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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **pilotED Schools of Nevada – Cactus Park Elementary Charter Amendment Request to Reduce 2023-2024 Enrollment Cap**
DATE: August 25, 2023

Summary of Request and Recommendation

pilotED Schools of Nevada Cactus Park Elementary has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to reduce its approved enrollment cap from 432 students to 300 for 2023-2024 school year.

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 3 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

Cactus Park Elementary is located at 3115 Las Vegas Blvd N, Las Vegas, NV 89115. Cactus Park began operation in the fall of 2022 and as of Validation Day 2022, had 114 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 4th.

According to the application, Cactus Park Elementary is seeking to reduce its enrollment cap to 300 students from its currently approved enrollment cap of 432 students for the 2023-24 school year. The reason for this reduction, according to the amendment application, is due to having to locate in a temporary facility for the 2022-2023 school year and the continued recruitment of new students as the school adds 5th grade for the upcoming school year. Cactus Park Elementary

believes that now that the school has moved to its permanent facility, enrollment numbers will rebound to projected levels for future years.

Cactus Park Elementary provided updated financial information and noted that anticipated expenditures from the original budget were lowered appropriately to match the income that the school is anticipated to receive. According to the amendment application, the school continues ongoing recruitment of students and has seen an enrollment increase year-over-year from its first year of operation.

The request for a reduction in enrollment only contemplates a reduction of the enrollment cap in the 2023-24 school year. If approved, Cactus Park Elementary’s enrollment cap for the remainder of its charter term would be:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	300	459	486	486	486

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. Cactus Park Elementary is in its second year of operation and has not been rated academically, financially, or organizationally, however, staff finds no current issues grounded in past performance that raise concerns regarding this amendment. However, with consecutive requests to reduce the enrollment cap, SPCSA staff does have some concern with the long-term financial position of the school. SPCSA staff will continue to monitor Cactus Park regarding its overall financial health through the school’s quarterly financial statements.

SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request of pilotED Schools of Nevada Cactus Park Elementary to change its enrollment cap from 432 students to 300 students for the 2023-2024 school year. The school continues to recruit new students, and increased enrollment from its first year. SPCSA staff will continue to monitor the enrollment of Cactus Park Elementary throughout the 2023-2024 school year but is supportive of this reduction for the upcoming school year.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve pilotED Schools of Nevada – Cactus Park Elementary School’s request to reduce its 2023-2024 approved enrollment cap from 432 students to 300 students.

If approved, Cactus Park Elementary’s enrollment cap for its charter term will be:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	300	459	486	486	486

The previously approved enrollment cap for, Cactus Park Elementary was:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	432	459	486	486	486

School Demographics since 2022 – Cactus Park Elementary School

Cactus Park Elementary School

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
22-23	80	2.5%	13.7%	6.2%	62.5%	0.0%	13.7%	1.2%	*	21.2%	82.5%

- 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
- * - Suppressed data due to n-count

Cactus Park Elementary Financial Performance – Not Rated

Cactus Park Elementary Organizational Performance – Not Rated

Cactus Park Elementary Academic Performance – Not Rated