughout the state and nation.

**Texas Charter Schools Association  
Leader of the Year**

is hereby awarded to:

**DR. SONER TARIM  
HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

OCTOBER 13, 2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Dunn  
Executive Director



## **Attachment 3**

### **Harmony School Information & Campus List**



# HARMONY: Charting A Course To The Future

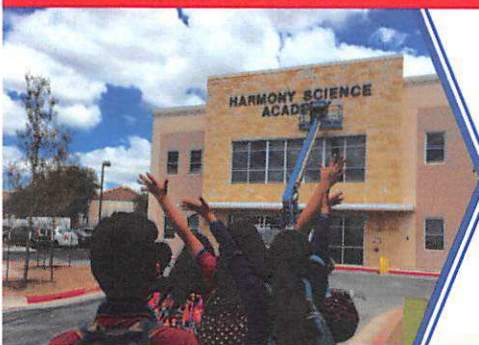


## The Vision

After noticing a significant learning gap among the underclassmen they taught as graduate assistants at Texas A&M, Dr. Soner Tarim and six colleagues applied and were approved by the State of Texas to open a STEM-focused charter school in Houston in April of 2000.

## The Mission

Set on their mission to reduce educational barriers to math and science careers, the group of educators researched charter schools all over the nation to develop the best plan for Harmony's student body. Harmony Science Academy opened in Houston in August of 2000, with a special focus on helping students from low-income backgrounds.



## The Present

The personalized, hands-on instruction at Harmony quickly attracted the attention of families searching for better educational options. Within 10 years, Harmony expanded to 33 campuses across the state. Today, Harmony serves more than 35,000 students at 56 campuses across Texas. Two new campuses opened in 2018.

## The Future

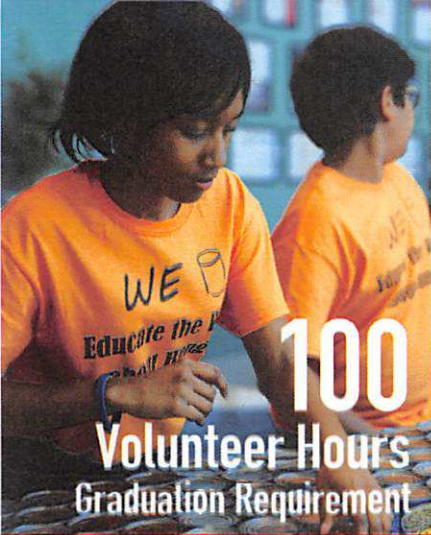
Harmony has more than double the state and national average of graduates choosing STEM majors in college. Harmony's students are not only participants in the STEM fields, but also leaders, providing solutions to some of society's most pressing needs.





# HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Where Excellence Is Our Standard

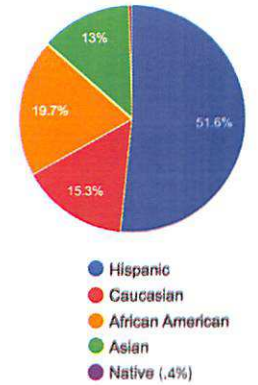
**OUR MISSION:** Prepare each student for higher education by providing a safe, caring, and collaborative atmosphere using a quality, student-centered educational model with a strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.



56 Campuses in Texas

4,000 Faculty & Staff

Over 35,000 Students



**100%** of Harmony graduates are accepted to college

**61%** of Harmony students are economically disadvantaged, with several campuses reaching as high as 80%

**58%** of Harmony graduates choose STEM majors in college, more than doubling both the Texas and U.S. averages

**64%** of Harmony alumni are the first in their family to attend college (Texas Average: 35%, U.S. Average: 30%)



Harmony schools are ranked among the top high schools in the Washington Post, Newsweek, and U.S. News & World Report

The Texas Education Agency awarded all Harmony schools a Superior Financial Rating

Harmony is the first Charter School in Texas to be rated highly ("AAA") by both Moody's and S&P with participation in Texas Permanent School Fund Bond Guarantee Program

Harmony campuses were awarded 7 Gold, 13 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals in U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools Rankings

Harmony district earned 6 A ratings and 1 B rating, and all campuses earned "met standard" rating based on STAAR test results.



