



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 • Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 • Fax (702) 486-5543

ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mike Dang, Manager, Financial and Organizational Performance
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Nevada State High School RFA to
- Request to Occupy New or Additional Sites
- Consolidate the Sunrise campus into the flagship charter contract
- Acquire or construct a facility that will not affect approved enrollment
DATE: June 26, 2020

Summary of Request and Recommendation

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, the Governing Body of Nevada State High School (NSHS) approved its leadership submitting a Request For Amendments¹ to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for NSHS to:

1. Expand to an additional campus, and
2. Consolidate the Sunrise campus into the flagship charter contract.

The new proposed expansion location and the consolidation of NSHS at Sunrise are intended to take effect for the school year 2021-2022. The school has also submitted a good cause exemption relating to its April 16th submittal as the formal amendment window closes on April 15th each year.

SPCSA staff have reviewed the school data and application requests and recommend approval, subject to the conditions described further below.

¹ NSHS also submitted an amendment request to annex 500 square feet at a facility that the charter holder currently occupies beginning in the 2020 – 2021 school year. Because a request of this nature does not require Authority approval as the school does not plan to expand the number of available seats, or change the address of the campus, no action needs to be taken by the Authority in this regard.

Background

Nevada State High School (NSHS) currently serves 870 students under three charter contracts at six locations under the NSHS board. Each of the contracts is set to terminate and be up for possible renewal at the end of the 2021-22 school year. As of, October 1, 2019, under one of its charter contracts, NSHS served 735 students in four locations: 1) Henderson Flagship, 2) Las Vegas: Summerlin, 3) Las Vegas: Downtown, 4) Las Vegas: Southwest. Two new campuses have been previously approved by the Authority to open this fall under this contract: one new campus in northwest Las Vegas and a second new campus in Henderson. These additions will bring the total campuses under this contract to six for the 2020-21 school year.

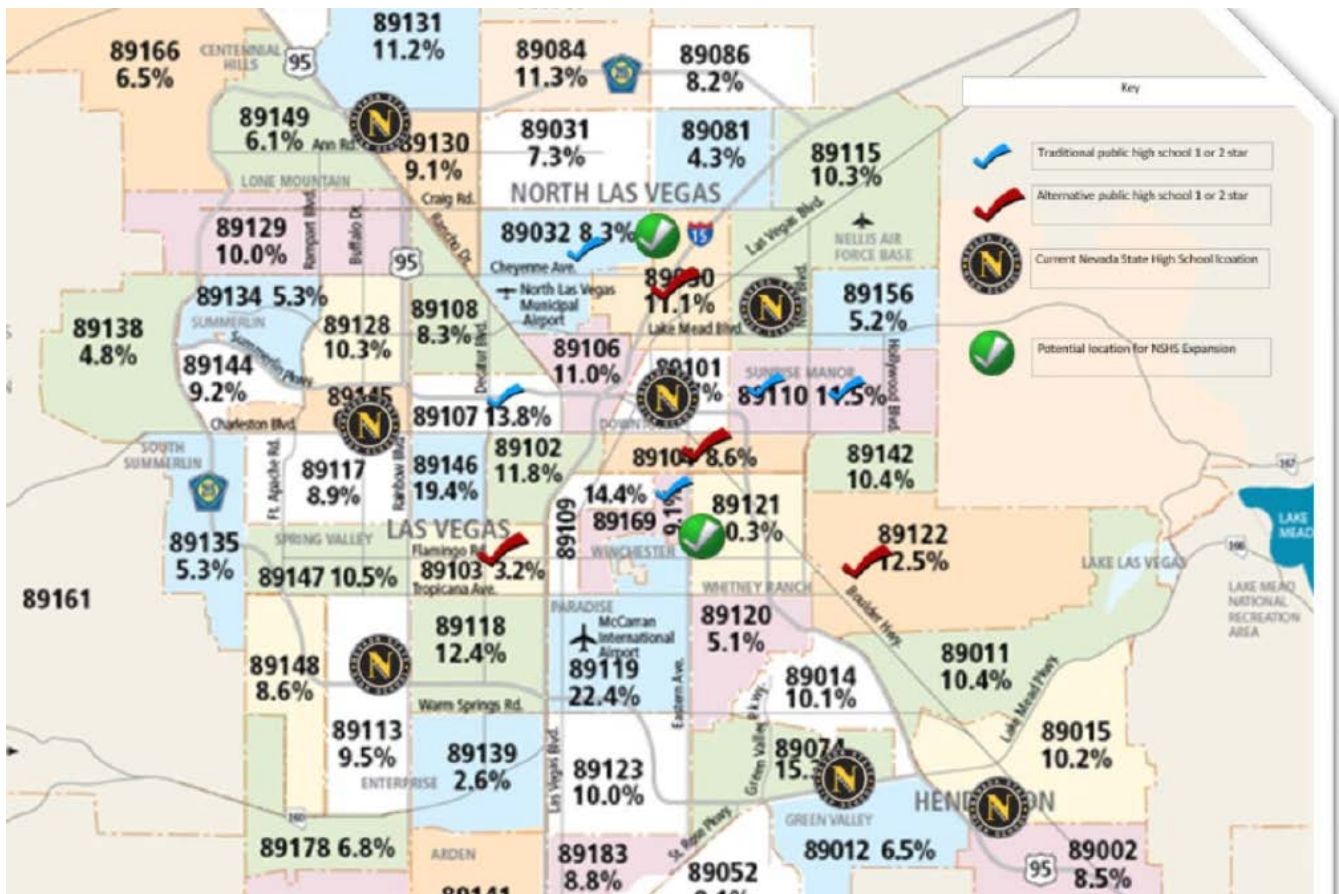
Additionally, the school serves 135 students as of October, 1, 2019, under two separate charter contracts that are replication models at the following: a) Meadowood (Reno, 55 students) and b) Sunrise (Las Vegas, 80 students).

