

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



2019 CALL FOR QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS SUMMER CYCLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Schools Opening Fall 2020 and Beyond

MS Word Application Template

1. SPCSA Charter Proposal Cover Sheet

Identify the **primary point of contact** for your team. Barring a change in the makeup of the founding group, this will likely be the liaison identified in the Notice of Intent. This individual will serve as the contact for all communications, scheduling, and notices regarding your application. The Primary Contact is expected to ensure that your team receives all general communications promptly. Please note that, as with all aspects of your application, names and contact information of the Primary Contact will become public information. Please note that neither the Primary Contact nor any other member of the Committee to Form may be an employee of a proposed vendor, including an educational management organization.

Primary contact person: JESUSA "SUSAN" ALCANTARA

Mailing address:

Street/PO Box: 6940 EDNA AVENUE

City: LAS VEGAS State NV Zip 89117

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Name of team or entity applying: LAS VEGAS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

☒ **Track A**

☐ **Track B**

☐ **Track C**

☐ **Track D**

Provide a brief description of your school that includes the name, the mission, grades served and other information you would like to include in a brief communication of this type. Your description will be used by the sponsor to provide information to the public about applicants and, for approved schools, new charter schools.

LAS VEGAS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL will be serving children from K to 8th Grade. We offer nurturing and educational programs in rich individualized academic environment, which promote independence and optimum scholastic achievement. At LVMC students are provided opportunities to not only learn the basic, core academic subjects, but also important life skills such as interpersonal communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Through this approach , we can and will provide students with optimum readiness for secondary and higher education, with the academic, social, interpersonal and other tools to become successful model students and citizens.

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Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on applicant team (add lines as needed):

Full Name	Current Job Title and Employer	Position with Proposed School
Susan Alcantara	Director - Spring Valley Montessori School	Executive Director
Jedd Ivar Alcantara	Elementary Math Teacher	Chief Financial Officer
Jessica Alcantara	Lower Elementary Teacher	Chief Academic Officer

Does this applicant team, charter management organization, or education management organization have charter school applications under consideration by any other authorizer(s) in the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, complete the table below, adding lines as needed.

State	Authorizer	Proposed School Name	Application Due Date	Decision Date

Does this applicant team, charter management organization, or education management organization have new schools scheduled to open elsewhere in the United States in the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school years? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, complete the table below, adding lines as needed.

Proposed School Name	City	State	Opening Date
LAS VEGAS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL	LAS VEGAS	NV	AUGUST 2020

School Name (add lines as needed):

Proposed School Name(s)*	Opening Year	Grades served Year 1	Grades served at capacity
LAS VEGAS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL	2020	K-8th	K - 8th

(a) **Planned Enrollment (Must Correspond to Budget Worksheet Assumptions)**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
K	35	40	45	45	55	60
1	40	45	50	55	60	65
2	40	45	50	55	60	65
3	40	45	50	55	60	65
4	35	40	45	50	55	60
5	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	30	35	40	45	50	55
7	25	30	35	40	45	50
8	20	25	30	35	40	45
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	300	342	390	435	480	525

Nevada law currently permits an operator to contract with for-profit and nonprofit education management organizations and education service providers.

Does the proposed school intend to contract or partner with an education management organization (EMO) or education service provider (ESP) or other organization to provide school management services? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, identify the EMO/ESP:

Effective January 1, 2016, Nevada law will also permit authorizers to enter into charter contracts to nonprofit charter management organizations which directly hold a charter in another state as well as to Nevada non-profit corporations formed for the purpose of applying for a charter in conjunction with such a CMO.

Is the applicant for the proposed school a charter management organization (CMO) or a Nevada non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of applying for a charter in conjunction with a CMO? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, identify the CMO and any affiliated NV non-profit:

Applicant Certification:


Signature

Jesusa Alcantara


Date

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission and Vision

Las Vegas Montessori Charter School aims to create an environment that recognizes and fosters the vast potential of its students and their desire to learn. Through the application of the student-centered Montessori method, students are provided opportunities to not only learn the basic, core academic subjects, but also important life skills such as: interpersonal communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Through this approach, we can and will provide students with optimum readiness for secondary and higher education, with the academic, social, interpersonal, and other tools to become successful model students and citizens. With positive and engaging educational skills, our students can and will become responsible and caring community leaders.

Proposed Model

Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will apply the Montessori Method as developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. It is a multi-sensory approach that allows for self-taught and self-paced academic development, facilitated by a Montessori-trained and state-licensed educator.

Dr. Maria Montessori, the Italian pediatrician and visionary educator who founded the method, believed that when children are given the freedom to choose their own learning activities a self-confident, inquisitive, creative child emerges. As it turns out, this approach, which is over 100 years old, is exactly what parents are looking for today.

*“The first Montessori environment was opened on the 6 January 1907 in San Lorenzo, Rome, Italy. Through Dr. Montessori's observations and work with these children she discovered their astonishing, almost effortless ability to learn. **Children taught themselves!** This simple but profound truth formed the cornerstone of her life-long pursuit of educational reform.”*

-Montessori Australia Foundation, 2007

More specifically, Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will model itself upon and replicate the highly successful approach used by Spring Valley Montessori School, a private K-8 academy which has served the local Valley for nearly 16 years. Under the same leadership contemplated for this school, Spring Valley Montessori School has positively educated an entire generation of Las Vegas children, earning numerous accolades, awards, and successes.