"Teachers and staff make sure I get a good education. They care about my life and future which gives me extra support to succeed in college and life."

*-Brenda, Junior, HSA - El Paso*

**HARMONY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
[www.harmonytx.org](http://www.harmonytx.org)



# HARMONY: Taking Action, Shaping The Future



## Innovative Teaching

Harmony Public Schools is a network of high performing K-12 college-preparatory charter schools focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, through hands-on, personalized project-based instruction.

## Making a Difference

**61%** of Harmony students are economically disadvantaged, with some campuses reaching as high as 80%

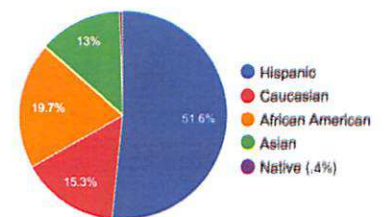
**100%** of Harmony graduates are accepted to college

**64%** of Harmony alumni are the first in their family to attend college (Texas Average: 35%, National Average: 30%)



## Closing the Gap

56 campuses in Texas, educating more than 35,000 students, with plans to grow.



Harmony follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum, taught through our specialized project-based learning, to give students a complete and diversified educational experience.

### The Harmony Model

Teachers evaluate assessment data to ensure students master each TEKS benchmark and class learning objective.

#### Rigor

Students learn at their own pace, providing a challenging environment at every stage of learning.

#### Relevance

Every course is designed to engage students and empower them with the skills needed in a rapidly changing world.

#### Relationships

All students have the support and encouragement they need through one-on-one, dedicated mentors.

"The teachers' willingness to give more of their limited time was another indicator of their dedication."

- Charles Crawford, Harmony Parent



# HARMONY: Recognized For Excellence

## Awards & Recognitions in 2017-2018



Harmony schools are ranked among the top high schools in the Washington Post, Newsweek, and U.S. News & World Report



The Texas Education Agency awarded all Harmony schools a Superior Financial Rating



Harmony is the first Charter School in Texas to be rated highly ("AAA") by both Moody's and S&P with participation in Texas Permanent School Fund Bond Guarantee Program



Harmony campuses were awarded 7 Gold, 13 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals in U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools Rankings



Harmony district earned 6 A ratings and 1 B rating, and all campuses earned "met standard" rating based on STAAR test results.

"Teachers and staff make sure I get a good education. They care about my life and future which gives me extra support to succeed in college and life."

*-Brenda, HSA - El Paso, 11th Grade*



# HARMONY: Equipping Today's Minds For Tomorrow's Work



The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth of more than **9 million STEM jobs** from 2012 to 2022.

**58% of Harmony graduates choose STEM majors**, compared to the Texas average of 26% and the national average of 28%.\*

## Students on the Stage – STEM SOS™

Students are required to share their knowledge with peers, younger students and adults in their community.

Students learn public presentation skills in front of classrooms, and at local, national, and international competitions.

\*Harmony data collected from nearly 700 students graduating between 2005 and 2015.

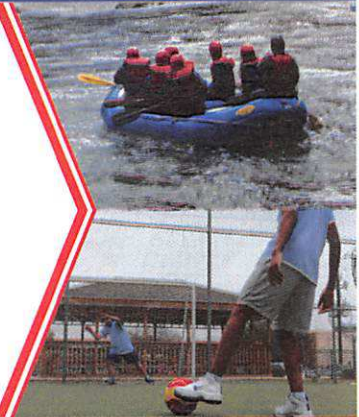
## Character Education

Harmony encourages students to be honest, courageous, and persistent individuals, and to use their influence to be positive and helpful citizens.



## Enriching Lives

Harmony offers students multiple opportunities to develop character and leadership skills through summer camps, study abroad, clubs, workshops, team competitions, and sports.



## Teachers as Facilitators

Teachers collaborate to design interdisciplinary projects, offer engaging demonstrations to kick off lessons, and use innovative models such as "flipped classroom."



## Developing Critical Relationships

The Home Visit program is part of a statewide initiative to build stronger relationships between families and their schools.

Harmony teachers visit more than 7,000 homes each year to support students and their families.

"The future of the economy is in STEM.  
That is where the jobs of tomorrow will be."

