



Matthew Fox, Esq.
Chair

Jesse Welsh, EdD
Chief Executive Officer

January 19, 2023

State Charter Governing Board
State Public Charter School Authority
2080 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Good Cause Exemption Request to Amend Charter Application

At the request of the State Public Charter School Authority, Nevada State High School respectfully requests a good cause exemption from the current amendment schedule to amend their charter contract with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) in order to reduce its enrollment caps as outlined in the attached documentation. The updated enrollment caps better align with actual enrollment data and upcoming projections.

This amendment was approved by the NSHS Governing Body on 1/19/23.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jesse Welsh, CEO



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Chief Executive Officer

Nevada State High School: Meadowwood

530 Longley Lane, Suite 103
Reno, NV 89511

Nevada State High School (NSHS) originally opened its doors with 40 students in the fall of the 2004-2005 school year, with only 11 graduates in the first year of operation. The 2021-2022 school year is the 18th year of operation for NSHS with an enrollment of 1,030 11th and 12th grade students across eight campuses in both southern and northern Nevada, with a ninth campus opening in North Las Vegas for the 2022-2023 school year. NSHS provides the only real college experience for high school students in Nevada; students are enrolled and fully integrated into college. A small, dedicated NSHS staff provides instruction and support to students with the transition to college and in the college environment while most classes are taught by college professors who are not employees of NSHS.

Governing Body Membership:

Member Name	County	Position	Charter
Kelly Moxley	Washoe	Business	FLAG & MDW
Nohemi Acosta	Clark	Teacher	FLAG & MDW
Astrid Perez	Washoe	Business	FLAG & MDW
Stephanie Ray	Washoe	Parent	MDW
Julie Hendrix	Clark	Parent	FLAG
Cathy Sterbentz	Clark	Teacher	FLAG & MDW
Andy Donahue	Clark	Community	FLAG & MDW
Matthew Fox	Clark	Law	FLAG & MDW
Bettina Buckholz	Washoe	Community	FLAG & MDW

Collectively, the board holds the capacity, skills, and qualifications to successfully govern Nevada State High School. The time, knowledge, and experience from the Directors’ span across public, private, and nonprofit sectors including staggered terms on the board. Directors have also displayed a belief in the mission of the school and an independence to act as a reasonable person would in similar situations which make them uniquely qualified to govern the continued success of the school’s early college high school model.



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Nevada State High School Key Team Members

Name	Position
Jesse Welsh	Chief Executive Officer
John Hawk	Chief Operations Officer
Ryan McKnight	Finance and Operations Director
Amy Spero	Marketing and Engagement Director
Brittney Varao	Support Services Director

Collectively, the executive leadership team holds the capacity, skills, and qualifications to successfully lead Nevada State High School. The knowledge and experience of these key members span across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Members have also displayed a belief in the mission of the school and the ability to implement which make them qualified to guide the continued success of the school’s early college high school model.

Nevada State High School’s mission is *to support students in a college environment with personal, academic, and social skills. Our vision is every student college ready.* The core purpose of NSHS is *to provide opportunities for students’ success in a real college environment.*

At the request of the State Public Charter School Authority, we are seeking to make the requested changed outlined herein to align to our current and projected enrollment counts, based on being below our projected targets for FY23. Nevada State High School reserves the right to submit a subsequent request to restore previously approved enrollment caps in alignment with the charter renewal from December 2021 if marketing and engagement efforts prove successful in meeting those previously established targets.

Operations and Enrollment

Marketing efforts to increase student enrollment include:

- In 2022, Nevada State High School hired a Marketing Director whose primary focuses are on promoting brand awareness and increasing student enrollment.
- Also in 2022, Nevada State High School hired a Career Technical Coordinator whose primary focus is building out programs specific to students who are more interested in Career Technical Academy programs rather than 4-year university. This addition will provide opportunities for a student base we have not had resources to serve historically.
- Through targeted community and grassroots events and enhancements to our current advertising strategies, we anticipate a minimum of 10% YOY growth in student recruitment.
- Particularly, a strong emphasis is being placed on the FRL student population and underserved communities. In 2022, 7 out of 9 sites saw noticeable increases in the enrollment ratio for FRL students.
- In addition to our marketing efforts, we continue to focus on our Proven Process, which shows signs of strength in student retention and student graduation. From Fall 2022 to Spring 2023, we retained nearly 98% of our student population. Our graduation rate remains consistent at 98%.



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Our largest challenge has been and continues to be collaboration between CCSD and WCSD County regarding sharing student lists.

The reduction in enrollment does not impact staffing as we base our staffing on actual enrollment and not enrollment caps. We propose enrollment cap changes to better reflect our current enrollment. Please see enrollment table below.

	Approved Cap	FY23 (Q1 Actual)	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Meadowood Total	135	34	68	75	83	91	100

Financial

NSHS does not rely on grants/donations/fundraising to maintain its budget. Budget assumptions are based upon 10% YOY growth in alignment with historical data, apart from North Las Vegas (new school and anticipating retaining current students and a similar 11th grade recruitment class) and Meadowood (anticipating a higher enrollment based on staff consistency). The enrollment is not anticipated to impact staffing as we base our staffing on actual enrollment and not enrollment caps.

Please refer to the accompanying MS Excel workbooks.