NSHS' application indicates that in 2004, the school started with 40 students working out of one single office at Nevada State College in Henderson. It wasn't until 2014 that the school expanded operations to Summerlin and started seeing more student growth to over 300 students, according to the amendment submission. Expansion to other parts of the county came from the school's Governing Body recognizing that 60% of the students served at active locations are within one zip code of the school and Governing Body determined this could be a viable strategy for succession by grooming a pipeline of next generation leaders in smaller locations. The nine current members on the Governing Body represent three business leaders, two from accounting and law respectfully, two teachers, one parent, and one college professor. The four members on the school's leadership team serving all schools are two of the founding members Wendi Hawk (Chief Executive Officer) and John Hawk (Chief Operations Officer) along with Candyce Farthing (Executive Director) and Matthew Iles (Marketing and Engagement Director). The school is currently hiring for vacancies with the functions of the Academics and Accountability and Finance and Operations."

NSHS adds in their application that the goal of the network is to provide the local Las Vegas community in the targeted areas access to Nevada State High School's quality dual enrollment school and the access to the supports they need to be successful. The network of NSHS schools will continue to use its student scorecard tracking data system for targeting interventions and RTI to quickly assess and address students' needs on a continual basis. Instruction for college and career readiness and preparedness will be constantly reevaluated and updated to fit the needs of the changing student and parent populations. Monitoring systems will continue to ensure the integrity of data driven high quality NSHS standards and mission. Implementation across all campuses will include but not be limited to the following: scorecard and student data tracking, student interventions, classroom observation logs ensuring standardized implementation of curriculum, performance incentives, and accountability for students, parents and staff.

Request to Add a Campus

According to the amendment and supplemental information provided by NSHS, the school seeks to locate its 9th campus in one of the following zip codes: 89030, 89032, 89121 or 89122. The location would be at or near one of the two white-on-green checkmarks below, targeted to reach most of its students in one or more SPCSA approved zip codes listed within the SPCSA Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. (Percentages under zip codes are unrelated to the memo.)



According to the application, NSHS states that the proposed zip codes align to the SPCSA’s commitments to provide access to high quality educational programs to students who are currently served by low performing schools. Additionally, the amendment proposal goes on to say that families in these communities need educational options in their neighborhoods to reduce overcrowding and offer an option that can successfully transition students to college and beyond.

NSHS states in their application that they work collaboratively with several organizations and has membership with the following: Henderson Chamber of Commerce, the Henderson High School Leadership Program, Leaders in Training, the Charter School Association of Nevada, Latin Chamber of Commerce, City of Henderson, and the local colleges College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State College.

The amendment application notes that the school has served students from around the Las Vegas metropolitan area since opening in 2004. Additionally, the submission states that for the past 16 years, NSHS has been tracking the schools which students transfer in from. This has allowed NSHS to develop better ties with members from the community and enabled the school to facilitate an easier transition to Nevada State High School. The school’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Wendi Hawk is a member of the Clark County WorkReady® Community initiative that has given NSHS a runway to help bring together experts from around the community from workforce, colleges, and organizations serving these targeted zip codes. The school plans to extend direct mailers and use social media geo fencing to conducted outreach in the local community. The school also intends to conduct a grassroots campaign to canvas the area and distribute flyers at local organizations and supermarkets with posters.

Planned Enrollment for the new campus is as follows, and if approved, SPCSA staff would use these numbers as the enrollment caps to incorporate into the amended contract:

Grade Level	Number of Students ²					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
10						
11	55	63	73	80	88	93
12	45	52	60	65	72	77
Total	100	115	133	145	160	170

If approved, SPCSA staff would use the number for the 2021-22 school year as the enrollment caps to incorporate into the amended contract.