*- James Brown, Executive Director  
of the STEM Coalition*

  
**HARMONY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
[www.harmonytx.org](http://www.harmonytx.org)



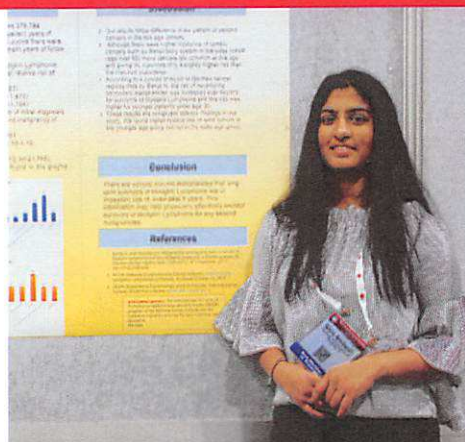
# #IamHarmony

## Nikita, Senior

Harmony Science Academy in Pflugerville

Inspired by a challenge from a family friend, Nikita began researching the health outcomes of Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer survivors. After spending a month compiling data, she and her team found that these survivors had a greater chance of developing additional cancerous tumors in other parts of the body.

Her findings were recently published in medical journals in the U.S. and Japan and she presented her research at the American Society of Hematologists (ASH) 2017 annual conference.



## Tiffany Molina, Principal

Harmony School of Innovation in Austin

In 2000, Mrs. Molina enlisted in the U.S. Army after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She was a military paralegal and deployed to Iraq in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

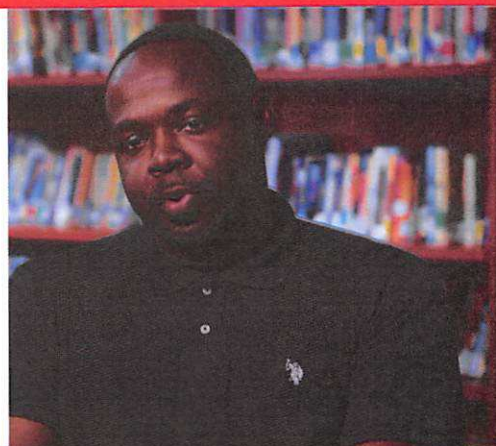
Mrs. Molina was honorably discharged from the Army and became an English teacher. She joined Harmony Public Schools in 2011.

Mrs. Molina says her family "will continue to be part of the Harmony family for years to come."

## Brandon Okafor, Class of 2007

Harmony Science Academy

Brandon graduated from the very first Harmony school in 2007. He went on to graduate from The University of Texas at Austin in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hydrogeology, then in 2014 with a M.S. in Geochemistry/Hydrogeology. Brandon now works as a hydrogeologist at AECOM in Houston.



"They treated the students of the school as their own children and worked beyond measure to place students in the position to succeed."

- Brandon Okafor, HSA Class of 2007



## AUSTIN REGION

HSA - Austin (PreK-8)  
930 E. Rundberg Ln  
Austin, TX 78753  
(512) 835-7900 / hsaatx.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Austin (K-5)  
2124 E. St. Elmo Rd - A  
Austin, TX 78744  
(512) 300-0895 / hsiaustin.harmonytx.org

HS Excellence - Austin (6-12)  
2100 E. St. Elmo Rd  
Austin, TX 78744  
(512) 693-0000 / hseastx.harmonytx.org

HSA - Pflugerville (6-12)  
1421 W. Wells Branch Pkwy  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(512) 251-5000 / hsana.harmonytx.org

HS Science - Austin (K-5)  
11800 Stonehollow Dr - Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78758  
(512) 821-1700 / hssastx.harmonytx.org

HS Endeavor - Austin (PreK-12)  
13415 Fm 620 N  
Austin, Texas 78717  
(512) 284-9880 / hspastx.harmonytx.org

HSA - Cedar Park (PreK-4)  
12200 Anderson Mill Rd  
Austin, TX 78726  
(512) 494-5151 / hscap.harmonytx.org

## DALLAS REGION

HSA - Fort Worth (K-5)  
5651 Westcreek Dr  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 263-0700 / hsaftworth.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Fort Worth (6-12)  
8100 S. Hulén St  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 386-5505 / hsifortworth.harmonytx.org

