

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



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 Authority Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, SPCSA
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce
Cadence Campus 2022 – 2023 Enrollment Cap
DATE: March 3, 2023

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (CASLV) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school reduce the enrollment cap for the 2022-2023 school year at the Cadence Campus.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page of 3 this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

CASLV is a STEM-focused, college-prep public charter school that serves students in grades K-12 across seven campuses. The mission of CASLV is to provide a safe, rigorous college preparatory environment that promotes social responsibility and a culturally diverse community dedicated to becoming lifelong learners bound for success. As of the 2022 Validation Day, CASLV had 5,237 students across seven campuses.

CASLV’s Cadence campus opened in 2022-2023 and current serves grades K – 8. According to the amendment application, CASLV’s Cadence Campus is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2022-2023 school year to 1,400 students. The Cadence campus’s current approved enrollment cap is 1,850 students. As of the 2022 Validation Day, the Cadence campus had 1,346 students enrolled. The Cadence campus is only requesting this reduction for the 2022-2023 school year and subsequent years’ caps will remain unchanged. If approved, the enrollment cap for the Cadence campus would be:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11	K-12	K-12
Total Enrollment	1400	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850

According to the amendment application, there were a few main reasons the Cadence campus was unable to achieve full enrollment during its initial year of operation. CASLV believes that some prospective families chose to remain at their previous school once construction delays occurred. CALSV noted in their application, that the area where Cadence was constructed is still underdeveloped, and the roads to access the school were not fully built until right before the school year started which made it difficult for families to access the school and caused some families to reconsider enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, CASLV acknowledged that they overestimated the number of families with children in the Pittman neighborhood which led to less students who would enroll.

Although the Cadence campus ran into the issues discussed above, CASLV is confident the school will be able to achieve full enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. The amendment application listed a number of steps CASLV is taking to address the lower-than-expected enrollment. Those steps include: creating a referral program for current families to help recruit new families; frequent informational meetings at public venues, churches, and community centers in the priority neighborhoods; and continued advertising via various avenues such as direct mail, media, social media, and in-person outreach. The application also noted that development continues in the areas around the school which will lead to additional families moving to the area. Finally, the Cadence campus will be adding 9th grade for the 2023-2024 school year as part of it approved grade growth, and the additional grade should alleviate concerns around under-enrollment.

CASLV explained in the application that there were some staffing adjustments that needed to be made for the 2022-2023 school year. Since the school is in its first year of operation, the positions went unfilled, and no active employees were affected by the lower enrollment. CASLV did note the positions would be open for the 2023-2024 school year with the expectation the school will reach its approved 1,850 enrollment cap for the 2023-2024 school year. Finally, the amendment application stated that CASLV made adjustments to its already conservative budget which caused little impact overall at the campus.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

Existing charter schools that are sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA – which is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for

SPCSA Board action – in order to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, or add a new campus. When determining whether to approve an amendment request, the sponsor considers the charter school’s compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics, finance and organization of the charter school. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPCSA staff has waived the requirement that schools maintain enrollment levels at or above 90% of their contractual cap due to the many extenuating circumstances impacting students and families. Staff believes schools are now better positioned to adhere to this requirement for the 2022 – 23 school year, necessitating this amendment. In the case of CASLV, SPCSA staff finds the school to be meeting academic, financial and organizational performance expectations for all but one program (Nellis – ES). Which the exception of the Nellis ES, the elementary, middle, and high school programs across the CASLV network are operating at 4 and 5-star levels under the NSPF ratings for the 2018-19 school year, and either met or exceeded standards according to the 2021-2022 SPCSA Academic Performance results. If NSPF ratings were issued for the 2021-2022 school year, all campuses, except Nellis ES would have been rated at least 3-stars. Specific campus academic ratings are included on pages 9 and 10 of this memo.

Additionally, the school earned 96 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2021 – 22 school year as approved by the Authority on December 16, 2022. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ CASLV has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2021 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework and preliminary results under the 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework appear to signal that the school is in a sound financial position.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by CASLV. The school acknowledged there were some unexpected obstacles during Cadence’s first year of operation and provided reasonable strategies to address the issue for the 2023 school year and beyond. CASLV made necessary adjustments to its budget and staffing without significantly impacting the overall model and instructional delivery. CASLV has a strong track record and continues to operate many successful schools. Therefore, SPCSA staff is supportive of the requested amendment and recommends the Authority approve.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas – Cadence campus’s request to reduce its 2022-2023 approved enrollment cap from 1850 students to 1400 students.