Upon being chartered, Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will take over Spring Valley Montessori School's K-8 classes, and the private school will scale itself back to a pre-K institution—and, importantly for Charter School enrollment purposes, a presumptive charter feeder school. The goal of this transformation is to continue offering the community

¹ The First Casa dei Bambini. (2007). Retrieved from <https://montessori.org.au/first-casa-dei-bambini>

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the same high-level, proven academic experience, but on a free-to-all, cost-barrier-eliminated basis.

Las Vegas Montessori Charter School does not intend to be or become part of any network run by a Charter Management Organization, or CMO. We will maintain our independence and self-sufficiency, ensuring all taxpayer funding and other school resources stay squarely within our four walls, to better serve our students, not third-party administrators in other jurisdictions.

Target Community

The community to be served is the town of Spring Valley in Las Vegas, NV. As discussed in detail below, Spring Valley is eager and in desperate need for more educational choice. With over 22,000 students attending Clark County School District Elementary and Middle Schools in Spring Valley, over-crowded classrooms and dismal test scores have been the norm. Upon being chartered, Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will provide the much-needed choice for the students and their families, as well as a chance to learn in an environment that is tailored to their specific needs and learning styles.

Expected Outcomes

For over a century, Montessori-based schools have used multi-age classrooms designed to create opportunities for student independence and accountability. Students are to follow their own curiosity and are motivated to fully understand concepts to meet their individual goals. Montessori students grow up to be enthusiastic and self-directed learners, who exude confidence and are accountable citizens to both themselves and the community.² With the Montessori Method, students will develop a lifelong love for learning and have a true sense of accomplishment. Students will be motivated for higher education and will be passionate in their careers to provide a positive change for their community.

“As most preschool students do, I learned to read and write, but even more than that I learned to love learning. I am now a high school senior, and I know that I wouldn’t be where I am today academically if it wasn’t for Spring Valley Montessori and Ms. Susan. Today, I am completing my application for the United States Naval Academy, and it is because of my foundation at Montessori School that I am able to be a competitive candidate for the college.”

-Carolyn Bilbray-Kohn, SVMS Alumni (2004-2010)

Key Components of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School’s Educational Model

The Key Components of the Montessori Method are as follows:

² Why Choose Montessori. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://amshq.org/Families/Why-Choose-Montessori>

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- Montessori-Trained Teachers
- Child-Directed Work
- Multi-Age Classrooms
- Montessori Educational Materials
- Uninterrupted Work periods

Values, Approach, and Leadership Accomplishments of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School's Leader and Leadership Team

Jesusa Alcantara: Executive Director

The school's leader and proposed Executive Director, Jesusa Alcantara, carries 36 years of teaching and senior school administrative experience into this project.

She has been operating Spring Valley Montessori School as the school's owner and Executive Director since 2004. Jesusa is extremely proud of her graduating students, who have shined a positive spotlight on Las Vegas and the State of Nevada with all they have accomplished. Not only locally, but globally. For more on some of the representative, stand-out successes of her students, please see Attachment 3.

Jesusa's values encompass the Montessori Method, and in particular the belief that no child should be deprived of the best education because of his/her adverse situations. Her approach as a successful leader includes the ability to ensure her entire team stands behind treating the child with full respect to nurture their growth into an enthusiastic, life-long learner. As a born-leader (borne out by decades of experience), she builds and supports her team to be the very best in order to build positive relationships within the school and community.

Jessica Alcantara: Chief Academic Officer

Jessica Alcantara has been teaching students in both childcare and elementary settings from 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southern New Hampshire University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. In addition, she holds a Montessori teaching certificate from North American Montessori Center.

As the current Elementary Academic Director, Lower Elementary teacher, and Office Manager at Spring Valley Montessori School, she has proven to be extremely adept at balancing many roles- doing so effectively and efficiently.

Jessica's values as an educator, specifically a Montessori educator, is to model hard work, perseverance, and compassion to all. She is able to create a unique curriculum for each child, exploring which methods of learning will be the most engaging and effective for the student. A core value of hers is to encourage students to have compassion for one another by teaching them to listen to and value each other's opinions in and outside of the classroom. In addition, Jessica values integrity. She is an asset to any organization with her ability to take on any role and responsibility with respect and enthusiasm.

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Jedd Alcantara: Chief Financial Officer

Jedd has over 13 years of experience in Montessori education as a Certified Montessori Elementary Educator. He holds an undergraduate degree in accounting and finance from Southern New Hampshire University, as well as a Master's in Business Administration.

Prior to starting his career in education, Jedd served our country as a U.S. Marine Sergeant with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom I and Iraqi Freedom II. He was awarded Marine of the Quarter of 1st Marine Division for the first quarter of 2003 (from among over 22,000 servicemen and -women), at which time he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal by General James Mattis, our recent Secretary of Defense.

His values as an educator reflects the United States Marine Corps' core values of *Honor, Courage, and Commitment*. Just as Spring Valley Montessori School parents have come to know and expect- Jedd will always act honorably and with integrity in all matters related to educating their children, will have the steadfast courage to immediately implement changes to adapt to students' needs, as well as demonstrate undying commitment to ensure that all have the opportunity to strive for and achieve academic and social excellence.

Jedd is currently the Mathematics Director of Spring Valley Montessori School and a licensed Registered Investment Advisor representative with Waddell & Reed.

