



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

FROM: Patrick Gavin, Executive Director
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing

SUBJECT: American Leadership Academy Charter Contract Amendment Request Pursuant to [NAC 386.3268](#) and [NAC 386.3269](#)

DATE: June 28, 2018

American Leadership Academy, operating under a charter contract entered into in 2017, is located in Las Vegas, Nevada, and has yet to receive a star rating. It serves 1,007 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. In the 2018-2019 school year, American Leadership Academy seeks to sever ties with its existing EMO (American Leadership), VMV Consulting (DBA Charter One), and change the name, mission, and vision of the school. American Leadership Academy wishes to change the name of the school to Freedom Classical Academy and enter into a service agreement with an outside vendor to provide back-office services. As discussed below, Staff recommends approval of the amendment request, with conditions.

Summary of Request:

Due to the proposed severance between American Leadership Academy North Las Vegas and VMV Consulting (DBA Charter One), the school seeks to change its name, mission and vision. The school's Board is proposing to rename the school Freedom Classical Academy. The school's new mission is to bring forth future leaders through a fusion of classical education and STEM instruction in an environment that promotes liberty and virtue. The revised vision of the schools is simply "Knowledge. Freedom. Leadership."

Furthermore, the school will have a need to contract with outside service providers to fill some of the gaps left by the split. This includes a change in back-office service providers. The school is proposing to contract with Charter School Management Corporation (CSMC) to provide accounting and payroll services, as well as human resources services through an online, user-friendly portal HRIS. CSMC is a national back-office services provider for charter schools, and is managed by a former charter school operator with extensive experience and insight into effective school operations. Under the proposed agreement, the school's office manager will liaise with this vendor.

Freedom Classical Academy will also require the professional services of a benefits provider due to the severance with Charter One. Distinctive Insurance is the selected provider for the 2018 – 2019 school year, and is the broker for the Charter School Association of Nevada (CSAN). The Board of the school is confident that this provider will provide stable plan options.

The school will also be contracting with Founder’s Education Legacy (FEL) as an employee leasing company. Freedom received a referral from Founder’s Academy for FEL, and plans to compensate FEL for the services rendered including a per-employee setup fee and a percentage of total payroll for leased employees.

Finally, the school plans to enter into separate service agreements with three entities to provide critical student services. These contracts are listed below, and it should be noted that all three providers were under contract with the school for the 2017 – 2018 school year, and Authority staff believes this established relationship will lead to a smooth transition:

- Playhouse Pediatrics – Occupational Therapy
- Foundations Developmental House – Speech Therapy
- United Testing Service – Psychology

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests:

[NAC 386.3268](#) requires the governing body of a public charter school to obtain approval from the sponsor of the school for any of the following amendments to the charter contract:

- Changing the name or location of the charter school
- Changing the mission or goals of the charter school that were described in the application to form the charter school

[NAC 386.3269](#) requires the governing body of a public charter school wishing to amend its written charter or charter contract in a way that is not described by [NAC 386.326](#) to [386.3268](#), inclusive, the governing body must submit a written request to the sponsor of the charter school for a determination of whether the proposed amendment is a material amendment to the written charter or charter contract.

Staff has determined that the requested amendments fall outside of [NAC 386.326](#) to [386.3268](#), inclusive, and that the proposed amendments are material to the current charter contract with American Leadership Academy.

Recommendation:

Since the school has completed only one year of operations, American Leadership Academy has not received any ratings according to the Nevada State Performance Framework (NSPF), nor has it received any findings from an annual financial audit. The school does, however, does exhibit strong organizational performance through established monitoring by Authority staff.

Authority staff recommends approval, but with conditions to ensure that the transition between services providers is smooth in preparation for the 2018 – 2019 school year. The following should be submitted by the school to Authority staff:

- A fully-executed severance agreement between Freedom Classical Academy (formerly known as American Leadership Academy) and VMV Consulting (DBA Charter One)
- A fully-executed contract between Freedom Classical Academy and the following entities:
 - o Charter School Management Corporation (CSMC)
 - o Distinctive Insurance
 - o Founder’s Education Legacy (FEL)
 - o Playhouse Pediatrics
 - o Foundations Developmental House
 - o United Testing Service

Total Current Enrollment Across All Campuses:

	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students
Grade Level	2017-18
Pre-K	N/A
K	117
1	110
2	149
3	106
4	120
5	148
6	157
7	57
8	43
9	N/A
10	N/A
11	N/A
12	N/A
Total	1007

Background:

American Leadership Academy Academic Performance

Year	NSPF Rating
2017	Elementary: No Rating Middle School: No Rating High School: N/A

School Demographic Change since 2017

American Leadership	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	1007	5.6%	17.2%	38.2%	35.6%	0.3%	0.6%	2.1%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

A – Asian

B – Black

C - White

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