HSA - Grand Prairie (K-8)  
1102 NW 7th St  
Grand Prairie, TX 75050  
(972) 642-9911 / hsgap.harmonytx.org

HS Nature (K-12)  
8120 W. Camp Wisdom Rd  
Dallas, TX 75249  
(972) 296-1000 / hsnature.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Euless (K-6)  
701 S. Industrial Blvd - Suite 105  
Euless, TX 76040  
(817) 354-3000 / hseuless.harmonytx.org

HSA - Euless (7-12)  
701 S. Industrial Blvd - Suite 115  
Euless, TX 76040  
(817) 354-3000 / hsaeuless.harmonytx.org

HSA - Dallas (K-12)  
12005 Forestgate Dr  
Dallas, TX 75243  
(214) 954-7277 / hsdallas.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Carrollton (K-5)  
1024 W Rosemeade Pkwy - Building 1  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
(469) 892-5556 / hscarrollton.harmonytx.org

HSA - Carrollton (6-12)  
1024 W Rosemeade Pkwy - Building 2  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
(469) 892-5556 / hscarrollton.harmonytx.org

HSA - Garland (K-6)  
2302 Firewheel Pkwy  
Garland, TX 75040  
(972) 212-4777 / hsgarland.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Garland (7-12)  
2250 Firewheel Pkwy  
Garland, TX 75040  
(469) 814-0059 / hsigarland.harmonytx.org

HS Business - Dallas (6-12)  
8080 W. President George Bush Hwy  
Dallas, TX 75252  
(214) 321-0100 / hsbddallas.harmonytx.org

HSA - Waco (K-6)  
1900 N. Valley Mills Dr  
Waco, TX 76710  
(254) 751-7878 / hswaco.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Waco (7-12)  
1110 S. Valley Mills Dr  
Beverly Hills, TX 76710  
(254) 235-0321 / hsiwaco.harmonytx.org

HSA - Plano (K-6)  
550 Talbert Drive  
Plano, TX 75093  
(214) 321-0100 / hsaplano.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Grand Prairie (PreK-6)  
1441 Fish Creek Road  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052  
(972) 296-1000 / hsigp.harmonytx.org

## HOUSTON N. REGION

HS Excellence - Houston (K-8)  
7340 North Gessner Rd  
Houston, TX 77040  
(713) 983-8668 / hsehoustx.harmonytx.org

HS Endeavor - Houston (K-8)  
5668 West Little York Rd  
Houston, TX 77091  
(281) 999-8400 / hsendeavor.harmonytx.org

HS Discovery (6-12)  
6270 Barker Cypress Rd  
Houston, TX 77084  
(281) 861-5105 / hsdhoustx.harmonytx.org

HS Achievement (K-5)  
16205 Keith Harrow Blvd  
Houston, TX 77084  
(281) 855-2500 / hsaachievement.harmonytx.org

HSA - Bryan (K-8)  
2031 South Texas Ave  
Bryan, TX 77802  
(979) 779-2100 / hsabcs.harmonytx.org

HS Technology - Houston (5-8)  
3203 North Sam Houston Pkwy W  
Houston, TX 77038  
(281) 444-1555 / hsanw.harmonytx.org

HS Advancement - Houston (9-12)  
3171 N. Sam Houston Pkwy W.  
Houston, TX 77038  
(281) 741-8899 / hsdadvancement.harmonytx.org

HS Enrichment - Houston (K-5)  
3207 N. Sam Houston Pkwy W  
Houston, TX 77038  
(281) 999-0606 / hsenrichment.harmonytx.org

## HOUSTON S. REGION

HSA - Beaumont (K-12)  
4055 Calder Ave  
Beaumont, TX 77706  
(409) 838-4000 / hsabeaumont.harmonytx.org

HSA - Katy (K-5)  
22400 Grand Corner Dr  
Katy, TX 77494  
(832) 437-3926 / hsaawh.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Katy (6-12)  
22400 Grand Corner Dr  
Katy, TX 77494  
(713) 541-3030 / hsi Katy.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Sugar Land (7-12)  
13522 W. Airport Blvd  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
(281) 302-6445 / hsshgh.harmonytx.org

HSA - Sugar Land (K-6)  
13415 W Belfort  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
(281) 265-2525 / hsshouston.harmonytx.org