Key Supporters, Partners, and resources that will contribute to the success of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School

Microsoft will be a partner to implement STEM resources for students to be proficient in *Microsoft Office Suite- Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel*, and more. In addition, faculty will be able to communicate effectively to schedule meetings, exchange information, and enhance seamless collaboration.

Dr. Noah Kohn will provide his expertise and resources (pro-bono) to establish, as well as continue to guide the operations related to the health and well-being of the students and the school as a whole. He is the former Medical Director of the *Nevada Children's Center, The Children's Free Clinic of Southern Nevada* (formerly *Clinics in Schools*) and is currently a member of the *Maternal & Child Health Advisory Board* for the State of Nevada. Dr. Noah Kohn serves as the Pediatric Hospitalist and Pediatrics Department Chair of *Benefis Health System*.

The school leader has been in discussions with a member of a Rotary Club to solicit support for fundraising activities and marketing of the school. Additionally, members have welcomed the opportunities of volunteering in the school for various events or special occasions.

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MEETING THE NEED

Targeted Plan

(1) The community to be served is the town of Spring Valley in Las Vegas, NV. The town of Spring Valley is primarily comprised of zip codes 89103, 89113, 89117, 89118, 89146, 89147, and 89148. The median income and income per capita in Spring Valley are 2% and 4% lower than the Nevada average, respectively. In fact, when compared to its neighboring town of South Summerlin to the west, the discrepancy is much larger as that neighbor's income per capita and median income are 118% and 60% higher than the state's average.³ Spring Valley currently has one private Montessori School, Spring Valley Montessori School, which serves as its only option for Elementary Montessori education. In serving the town of Spring Valley, Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will create an opportunity for parents to seek a methodology that would fit their children's learning style and capabilities- providing their children the foundation they need to further their education and be successful, contributing members of the community.

(2) Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will enroll children aged 5-14 years of age (Kindergarten to Grade 8), whose parents believe that the Montessori method will better facilitate their children's academic and social growth. It encourages independence and accountability, which motivates students to achieve their full potential, as they improve on deficiencies. The multi-age classrooms recreate a family structure that provides support to increase their confidence, preparing them to succeed in college, as well as in their future careers.

In the School Year 2017-2018, the State of Nevada had almost half a million students enrolled. Out of all, only about 50% of Elementary students are deemed proficient in English and Language Arts and 43% in Mathematics. Middle School students had even lower proficiency scores- with less than 48% proficiency in English and Language Arts, and 32% in Mathematics.⁴

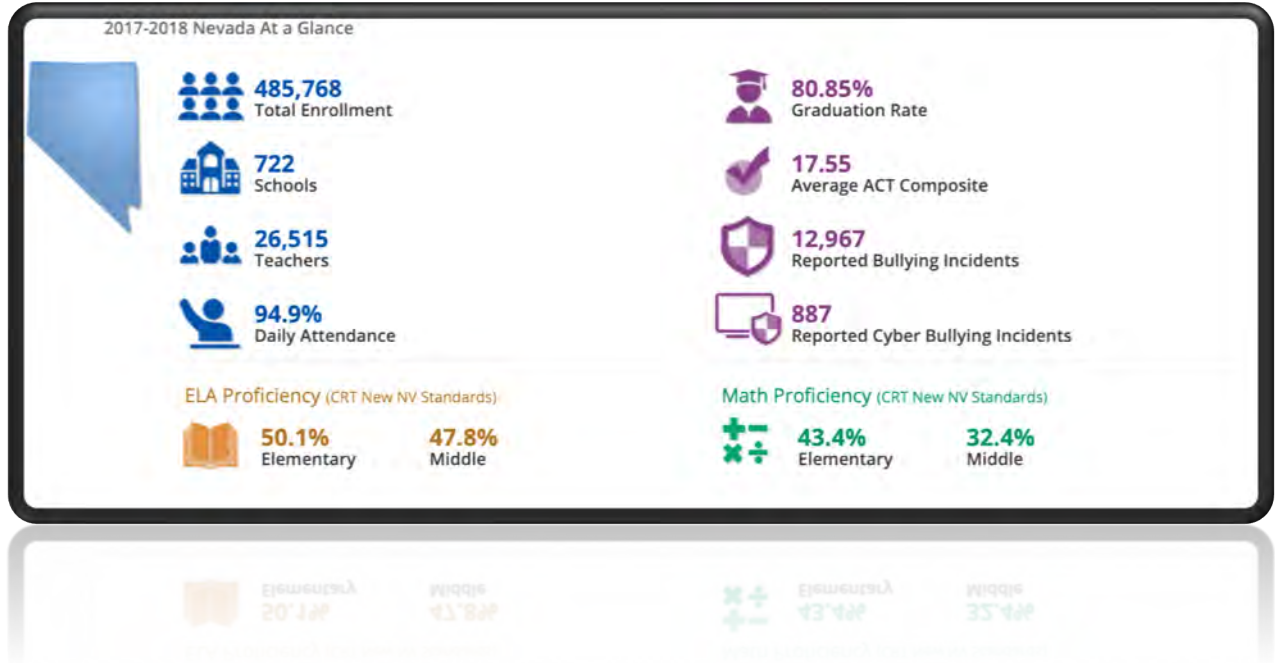
³ Area Vibes. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.areavibes.com/spring+valley-nv/livability/>

⁴ Nevada Department of Education. (2019). Retrieved from <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/di/>

