

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



RFA: Name Change of Charter School

The SPCSA considers changes to the name of a charter school to be a material change of the charter contract and require approval by the State Public Charter School Authority Board. If the name change includes material modifications to the mission, vision, academic and operational aspects of the school, please provide explanation.

Executive Summary

Provide a brief overview of your school, including:

1. Identification of the school, its location(s), enrollment(s)(most recent ADE quarter), brief history, brief description of its board members and key leadership team members

Nevada Virtual Academy (NVVA), seeking to be Nevada Virtual Charter School (NVCS), currently located at 8645 S. Eastern, STE 100 in Las Vegas, is a public online charter school that has served students throughout Nevada since 2007. Currently serving grades 6-12 and fully accredited by Cognia with Distinction, NVVA is authorized by the State Public Charter School Authority, in good standing. With a student population currently of approximately 2,290 students (2178 2nd quarter ADE), NVCS employs 112 staff members including Highly Qualified teachers, Operations and Student Support teams, the School Leadership team and an Executive Director. The current make-up of the Leadership team has been in place for about 4 years, working to improve instruction, student achievement, and culture. The Executive Director is Dr. Yolanda Hamilton, and the 6-12 grade Principal is Dr. Andre Denson. NVCS is governed by a 5-member Board of Directors, led by Mrs. Samantha Morris, Board President; Shannon Barry, Board Vice President; and Mrs. Shannon Dangle, Board Treasurer; and member Jordan Sommaggio. Nevada Virtual Academy is seeking an amendment to its Charter to change its name to Nevada Virtual Charter School, NVCS.

2. Statement and overview of the mission and vision. Will the name change affect the currently approved mission and vision of the school?

The name change to Nevada Virtual Charter School will not affect our approved mission and vision of, At Nevada Virtual Academy, we will make a difference by meeting the unique needs of our diverse students, preparing them for college or career in the 21st century through high quality instruction in our virtual platform; serving every student, every day.

3. Will the name change affect academic, operational, or financial aspects of the school which the schools is currently approved to implement and execute?

The academic, operational, and financial aspects of the school will not change as a result of the name change.

4. A summary explanation of the reasons that the charter school is seeking to make this specific requested change.

As a result of the termination/nonrenewal of the school's contract with K12, Stride, as of July 1, 2023, Stride claimed ownership of the school's name and acronym - Nevada Virtual Academy, NVVA. Their lawyers sent a letter saying that the school could no longer use the name and acronym beyond 30 days after the contract ended. In order to keep some name recognition, Nevada Virtual Charter School was determined to be the best option for a name change.

5. Provide a plan and timeline for communicating the proposed name change to your community. How will the charter school ensure that prospective families are aware of these changes?

In the Executive Director's summer newsletter, an upcoming name change was alluded to in order to prepare families for the change. If the SPCSA Board approves the name change, Newsletters from the Executive Director, the Operation's team, as well as the Community Engagement Specialist will go out the following week after the approval announcing the name change and ensuring families that our mission, vision, and goals will remain the same. Additionally, during Orientations for both new and returning families on the new platform, the name change will be addressed and communicated. Our website and headers for all communications will be changed to the new name.

6. Provide a plan and timeline for the changes to be implemented. This should include explanations of when, and how, the school's website, handbooks, signage, etc. will be changed. Additionally, please list any stakeholders which need to be notified beyond the SPCSA and families. Stakeholders may include NDE, local law enforcement, and city and county officials.

The school has already begun to plan for the name change ahead of the July 1, 2023 termination of the Stride, K12 contract and loss of current name, as well as the former email domain. We have submitted name changes and email updates to both the state and county for the business licenses, the financial banking and credit entities, key members in both the SPCSA and NDE, accounts payable vendors, etc. Also, in addition to our annual updates to the Student & Family and Staff handbooks, we are updating the name change and omitting any reference to Stride, K12 or processes associated with the former EMO for the NVVA Board's approval during the August meetings. We will update our EOP Plan, any required formal name change forms for NDE, and Law enforcement contacts as soon as we receive approval from the SPCSA Board. We have secured a new domain for our website through Educational Networks and they will be routing stakeholders to our new website domain. We will be updating the website to reflect new changes immediately. We have new vinyl ready to update our signage on the door of our building as soon as we get approval from SPCSA.

In addition to the information above, please submit

1. The agenda and approved/draft minutes of the meeting in which the governing board of the charter school approved the Request for Amendment.
2. A board approved and board chair signed Good Cause Exemption letter along with the amendment application.



8645 S. Eastern, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89123

State Public Charter School Authority
1749 North Steward Street,
Suite 4D Carson City, Nevada
89706

Re: Request for Good Cause Exemption from Amendment Cycle

Executive Director Feiden and Danny Peltier:

Nevada Virtual Academy (NVVA) requests a good faith exemption from the current amendment cycle to amend their charter contract with the SPCSA to change its school name.

Our old contract with Stride, K12 that ended on June 30, 2023, apparently asserts that they own the name "Nevada Virtual Academy" and the initials "NVVA", as such we need to change our name to Nevada Virtual Charter School.

As the deadline for Letters of Intent to submit requests for amendments has passed, we are asking that an exemption be granted and that the application to change our name be heard at the Board's earliest convenience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Mous".

Nevada Virtual Academy, Board Chair