HSA - Houston (9-12)  
9431 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.  
Houston, TX 77099  
(713) 492-0214 / hshigh.harmonytx.org

HS Ingenuity - Houston (8-12)  
10555 Stella Link Rd  
Houston, TX 77025  
(713) 664-1020 / hsingenuity.harmonytx.org

HS Exploration - Houston (K-5)  
9305 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.  
Houston, TX 77099  
(832) 831-7406 / hehoustx.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Houston (6-8)  
9421 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.  
Houston, TX 77099  
(713) 541-3030 / hsihoustx.harmonytx.org

HS Science - Houston (K-8)  
5435 S. Braeswood Blvd  
Houston, TX 77096  
(713) 729-4400 / hsaHouston.harmonytx.org

HS Excellence - Sugar Land (6-8)  
1428 Eldridge Road  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
hsest.harmonytx.harmonytx.org

## SAN ANTONIO REGION

HSA - Brownsville (PreK-8)  
1124 Central Blvd  
Brownsville, TX 78520  
(956) 568-9490 / hsbrownsville.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Brownsville (6-12)  
3451 Dana Avenue  
Brownsville, TX 78526  
(956) 544-1348 / hsibrownsville.harmonytx.org

HSA - San Antonio (6-12)  
8505 Lakeside Parkway  
San Antonio, TX 78245  
(210) 674-7788 / hsaSanAntonio.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - San Antonio (PreK-8)  
8125 Glen Mont Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78239  
(210) 265-1715 / hsiSanAntonio.harmonytx.org

HSA - Laredo (6-12)  
4401 San Francisco Avenue  
Laredo, TX 78041  
(956) 712-1177 / hsalaredo.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - Laredo (K-5)  
4608 Daugherty Ave  
Laredo, TX 78041  
(956) 568-9490 / hsilaredo.harmonytx.org

HS Excellence - Laredo (9-12)  
4401 San Francisco Ave, Building B  
Laredo, TX 78041  
(956) 791-0007 / hselaredo.harmonytx.org

HS Excellence - San Antonio (PreK, 4-5)  
2015 SW Loop 410  
San Antonio, TX 78227  
(210) 645-7166 / hsesanantonio.harmonytx.org

## WEST TEXAS REGION

HSA - El Paso (6-12)  
9405 Betel Dr  
El Paso, TX 79907  
(915) 859-4620 / hsaelpaso.harmonytx.org

HS Excellence - El Paso (K-6)  
9435 Betel Dr  
El Paso, TX 79907  
(915) 307-4772 / hseelpaso.harmonytx.org

HS Innovation - El Paso (K-12)  
5210 Fairbanks  
El Paso, TX 79924  
(915) 757-2929 / hsielpaso.harmonytx.org

HSA - Lubbock (PreK, 4-8)  
1516 53rd St  
Lubbock, TX 79412  
(806) 747-1000 / hsalubbock.harmonytx.org

HSA - Odessa (K-8)  
2755 N. Grandview Ave  
Odessa, TX 79962  
(432) 363-6000 / hsaodessa.harmonytx.org

## **Attachment 4**

### **Harmony's Pre-Authorization to Open Texas Campuses within 60 Days**



July 30, 2010

Mr. Oner U. Celepcikay, Board President  
The Cosmos Foundation  
4014 Creek Ridge Lane  
Missouri City, Texas 77459

Dr. Soner Tarim  
The Cosmos Foundation  
9421 West Sam Houston Parkway South  
Houston, Texas 77099

Dear Mr. Celepcikay and Dr. Tarim:

This letter is in response to your requests to merge four charters with existing charters and to waive the requirements of Texas Education Code §12.114 and 19 Texas Administrative Code §100.1033(c)(5) requiring annual approval from the commissioner of education prior to expanding.

I approve the Cosmos Foundation to merge as follows and to rearrange three campuses as indicated in the document enclosed as Attachment 1:

- Harmony School of Innovation - Houston (101-857) merges with Harmony Science Academy – Houston (101-846);
- Harmony Science Academy - Beaumont (123-806) also merges with Harmony Science Academy – Houston (101-846);
- Harmony Science Academy - Bryan/College Station (021-804) merges with Harmony School of Excellence (101-858); and
- Harmony School of Science - Austin (227-822) merges with Harmony Science Academy Austin (227-816).