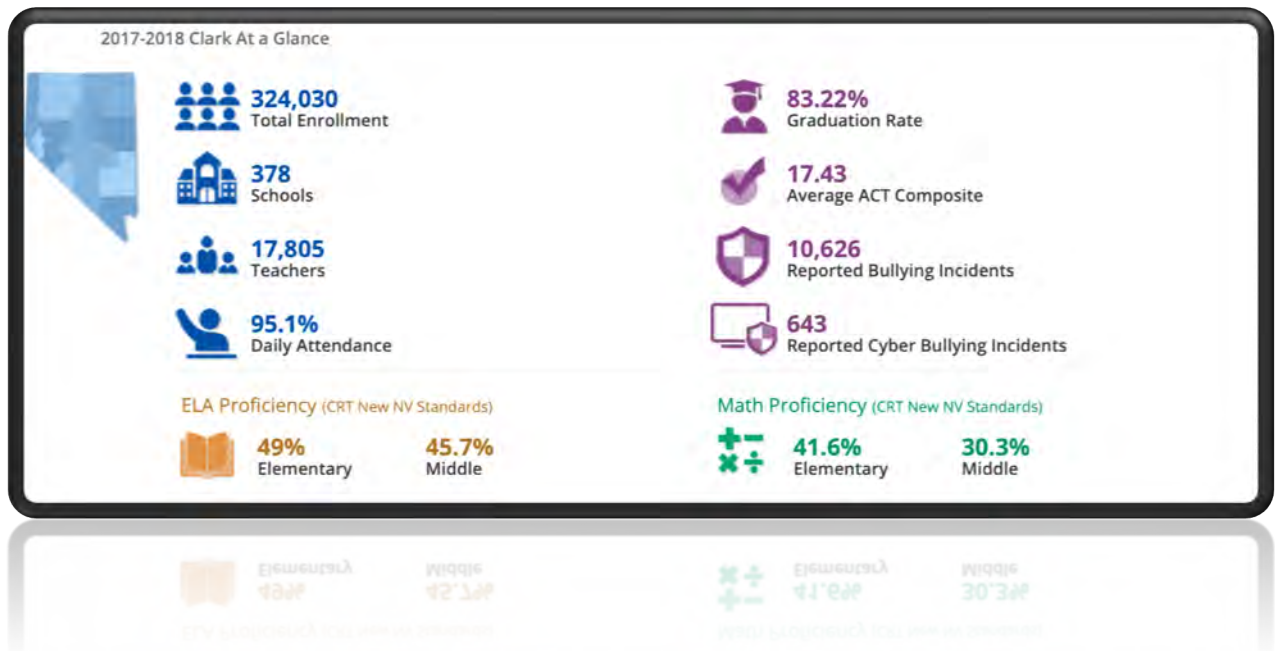
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During the same school-year, the Clark County School District was regrettably worse. Out of the 324,000 students enrolled, only 49% of Elementary students were proficient in English and Language Arts, while 42% were proficient in Math. The proficiency in English and Language Arts, as well as Mathematics were also lower with Middle School students at 46% and 30%.



The tables below list the average proficiency for Mathematics and Reading at the

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current district Elementary and Middle Schools within the proposed zip codes to be served in Spring Valley. Information provided were derived from the Nevada Department of Education's website Data Interaction for Nevada Accountability Portal.⁵

Group Summary Report
CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 3

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
C H Decker Elementary School	2269	2017-2018	3	113	35	38.8
Don and Dee Snyder Elementary School	2074	2017-2018	3	127	46.2	54.7
Doris Hancock Elementary School	2207	2017-2018	3	104	32.6	36
Dr. C Owen Roundy Elementary School	2096	2017-2018	3	156	53	40.4
Elaine Wynn Elementary School	2121	2017-2018	3	166	35.9	35.2
Frank Kim Elementary School	2107	2017-2018	3	84	48.1	54.5
Harvey N. Dondero Elementary School	2266	2017-2018	3	118	26.7	24.8
Helen Jydstrup Elementary School	2135	2017-2018	3	122	64.1	46.7
Herbert A Derfelt Elementary School	2124	2017-2018	3	107	46.4	44.9
Joseph E Thiriot Elementary School	2192	2017-2018	3	114	56.9	49
Judith D Steele Elementary School	2098	2017-2018	3	111	73.8	72.8
Kathy L. Batterman Elementary School	2193	2017-2018	3	134	68	71.2
Keith C & Karen W Hayes Elementary	2168	2017-2018	3	124	54	55
Lucille S Rogers Elementary School	2174	2017-2018	3	149	60.4	64.9
M J Christensen Elementary School	2109	2017-2018	3	94	46.2	59
Marion B Earl Elementary School	2296	2017-2018	3	126	44.5	41.4
P A Diskin Elementary School	2263	2017-2018	3	99	56.3	59.8
Patricia A Bendorf Elementary School	2138	2017-2018	3	109	54	61
R Guild Gray Elementary School	2278	2017-2018	3	84	26.9	38.2
Roger M Bryan Elementary School	2156	2017-2018	3	124	59.1	50.4
Wayne N Tanaka Elementary School	2190	2017-2018	3	137	66.4	50.4
				Average- % Proficient	50.21428571	49.95714286