If approved, the enrollment caps for each Coral Academy campus will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Centennial Hills Campus			
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	647	647	647
Eastgate Campus			
Grade Levels	K-7	K-5	K-5
Enrollment	640	640	640
Nellis AFB Campus			
Grade Levels	PK-8	PK-8	PK-8
Enrollment	885	885	885
Sandy Ridge Campus			
Grade Levels	8-12	8-12	8-12
Enrollment	835	835	835
Tamarus Campus			
Grade Levels	K-4	K-4	K-4
Enrollment	405	405	405
Windmill Campus			
Grade Levels	5-7	5-7	5-7
Enrollment	383	383	383
Cadence Campus			
Grade Levels	K-8	K-9	K-10
Enrollment	1400	1850	1850
Total Enrollment	5195	5645	5645

The current, approved, enrollment caps for each Coral Academy campus are as follows:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Centennial Hills Campus			
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	647	647	647
Eastgate Campus			
Grade Levels	K-7	K-5	K-5
Enrollment	640	640	640
Nellis AFB Campus			
Grade Levels	PK-8	PK-8	PK-8
Enrollment	885	885	885
Sandy Ridge Campus			
Grade Levels	8-12	8-12	8-12
Enrollment	835	835	835
Tamarus Campus			
Grade Levels	K-4	K-4	K-4
Enrollment	405	405	405
Windmill Campus			
Grade Levels	5-7	5-7	5-7
Enrollment	383	383	383
Cadence Campus			
Grade Levels	K-8	K-9	K-10
Enrollment	1850	1850	1850
Total Enrollment	5645	5645	5645

School Demographics change since 2017 – Coral Academy

Coral Cadence

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21-22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22-23	1346	12.8%	8.6%	26.5%	40.0%	0.3%	10.7%	0.8%	7.5%	7.6%	40.2%

Coral Centennial Hills

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	682	11.3%	12.5%	46.6%	19.2%	0.3%	9.2%	0.9%	8.2%	4.3%	10.1%
18-19	633	12.8%	10.9%	43.9%	22.3%	0.3%	8.5%	1.3%	7.7%	3.5%	14.4%
19-20	647	13.0%	8.7%	42.8%	24.3%	0.5%	9.7%	1.1%	7.4%	3.7%	25.3%
20-21	684	11.8%	8.4%	40.4%	26.9%	0.4%	10.5%	1.3%	7.3%	2.1%	25.2%
21-22	651	10.5%	8.4%	41.3%	27.3%	0.3%	10.5%	1.3%	5.5%	<5%	31.4%
22-23	691	9.9%	7.8%	39.2%	29.6%	0.1%	11.8%	1.3%	6.6%	<5%	30.1%

Coral Eastgate

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	652	21.3%	9.2%	37.7%	19.6%	0.2%	9.8%	2.1%	6.1%	0.8%	21.0%
19-20	640	19.8%	7.3%	36.7%	22.7%	0.2%	11.3%	2.0%	6.4%	3.9%	26.4%
20-21	641	21.9%	6.5%	33.3%	24.8%	0.1%	10.9%	2.1%	7.0%	3.1%	24.6%
21-22	637	24.6%	6.4%	29.6%	25.5%	0.3%	10.8%	2.5%	8.6%	<5%	38.6%
22-23	581	25.9%	6.0%	24.9%	30.1%	0.3%	10.3%	2.2%	<5%	7.5%	38.0%

Coral Nellis

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	722	3.7%	13.4%	49.4%	18.4%	0.6%	10.5%	3.9%	6.1%	<5%	29.8%
18-19	791	3.2%	14.0%	45.3%	21.5%	0.9%	10.7%	4.4%	8.6%	<5%	17.7%
19-20	874	3.1%	14.5%	45.2%	23.7%	0.3%	9.5%	3.7%	9.2%	<5%	23.8%
20-21	876	4.3%	15.1%	40.2%	25.9%	0.5%	11.6%	2.0%	8.4%	<5%	16.5%
21-22	860	4.1%	16.5%	37.3%	28.1%	0.4%	12.0%	1.2%	7.9%	<5%	29.6%
22-23	905	3.8%	15.4%	40.2%	26.9%	0.4%	11.9%	1.1%	9.3%	<5%	28.1%

Coral Sandy Ridge

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	817	23.1%	6.5%	43.3%	15.8%	0.7%	8.7%	1.8%	3.4%	2.2%	5.9%
18-19	809	22.5%	6.3%	41.4%	16.4%	0.7%	10.6%	2.0%	4.1%	2.1%	10.0%
19-20	846	25.5%	5.7%	38.7%	16.3%	0.4%	11.1%	2.4%	3.5%	2.1%	13.8%
20-21	860	23.6%	6.2%	37.9%	18.1%	0.3%	11.5%	2.2%	4.1%	2.7%	16.3%
21-22	842	25.6%	6.5%	37.2%	16.6%	0.1%	11.6%	2.1%	<5%	<5%	28.0%
22-23	902	24.9%	6.2%	37.1%	17.6%	0.2%	11.9%	1.8%	<5%	<5%	25.0%