In addition, I approve of the waiver request that will permit the Cosmos Foundation to expand without submitting expansion amendment requests for commissioner approval for a period of three years to include the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013 school years with the following understandings:

- This waiver is granted only to charters held by the Cosmos Foundation that –
  - Serve at least 50% of the student population in grades assessed by the state accountability system;



- In the most current Texas Education Agency (TEA) reports have the status of accredited and received a district rating of *Recognized* or higher with each campus receiving a rating of *Academically Acceptable (AA)* or higher **and** at least 75% of the campuses with a rating of *Recognized* or higher;
- Have no charter campuses that have been placed in Stages 2-5 in the No Child Left Behind school improvement program for failure to meet Adequate Yearly Progress in the most current report; and
- Is not under any sanction imposed by TEA authorized under TEC, Chapter 39; Chapter 97, Subchapter EE, of this title (relating to Accreditation Status, Standards, and Sanctions); or federal requirements.

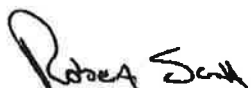
**The waiver for any charter becomes null and void immediately if the charter fails to meet any one or more of these established standards.**

- Enrollment increases for a charter may not exceed more than twice the actual enrollment for the preceding school year.
- Efforts will be made by the charter holder to expand at the beginning of the school year to avoid hardships on operations of neighboring districts.
- Each additional location authorized via this waiver –
  - Must have its own unique campus number. If it is not possible for a new campus number to be requested prior to October 1, the charter holder must identify the new location as a site under an existing campus and apply for a new campus number for the following school year for purposes of accountability;
  - Must have a majority of the students in grades on the campus that can be rated by the accountability system;
  - Must be continuously operated on a day-to-day basis by the charter holder as part of the charter by which it expanded;
  - Must serve at least 50 students; and
  - Must be located in the geographic boundaries already approved for the charter under which it operates unless expanding to a new part of the state. If the charter moves to a new area, the charter is only approved to serve students in the district in which the new school is actually located and students from contiguous independent school districts.
- As early as practicable, but at least 60 days **prior to** expanding, the charter holder must provide written notification of the expansion plans, from the CEO and/or the chair of the charter holder board, to the districts that will be impacted and provide the following information to the Division of Charter School Administration about the expansion:
  - The **name and address** of the new charter campus;
  - The **specific charter** under which the new campus will operate and, **if restricted from obtaining a new campus number by timing**, the specific campus under which the new site will temporarily operate;

- The **maximum number of students to be served at this campus** (so that the maximum number of students approved for the charter may be adjusted in TEA systems);
  - Any additional independent school districts to be added to the geographic boundaries; and
  - A **certificate of occupancy** or other equivalent document indicating that the campus is safe for school use and for the maximum number of students to be enrolled.
- Expansion occurring as a result of the waiver **alters the contract for charter in the same manner as expansion amendments approved by the commissioner of education through the traditional amendment process, and at end of the three-year period for which the waiver is approved:**
    - All expansion occurring as a result of the waiver remains part of the appropriate contract for charter as if approved by the commissioner of education through the traditional amendment process; and
    - If the charter holder wishes to continue to expand beyond the time limits of this waiver, a new waiver must be submitted and approved by the commissioner prior to any expansion for the 2013-2014 school year unless changes to the Texas Education Code and/or to 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 100, make such a waiver request unnecessary.

Thank you for all you do for Texas students. If you have any questions about the approval of the merger or waiver, contact Mary Perry, Director, Division of Charter School Administration, by phone at (512) 463-9575 or by email at [mary.perry@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:mary.perry@tea.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,



Robert Scott  
Commissioner of Education

RS/mp

cc: Laura Taylor, Associate Commissioner, TEA  
Mary Perry, Director, TEA

## Attachment 1

### **101-857 Harmony School of Innovation – Houston**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 3,000**

As a result of the merger, this charter and its two campuses (001 and 101) become inactive in AskTED. The two campuses will now be served by 101-846 Harmony Science Academy - Houston.

### **123-806 Harmony Science Academy – Beaumont**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 900**

As a result of the merger, this charter and its campus (001) become inactive in AskTED. The campus will now be served by 101-846 Harmony Science Academy - Houston.