Group Summary Report
CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 4

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
C H Decker Elementary School	2269	2017-2018	4	101	23.6	30.3
Don and Dee Snyder Elementary School	2074	2017-2018	4	114	31.9	54.3
Doris Hancock Elementary School	2207	2017-2018	4	112	15.2	20.7
Dr. C Owen Roundy Elementary School	2096	2017-2018	4	166	40.3	39.7
Elaine Wynn Elementary School	2121	2017-2018	4	139	44.7	35
Frank Kim Elementary School	2107	2017-2018	4	78	33.3	50
Harvey N. Dondero Elementary School	2266	2017-2018	4	118	53.3	44.9
Helen Jydstrup Elementary School	2135	2017-2018	4	114	44.8	54
Herbert A Derfelt Elementary School	2124	2017-2018	4	85	35.1	53.2
Joseph E Thiriot Elementary School	2192	2017-2018	4	99	40	50
Judith D Steele Elementary School	2098	2017-2018	4	92	61.2	65.9
Kathy L. Batterman Elementary School	2193	2017-2018	4	119	66.4	66.1
Keith C & Karen W Hayes Elementary	2168	2017-2018	4	131	52.9	63
Lucille S Rogers Elementary School	2174	2017-2018	4	169	63.7	65.1
M J Christensen Elementary School	2109	2017-2018	4	94	51.7	63.2
Marion B Earl Elementary School	2296	2017-2018	4	115	38.5	46.9
P A Diskin Elementary School	2263	2017-2018	4	99	37.8	70.7
Patricia A Bendorf Elementary School	2138	2017-2018	4	116	53.8	61.2
R Guild Gray Elementary School	2278	2017-2018	4	82	37.1	44.3
Roger M Bryan Elementary School	2156	2017-2018	4	119	41.1	45.5
Wayne N Tanaka Elementary School	2190	2017-2018	4	116	51.5	52.5
				Average- % Proficient	43.70952381	51.26190476

⁵ Nevada Department of Education. (2019). Retrieved from <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/di/>

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Group Summary Report CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 5

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
C H Decker Elementary School	2269	2017-2018	5	134	25.2	49.6
Don and Dee Snyder Elementary School	2074	2017-2018	5	163	49.7	69.9
Doris Hancock Elementary School	2207	2017-2018	5	100	16.9	20.2
Dr. C Owen Roundy Elementary School	2096	2017-2018	5	130	44.8	56
Elaine Wynn Elementary School	2121	2017-2018	5	161	16.7	27.5
Frank Kim Elementary School	2107	2017-2018	5	88	39.5	54.7
Harvey N Dondero Elementary School	2266	2017-2018	5	135	34.2	30.8
Helen Jydstrup Elementary School	2135	2017-2018	5	97	34.1	47.1
Herbert A Derfelt Elementary School	2124	2017-2018	5	106	35.2	53.8
Joseph E Thiriot Elementary School	2192	2017-2018	5	87	45.6	64.6
Judith D Steele Elementary School	2098	2017-2018	5	97	57.8	75.6
Kathy L. Batterman Elementary School	2193	2017-2018	5	107	68.6	77.5
Keith C & Karen W Hayes Elementary	2168	2017-2018	5	131	45	57.5
Lucille S Rogers Elementary School	2174	2017-2018	5	130	62.9	63.8
M J Christensen Elementary School	2109	2017-2018	5	97	34.9	67.4
Marion B Earl Elementary School	2296	2017-2018	5	113	39.8	56.7
P A Diskin Elementary School	2263	2017-2018	5	116	44.9	54.6
Patricia A Bendorf Elementary School	2138	2017-2018	5	102	49	66.7
R Guild Gray Elementary School	2278	2017-2018	5	103	16.5	39.5
Roger M Bryan Elementary School	2156	2017-2018	5	122	35.3	47.4
Wayne N Tanaka Elementary School	2190	2017-2018	5	149	25.8	41.7
				Average- % Proficient	39.16190476	53.45714286

Group Summary Report CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 6

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
Clifford J Lawrence Junior High School	2337	2017-2018	6	472	26.1	45.4
Grant Sawyer Middle School	2328	2017-2018	6	392	23.2	43.2
Kenny C Guinn Middle School	2317	2017-2018	6	440	33.2	46.7
Victoria Fertitta Middle School	2347	2017-2018	6	423	51	58.8
Wilbur & Theresa Faiss Middle School	2362	2017-2018	6	559	31.5	54.3
				Average- % Proficient	33	49.68

Group Summary Report CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 7

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
Clifford J Lawrence Junior High School	2337	2017-2018	7	419	28.6	42.3
Grant Sawyer Middle School	2328	2017-2018	7	360	27.1	45
Kenny C Guinn Middle School	2317	2017-2018	7	335	40.7	64.7
Victoria Fertitta Middle School	2347	2017-2018	7	496	46.7	64.2
Wilbur & Theresa Faiss Middle School	2362	2017-2018	7	520	32.7	60.8
				Average- % Proficient	35.16	55.4

Group Summary Report CRT (New NV Standards), Year 2017-2018, Grade 8

Group	Organization Code	Year	Grade	Number Enrolled	Mathematics - % Proficient	Reading - % Proficient
Clifford J Lawrence Junior High School	2337	2017-2018	8	464	35.9	50
Grant Sawyer Middle School	2328	2017-2018	8	437	26.6	42.5
Kenny C Guinn Middle School	2317	2017-2018	8	371	34.9	59
Victoria Fertitta Middle School	2347	2017-2018	8	472	44.7	62.7
Wilbur & Theresa Faiss Middle School	2362	2017-2018	8	456	33.2	60.1
				Average - % Proficient	35.06	54.86

As the data shows, Mathematics proficiency witnessed a double-digit percentage decline every year from Grades 3 to 6. Though Reading proficiency increased from Grades 3 to 5, it did so marginally and eventually decreased from Grades 5 to 6. By the end of Grade 8, there is an alarming average lack of proficiency—i.e., just 35% in Mathematics and 55% in Reading among Middle Schools in Spring Valley. That is of great concern, as it proves that a great majority of students are entering the local high-school ill-equipped and unprepared for the challenges ahead.