Coral Tamarus

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	382	28.3%	4.2%	42.4%	13.6%	0.3%	10.5%	0.8%	4.2%	10.5%	9.7%
18-19	394	28.4%	4.8%	40.6%	13.5%	0.0%	11.9%	0.8%	3.6%	7.9%	11.2%
19-20	394	31.7%	6.1%	35.5%	15.2%	0.0%	10.2%	1.3%	6.1%	9.6%	14.5%
20-21	420	28.8%	7.3%	35.0%	15.7%	0.0%	11.4%	1.6%	7.8%	8.8%	17.3%
21-22	395	29.1%	7.8%	31.1%	17.4%	0.0%	12.9%	1.5%	6.5%	8.8%	30.3%
22-23	408	30.8%	7.3%	27.2%	22.3%	0.0%	11.2%	0.9%	<5%	10.2%	30.8%

Coral Windmill

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	399	29.1%	3.5%	35.8%	13.3%	1.0%	16.0%	1.3%	4.0%	5.0%	4.8%
18-19	403	30.8%	4.2%	39.0%	11.9%	0.5%	11.9%	1.7%	2.5%	4.2%	11.4%
19-20	400	32.8%	3.5%	36.8%	13.8%	0.5%	12.3%	0.5%	3.5%	3.0%	16.0%
20-21	404	27.9%	5.6%	38.3%	15.0%	0.0%	11.8%	0.9%	4.4%	4.9%	17.5%
21-22	396	27.7%	5.3%	37.6%	15.4%	0.2%	12.3%	1.2%	5.8%	5.0%	28.7%
22-23	404	27.4%	7.4%	37.6%	14.6%	0.0%	11.8%	0.9%	<5%	<5%	24.7%

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

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

Coral Academy Charter School Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard

Coral Academy Charter School Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard

Coral Academy Academic Performance

Year	Rating		
2022 Index Scores	Centennial Hills – ES: 57.3 Eastgate – ES: 52.2 Nellis – ES: 26.2 Tamarus – ES: 59.4 Windmill – ES: 55.3 <i>Cadence – ES: Not Rated</i>	Centennial Hills – MS: 56.6 Eastgate – MS: 55.5 Nellis – MS: 40.9 Sandy Ridge – MS: 40.6 Windmill – MS: 53.7 <i>Cadence – MS: Not Rated</i>	Sandy Ridge – HS: 57.0
2021 ¹	Centennial Hills – ES: 4-star Eastgate – ES: 4-star Nellis – ES: 2-star Tamarus – ES: Not Rated Windmill – ES: 4-star	Centennial Hills – MS: 5-star Eastgate – MS: 5-star Nellis – MS: 5-star Sandy Ridge – MS: 5-star Windmill – MS: 5-star	Sandy Ridge – HS: 5-star
2020 ²	Centennial Hills – ES: 4-star Eastgate – ES: 4-star Nellis – ES: 2-star Tamarus – ES: Not Rated Windmill – ES: 4-star	Centennial Hills – MS: 5-star Eastgate – MS: 5-star Nellis – MS: 5-star Sandy Ridge – MS: 5-star Windmill – MS: 5-star	Sandy Ridge – HS: 5-star
2019	Centennial Hills – ES: 4-star Eastgate – ES: 4-star Nellis – ES: 2-star Tamarus – ES: Not Rated	Centennial Hills – MS: 5-star Eastgate – MS: 5-star Nellis – MS: 5-star Sandy Ridge – MS: 5-star	Sandy Ridge – HS: 5-star

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020 – 21 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020 – 21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020 – 21 school year.

² Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings.

	Windmill – ES: 4-star	Windmill – MS: 5-star	
2018	Centennial Hills – ES: 4-star Nellis – ES: 4-star Tamarus – ES: Not Rated Windmill – ES: 5-star	Sandy Ridge – MS: 5-star	Sandy Ridge – HS: 5-star

Coral Academy of Science 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Results³

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
CASLV Centennial ES	67.50	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Centennial MS	87.36	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Eastgate ES	73.00	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Eastgate MS	95.40	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Nellis AFB ES	48.33	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
CASLV Nellis AFB MS	97.70	MEETS STANDARD
CASLV Sandy Ridge MS	83.33	MEETS STANDARD
CASLV Sandy Ridge HS	97.78	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Tamarus ES	100.00	EXCEEDS STANDARD
CASLV Windmill ES	78.24	EXCEEDS STANDARD
<i>CASLV Cadence ES</i>	<i>Not Rated</i>	<i>Not Rated</i>
<i>CASLV Cadence MS</i>	<i>Not Rated</i>	<i>Not Rated</i>

³ The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>