### **021-804 Harmony Science Academy – Bryan/College Station**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 900**

As a result of the merger, this charter and its campus (001) become inactive in AskTED. The campus will now be served by 101-858 Harmony School of Excellence.

### **227-822 Harmony School of Science – Austin**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 3,000**

As a result of the merger, this charter and its campus (101) become inactive in AskTED. The campus will now be served by 227-816 Harmony Science Academy - Austin.

### **101-846 Harmony Science Academy – Houston**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 5,000**

As a result of the merger, this charter will add three new instructional facilities. Two of these were campuses (001 and 101) served previously by 101-857 Harmony School of Innovation – Houston. The third (001) was served by 123-806 Harmony Science Academy - Beaumont. Each of these facilities will be set up as new campuses under 101-846 as follows:

101-846-XXX  
Harmony School of Ingenuity  
10555 Stella Link Road  
Houston, TX 77025

101-846-XXX  
Harmony School of Innovation – Houston  
9421 W. Sam Houston Parkway S.  
Houston, TX 77099

101-846-XXX  
Harmony Science Academy - Beaumont  
4055 Calder Avenue  
Beaumont, TX 77706

Taking into account the approved maximum enrollments of 3,000 students at Harmony School of Innovation – Houston (101-857) and 900 students at Harmony Science Academy – Beaumont (123-806), the new maximum enrollment for Harmony Science Academy – Houston will be 8,900 students.

The merger will require that the following school districts be added to the charter's approved geographic boundary: Beaumont ISD, Bridge City ISD, Brookeland ISD, Buna ISD, Burkeville ISD, Chester ISD, Clear Creek ISD, Colmesneil ISD, Deweyville ISD, Evadale ISD, Hamshire-Fannett ISD, Hardin-Jefferson ISD, High Island ISD, Jasper ISD, Kirbyville CISD, Kountze ISD, Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD, Lumberton ISD, Nederland ISD, Newton ISD, Orangefield ISD, Port Arthur ISD, Port Neches-Groves ISD, Sabine Pass ISD, Silsbee ISD, Spurger ISD, Vidor ISD, Warren ISD, West Hardin County CISD, West Orange-Cove CISD, and Woodville ISD.

This charter will lose two campuses (041 and 101) as a result of the campus rearrangement proposed by Cosmos Foundation. (See 101-858 Harmony School of Excellence and 161-807 Harmony Science Academy – Waco.)

The campus rearrangement will require that the charter delete the following school districts from the charter's approved geographic boundary: Arlington ISD, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Dallas ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Garland ISD, Grand Prairie ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Irving ISD, Mesquite ISD, Plano ISD, and Richardson ISD.

**101-858 Harmony School of Excellence**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 4,000**

As a result of the merger and campus rearrangement proposed by Cosmos Foundation, this charter will add two new instructional facilities. One of these was a campus (001) served previously by 021-804 Harmony Science Academy – Bryan/College Station. The second was a campus (101) served by 101-846 Harmony Science Academy – Houston. Each of these facilities will be set up as new campuses under 101-858 as follows:

101-858-XXX  
Harmony Science Academy – Bryan/College Station  
2031 South Texas Avenue  
Bryan, TX 77802

101-858-XXX  
Harmony Science Academy – Houston Northwest  
16200 Tomball Parkway  
Houston, TX 77086

Taking into account the approved maximum enrollment of 900 students at Harmony Science Academy – Bryan/College Station (021-804), the new maximum enrollment for Harmony School of Excellence will be 4,900 students.

The merger will require that the following school districts be added to the charter's approved geographic boundary: Anderson-Shiro CISD, Apple Springs ISD, Bellville ISD, Big Sandy ISD, Brazos ISD, Bremond ISD, Brenham ISD, Bryan ISD, Buckholts ISD, Buffalo ISD, Burton ISD, Caldwell ISD, Calvert ISD, Cameron ISD, Centerville ISD (Leon County), Centerville ISD (Trinity County), Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD, College Station ISD, Conroe ISD, Corrigan-Camden ISD, Crockett ISD, Franklin ISD, Gause ISD, Goodrich ISD, Grapeland ISD, Groveton ISD, Hearne ISD, Huntsville ISD, Iola ISD, Kennard ISD, Latexo ISD, Leggett ISD, Leon ISD, Livingston ISD, Lovelady ISD, Madisonville CISD, Magnolia ISD, Milano ISD, Montgomery ISD, Mumford ISD, Navasota ISD, New Caney ISD, New Waverly ISD, Normangee ISD, North Zulch ISD, Oakwood ISD, Onalaska ISD, Richards ISD, Rockdale ISD, Sealy ISD, Shepherd ISD, Snook ISD, Somerville ISD, Spendoro ISD, Trinity ISD, and Willis ISD.