Unfortunately, the Clark County School District is in no position to resolve its schooling issues. Clark County School District, the fifth largest school district in the country, is universally

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acknowledged to be in crisis. As the *New York Times*, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, and other media organizations have reported.⁶⁷⁸

- Enrollment remains at record levels. In 2014, elementary schools operated at 117.6% of planned capacity. First-grade classes which should have 16 students routinely have 25 or more students. There are 2,230 temporary trailers in use across the District. Over a dozen schools have switched to year-round schedules to alleviate overcrowding. As the CCSD Superintendent noted, he “could build 23 elementary schools today and they would open up full and overcrowded.”
- The district faces a severe teacher shortage. As of the start of the 2015-16 school year, CCSD had about 800 vacancies, 80 percent of which were for elementary-school and specials-needs positions. That shortage was despite CCSD having hired 1,800 teachers during the prior two quarters—nearly 25% of whom had no classroom experience whatsoever. Paradoxically, due to financial and legal issues, CCSD terminated the employment of over a thousand teachers in recent years. In part due to those layoffs, CCSD is embroiled in a long-standing dispute (now headed to arbitration) with the teacher’s union, and CCSD promised to try and meet certain union demands by “delay[ing] school maintenance projects.”
- In 2012, voters rejected a \$669 million school-construction bond. CCSD officials hope a 2016 bond will pass, but even if it does, officials agree no new schools would come online until 2020 or beyond. The President of the Board of School Trustees described the situation as “severe, and there’s no relief in sight through traditional means.”
- Not surprisingly, the State’s academic results match the financial condition of its woefully-underfunded largest school district. In virtually every national indicator, from elementary school level through high school, Nevada ranks statistically in the bottom five among all states. In many cases, including a recent study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation grading “educational opportunities provided to public school students,” Nevada was ranked dead last—i.e., 51st—in a study analyzing the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

The application of the Montessori method allows for additional instruction to address weak subject areas to better prepare students at a much earlier age. It downplays the purported boundaries of what a child should know or be learning, and instead encourages them to learn at a pace that ensures mastery of subject areas and provide opportunities for advancement, regardless of age. Based on Spring Valley Montessori results (see chart below), the outcome is in fact much greater proficiency and academic growth.

Another need that will be addressed by the Las Vegas Montessori Charter School is the high pupil-to-teacher ratio in the elementary and middle schools of Spring Valley. The table below lists the pupil-to-teacher ratios per grade level at the current district elementary schools within

⁶ Las Vegas Schools Groan From Growing Pains. (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/07/us/las-vegas-schools-groan-from-growing-pains.html>

⁷ Nevada ranks last in US for education, but officials upbeat. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/education/nevada-ranks-last-in-us-for-education-but-officials-upbeat/>

⁸ Five things you should know about school overcrowding in Clark County. (2014). Retrieved from <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2014/apr/25/five-things-you-should-know-about-school-overcrowd/>

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the proposed zip codes to be served, as well as the state average. The Information provided was derived from the Nevada Department of Education's website Data Interaction for Nevada Accountability Portal.

Students
Year 2017-2018
PY = reported for prior school year

Name	Accountability Year	Organization Code	Ratio - All Schools*	Kindergarten+	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
State	2017-2018	0	23:01	22:01	20:01	20:01	22:01	28:01:00	29:01:00	24:01:00	22:01	22:01
Batterman ES	2017-2018	2193	23:01	22:01	22:01	24:01:00	22:01	28:01:00	25:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bendorf ES	2017-2018	2138	25:01:00	25:01:00	24:01:00	24:01:00	23:01	30:01:00	28:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bryan (Roger) ES	2017-2018	2156	26:01:00	27:01:00	20:01	23:01	26:01:00	30:01:00	32:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christensen ES	2017-2018	2109	24:01:00	23:01	23:01	20:01	23:01	25:01:00	33:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Decker ES	2017-2018	2269	24:01:00	22:01	23:01	22:01	20:01	27:01:00	36:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Derfelt ES	2017-2018	2124	23:01	19:01	20:01	22:01	27:01:00	28:01:00	26:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Diskin ES	2017-2018	2263	25:01:00	22:01	23:01	22:01	22:01	25:01:00	40:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dondero ES	2017-2018	2266	24:01:00	21:01	20:01	20:01	28:01:00	29:01:00	34:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Earl (Marion) ES	2017-2018	2296	25:01:00	23:01	27:01:00	22:01	26:01:00	22:01	38:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Faiss MS	2017-2018	2362	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fertitta MS	2017-2018	2347	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gray ES	2017-2018	2278	26:01:00	18:01	24:01:00	27:01:00	27:01:00	26:01:00	33:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Guinn MS	2017-2018	2317	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hancock ES	2017-2018	2207	25:01:00	20:01	26:01:00	21:01	27:01:00	28:01:00	34:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hayes ES	2017-2018	2168	25:01:00	19:01	25:01:00	23:01	23:01	32:01:00	33:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jydstrup ES	2017-2018	2135	24:01:00	22:01	20:01	25:01:00	27:01:00	27:01:00	26:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim ES	2017-2018	2107	26:01:00	21:01	21:01	25:01:00	29:01:00	32:01:00	36:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lawrence JHS	2017-2018	2337	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rogers ES	2017-2018	2174	25:01:00	22:01	21:01	20:01	25:01:00	33:01:00	33:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roundy ES	2017-2018	2096	26:01:00	23:01	21:01	25:01:00	27:01:00	28:01:00	34:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sawyer MS	2017-2018	2328	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Snyder ES	2017-2018	2074	24:01:00	24:01:00	21:01	21:01	23:01	26:01:00	31:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Steele ES	2017-2018	2098	24:01:00	22:01	21:01	21:01	21:01	32:01:00	33:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tanaka ES	2017-2018	2190	24:01:00	19:01	22:01	20:01	26:01:00	29:01:00	36:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thiriot ES	2017-2018	2192	24:01:00	20:01	24:01:00	20:01	23:01	35:01:00	31:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wynn ES	2017-2018	2121	22:01	22:01	17:01	21:01	23:01	23:01	30:01:00	N/A	N/A	N/A