Consolidate the Sunrise campus into the flagship charter contract

The application also requests to consolidate the sunrise campus charter contract into the flagship charter contract. It is important to note that the current contracts are both held by the same governing body and that the Sunrise Campus is located in Las Vegas, as are all of the campuses under the flagship contract. Additionally, it is noteworthy that this change will not impact the day-to-day operations of the school or the delivery of instruction to NSHS students, and this is described by the school in the amendment submission. The NSHS board makes this request pursuant to NRS 388A.282, and states that this consolidation will save the school time and resources.

Applicant Eligibility

When reviewing a RFA, the SPCSA reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Academically, the NSPF Report Card website shows three ratings for NSHS and all three are at the five-star level. No ratings are provided by NSPF for Meadowood and Sunrise locations. Financially and organizationally NSHS meets standards. Consequently, at this time, staff finds NSHS to be eligible to submit this application and to be approved if the SPCSA board so chooses.

Summary and Recommendation

Overall, SPCSA staff finds the NSHS to meet performance requirements and align with the goals and priorities of the SPCSA Strategic Plan and Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. As such, staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the NSHS request, subject to the below conditions.

Proposed Motion:

Approve the Nevada State High School (NSHS) requests, with conditions, to allow NSHS to:

1. Expand by one additional location.

- a. Condition: Location must be within one of the following zip codes that align with the SPCSA Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment: 89030, 89032, 89121 or 89122.**
- b. Condition: NSHS to submit timely, written information describing the location of the selected additional campus once under contract.**

² The current contract ends on June 30, 2022. Enrollment for school year 2022-23.

c. Condition: NSHS complete the SPCSA’s Pre-Opening process for new and expanding campuses. SPCSA staff will work with school leadership to ensure that all requirements are completed in a timely manner, and well before the opening of the campus.

2. Consolidate the Sunrise campus into the flagship charter. This consolidation would occur for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

If approved, the following enrollment caps will be in place through the remainder of the charter term:

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Downtown Campus		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	120	130
Henderson Campus #1 (233 N. Stephanie Street)		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	275	290
Henderson Campus #2 (303 S. Water Street)		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	110	130
Northwest Campus		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	90	120
Southwest Campus		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	140	160
Summerlin Campus		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	235	240
<i>New Campus as Proposed Herein, located in 89030, 89032, 89121 or 89122</i>		
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	-	100
Sunrise Campus		
	Under separate contract	Under combined contract
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	120	130

Nevada School Performance Ratings (NSPF) – Nevada State High School

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Rating(s)</u>
2017 – 2018	NSHS – Downtown: N/R NSHS – Henderson: 5 stars NSHS – Summerlin: 5 stars
2018 – 2019	NSHS – Downtown: 5 stars NSHS – Henderson: 5 stars NSHS – Summerlin: 5 stars NSHS – Sunrise: N/R
2019 – 2020	NSHS – Downtown: 5 stars NSHS – Henderson: 5 stars NSHS – Summerlin: 5 stars NSHS – Sunrise: N/R

Demographic and Enrollment Information*

Downtown

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
17-18	46	2.2%	6.5%	13%	76.1%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	63.0%	0.0%	0.0%
18-19	80	5.0%	18.8%	7.5%	66.3%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	71.3%	1.3%	8.8%
19-20	77	6.5%	26.0%	10.4%	50.6%	1.3%	3.9%	1.3%	62.3%	2.6%	9.1%

Henderson

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
17-18	296	6.4%	3.4%	60.1%	20.9%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	20.9%	1.0%	1.7%
18-19	323	5.9%	5.0%	51.4%	27.9%	0.6%	8.7%	0.6%	32.2%	0.9%	2.2%
19-20	341	5.0%	3.2%	58.9%	22.6%	0.0%	9.7%	0.6%	17.3%	2.6%	0.6%

Summerlin

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
17-18	150	15.3%	5.3%	31.3%	36.0%	0.0%	11.3%	0.7%	29.3%	0.7%	4.0%
18-19	242	11.6%	8.4%	28.9%	35.5%	0.4%	13.2%	2.1%	45.9%	1.2%	4.1%
19-20	218	9.2%	13.3%	30.7%	33.5%	0.0%	10.1%	3.2%	32.6%	1.4%	1.4%

Sunrise

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
18-19	38	2.6%	26.3%	13.2%	57.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	71.1%	2.6%	7.9%
19-20	80	1.3%	25.0%	13.8%	53.8%	0.0%	5.0%	1.3%	57.5%	1.3%	2.5%

Southwest

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
19-20	99	17.2%	20.2%	25.3%	22.2%	0.0%	10.1%	5.1%	42.4%	2.0%	1.0%

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Mixed/Two or more races

P – Pacific Islander

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

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

*Note: the Meadowood campus is not included in these figures due to being under a separate contract.