The merger will require that Pre-Kindergarten students (three- and four-year olds) be added to the charter's approved grade levels.

**161-807 Harmony Science Academy – Waco**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 2,000**

As a result of the campus rearrangement proposed by Cosmos Foundation, this charter will add two new instructional facilities. One of these was a campus (041) served previously by 101-846 Harmony Science Academy – Houston. The second was a campus (003) served by 220-813 Harmony Science Academy – Fort Worth. Each of these facilities will be set up as new campuses under 161-807 as follows:



161-807-XXX  
Harmony Science Academy - Dallas  
11995 Forestgate Drive  
Dallas, TX 75243

161-807-XXX  
Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas  
1024 West Rosemeade Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 76040

The campus rearrangement will require that the charter add the following school districts to the charter's approved geographic boundary: Arlington ISD, Birdville ISD, Burleson ISD, Carroll ISD, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Castleberry ISD, Cedar Hill ISD, Coppell ISD, Crowley ISD, Dallas ISD, Desoto ISD, Duncanville ISD, Eagle Mount-Saginaw ISD, Everman ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Garland ISD, Grand Prairie ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Irving ISD, Joshua ISD, Keller ISD, Kennedale ISD, Lake Worth ISD, Lancaster ISD, Lewisville ISD, Mansfield ISD, Mesquite ISD, Midlothian ISD, Northwest ISD, Palmer ISD, Plano ISD, Red Oak ISD, Richardson ISD, Waxahachie ISD, and White Settlement ISD.

**227-816 Harmony Science Academy - Austin**

**Maximum Student Enrollment: 2,000**

As a result of the merger, this charter will add one new instructional facility (101) that was served previously by 227-822 Harmony School of Science - Austin. This facility will be set up as new campuses under 227-816 as follows:

227-816-XXX  
Harmony School of Science - Austin  
11800 Stonehollow Drive  
Austin, TX 78758

Taking into account the approved maximum enrollment of 3,000 students at Harmony School of Science - Austin (227-822), the new maximum enrollment for Harmony Science Academy - Austin will be 5,000 students.

## **Attachment 5**

### **NSA's Notice of Intent**

# 2019 Winter Charter Application Cycle Notice of Intent

\* Required

**1. Name of Committee to Form Liaison \***

Nevada Strong Academy

**2. Committee to Form Liaison Email Address**

annette@nevadastrongacademy.org

**3. Committee to Form Liaison Home Phone Number**

702-336-5149

**4. Committee to Form Liaison Work Phone Number**

702-336-5149

**5. Committee to Form Liaison Cell Phone Number**

702-336-5149

**6. Committee to Form Liaison Home Mailing Address**

2632 Sunday Grace Drive

Henderson, NV 89052

**7. Please Choose the Application Track**

*Mark only one oval.*

Track A

Track B

Track C

Track D

**8. Proposed School Name \***

Nevada Strong Academy

**9. Proposed County of Operation \***

Clark County

**10. Does the Proposed School Plan to Contract with an Education Management Organization (EMO)? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**11. If so, please list the proposed EMO**

The Royal School System  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**12. Planned School Year Opening \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- 2020-2021
- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023

**13. Proposed Grades to be Served \***

Kindergarten through Eighth grade  
\_\_\_\_\_

**14. Planned Enrollment Per Grade (Please list each grade and planned total enrollment for that grade)**

Kindergarten 60 students  
\_\_\_\_\_  
First grade 60 students  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Second grade 60 students  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Third grade 60 students  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fourth grade 60 students  
\_\_\_\_\_

**15. Planned Total Enrollment for All Grades**

300 students  
\_\_\_\_\_