As stated in the Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.700, pupil-to-teacher ratio should be: Kindergarten – 16:1; Grades 1 and 2 – 17:1; and Grade 3 – 20:1. Out of all schools that have available data, only two met the statute and did so in only two separate grade levels. According to the 2018 National Education Rankings Statistics, Nevada has the largest pupil-to-teacher ratio in the nation (25.86:1). Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will ultimately reduce overall class sizes within the schools in the community, while providing a proven alternative method of education to the children of Spring Valley.

Parent and Community Involvement

(1) Current, as well as past parents of Spring Valley Montessori School have and continue to be the most enthusiastic and loyal advocates of the Montessori method, informing family, friends, and community groups about the current school and the future of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School. Multiple fundraisers are organized annually with the assistance of Spring Valley Montessori School parents and we are confident that this practice will continue at Las Vegas Montessori Charter School.

Parents and community members will continue to be involved in the development of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School through grass-roots efforts- marketing to increase enrollment and supporting all fundraising efforts and activities.

(2) Once the application is approved, parents and community members are to be primarily engaged by means of social media, presentations, as well as meetings with community leaders and influencers. Presentations are to be conducted in a “town hall” setting at a local library, the school facility, and elsewhere to establish buy-in and learn parent priorities and concerns prior to

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and post opening. Upon completion of construction and classroom set-up, the school will host an “open-house” for the community of Spring Valley- familiarizing parents and future students with the facility, as well as educating them about the Montessori method and its benefits. Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will continue to engage the community through meetings with community groups (e.g., Rotary Clubs), conversations with parents, and attendance at community events.

(3) Parents of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School students are to be engaged in the life of the school by using the statewide Infinite Campus system. The school leader and management team will utilize the Infinite Campus system to provide detailed, real-time information, including: Calendar, Schedules, Attendance, Grades, Health (Immunizations Only), Assignments, Academic Planner, Academic Progress, Fees/Payments, To Do Lists, Reports, District/School Notices, and School Meals Application. A School App will be developed for easy communication between the school and the parents- allowing the school to easily transmit important information that the school needs to deliver to all parents, especially in time of emergencies. Other forms of communication to be used include social media and email. As most have *Facebook* or email accounts, we have found that this is one of the most effective and efficient additional media to communicate future events and other relevant information in regard to the day-to-day operations of the school.

“Spring Valley Montessori feels more like a community than a school with people from all different walks of life and regardless of race, religion, or anything else, and treats everyone equally.”

-Dave Chipp, SVMS Parent (2015-Present)

In building family-school partnerships that strengthen support for learning and encourage parental involvement, parents are strongly and enthusiastically encouraged to consistently volunteer in their children’s classrooms, as well as other school related activities or events. Volunteer activities include but are not limited to classroom presentations and lessons, participation in organizing school events, and fundraising. Just like Spring Valley Montessori School, Las Vegas Montessori Charter School will conduct quarterly concerts where parents and other family members are able to join others and share an evening celebrating their children’s milestones and accomplishments. Parents are to commit to being involved in their children’s education by attending parent-teacher conferences and having a consistent open-line of communication with the teachers and staff members.

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(4) Various community resources will be available to students and parents of Las Vegas Montessori Charter School. A strategic partnership with *East Valley Family Services* will play an important role as its core mission of family wellness and social responsibility is directly in-line with the school's. Family assessments, shared goal planning, as well as providing basic needs include the scope of services of this partnership.

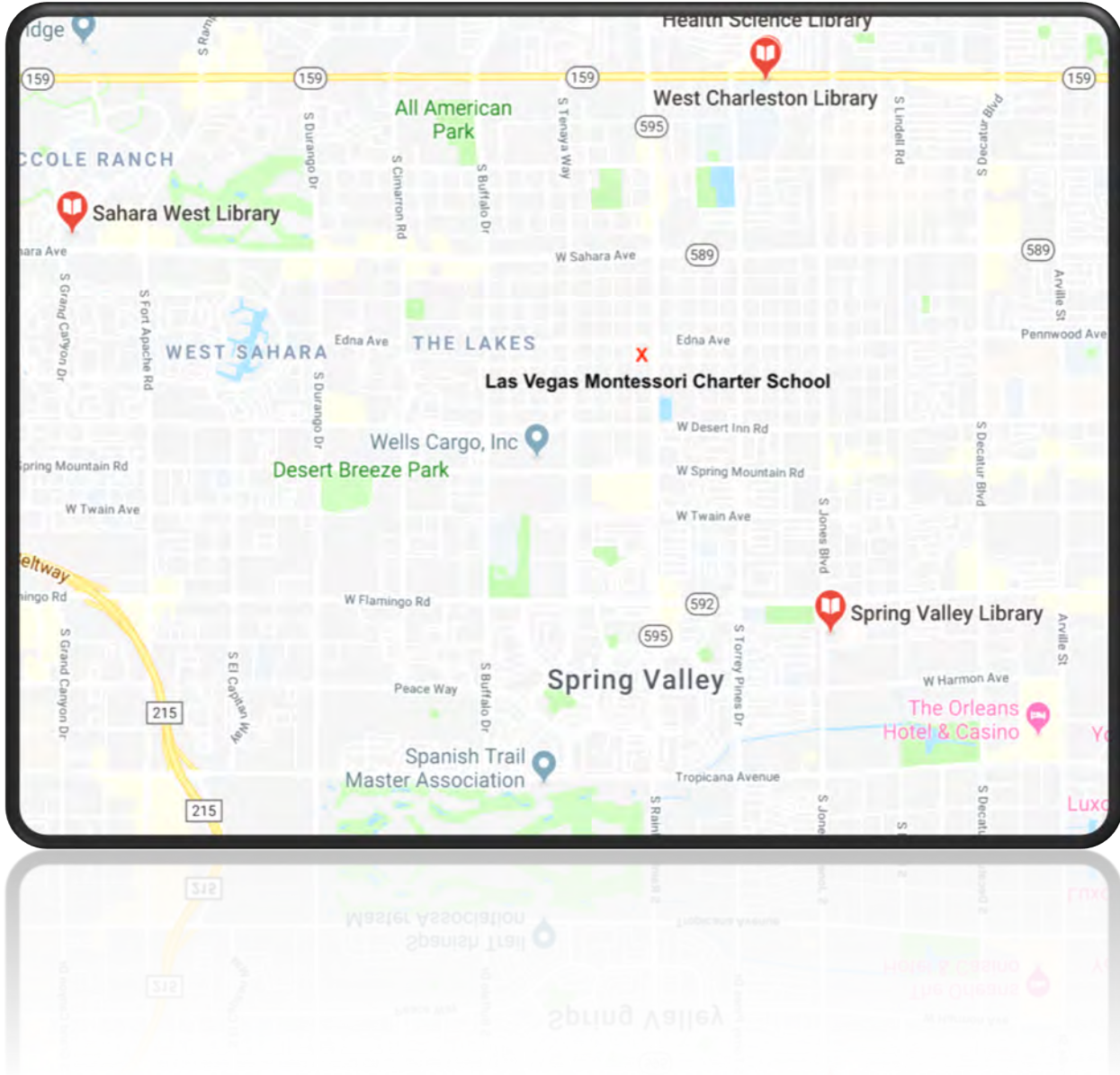
As the commitment of the Las Vegas Montessori Charter School extends to the entire family and community, not just its students, *Nevada Partners* will also play a critical role in transforming the community of Spring Valley. Support will be provided for parents who are unemployed or underemployed to allow them to be economically self-sufficient.

Libraries will also serve as resources available for parents and students. This includes: Spring Valley Library located in South Jones, West Charleston and Health Science Libraries on Charleston, as well as the Sahara West Library.

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Additional resources are as follows:

- *Parenting Project* is offered by the Clark County Family Services that offers a series of free programs to help parents be more effective in raising their children.
- *The Spotted Tree* is a group that supports and helps families that have children with Delays/Disorders. This group is under “Meet Up”, an organization for Adults with High Functioning Autism.
- *The Foundation for Positively Kids* is a local non-profit organization based in Las

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Vegas, NV. It was established in 1999 by Fred Schultz, CEO of Positively Kids, to meet the growing need for specialized care for medically fragile and/or developmentally delayed children in Southern Nevada.

- *Bridge Counseling* provides counseling services for adults, families and children.

Included, as Attachment 1, existing evidence of support from community partners such as letters of intent/commitment, memoranda of understanding, and/or contracts.

(5) The school leader has been serving the community for almost 16 years as the director of Spring Valley Montessori School. The families in the community has seen the outstanding track record of the school for it has produced many outstanding young members of the community who were recognized both locally and globally. LVMC will be actively involved in the community activities such as starting our own sports team and participating in local programs sponsored by various organizations developed for the advancement and development of Spring Valley.

(6) *Microsoft* will be a partner to implement STEM resources for students to be proficient in *Microsoft Office Suite- Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel*, and more. In addition, faculty will be able to communicate effectively to schedule meetings, exchange information, and enhance seamless collaboration.

Dr. Noah Kohn will provide his expertise and resources (pro-bono) to establish, as well as continue to guide the operations related to the health and well-being of the students and the school as a whole. He is the former Medical Director of the *Nevada Children's Center, The Children's Free Clinic of Southern Nevada* (formerly *Clinics in Schools*) and is currently a member of the *Maternal & Child Health Advisory Board* for the State of Nevada. Dr. Noah Kohn serves as the Pediatric Hospitalist and Pediatrics Department Chair of *Benefis Health System*.

The school leader has been in discussions with a member of a Rotary Club to solicit support for fundraising activities and marketing of the school. Additionally, members have welcomed the opportunities of volunteering in the school for various events or special occasions.