



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board

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

**SUBJECT:** Nevada State High School Charter Contract Amendment Request: Expansion Pursuant to [NAC 386.3265](#) (additional campus and increase in enrollment)

**DATE:** June 28, 2018

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Nevada State High School, operating under a charter contract entered into in 2016, is located in Las Vegas, Nevada and is currently rated as a 5-star high school serving 492 students in grades 11 and 12. The mission of NSHS is to support students in a college environment with personal, academic, and social skills to promote college success. The vision of the school is to make every student college ready. The school seeks to expand into the Southwest and Northwest parts of Las Vegas in order to provide greater access to its program in underrepresented portions of Clark County. The school wishes to open a campus in the Southwest in the 2019-2020 school year and in the Northwest in the 2020-2021 school year.

As discussed below, Staff recommends approval of the amendment request, with conditions.

**Summary of Request:**

Nevada State High School (NSHS) is requesting to amend its charter contract to add two additional campuses. In the 2019 – 2020 school year, the school proposes to add a new Southwest campus. In the following year, or 2020 – 2021, the school seeks an additional Northwest campus, which would be the seventh NSHS campus across the state.

According to the proposal, the rationale behind NSHS expansion is due in large part to their current student data which shows that the school does not have many students accessing NSHS programming from both the southwest and northwest parts of the Las Vegas. The goal of NSHS is to continue to provide the local community in the targets areas access to NSHS quality dual enrollment school and the access to the supports they need to be successful. Through expansion in

both the southwest and northwest parts of Las Vegas, the school will be able to continue to work towards this goal for various communities in the metropolitan area.

At the proposed new campuses, NSHS will follow the same educational model of serving students in a one-room school house that supports students personally, academically, and socially in a successful transition to college by taking dual-credit college courses. The model will rely on providing students a home base at the one-room school house to receive supports and interventions that track student progress and support their successful transition to college. This is the same model that the school currently implements successfully across all campuses.

To effectively scale, NSHS has evaluated previous scaling attempts by the network to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats. Leveraging the talent of individuals from current schools in the network and recruitment of outside talent with special areas of expertise will be a priority. Regarding specific locations for both campuses, the school is already in the planning stages with regard to land permits and construction for the Southwest campus. While the school initially contemplated opening the Southwest campus and serving students there this coming fall, extensive conversations with staff prompted the decision to operate the proposed facility as an office and outreach center in this new community during the upcoming school year, with the full campus coming on line and serving students in 2018-19. School leadership believes that approval of the Southwest campus as an office and outreach center would allow them sufficient time to attract students for the next school year and would still allow for local students who are currently enrolled at other NSHS campuses to access supports closer to home prior to the campus coming on line in 2019-2020.

The Northwest campus location is still to be determined by the NSHS leadership and governing Board.

The school plans to serve 75 students at the Southwest campus beginning in the 2019 – 2020 school year, with plans to grow the student population to as many as approximately 140 by the 2023 – 2024 school year. There is additional capacity to serve more students based on local demand, but this will ensure that the model is financially viable given the additional campus. As with all Nevada charter schools, the school would need to seek an amendment to add additional seats beyond those identified on page 6 of this memorandum.

The school has already begun generating interest in and support for the Southwest campus, and around 15 students currently attending the Summerlin and Henderson campuses have indicated a preference to attend the Southwest campus once it comes on line.

According to the submission, the Northwest campus would serve approximately the same number of students as the Southwest campus, and would adopt a similar growth trajectory over the first few years after opening.

**Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests:**

[NRS 388A.279](#) provides that the Authority may hold a public hearing concerning any request from a charter to amend a charter contract, including:

- Increasing the total enrollment of a charter school or the enrollment of pupils in a particular grade level in the charter school for a school year to more than 120 percent of the enrollment prescribed in the written charter or charter contract for that school year.

- Seeking to acquire an additional facility in any county of this State to expand the enrollment of the charter school.

The specific requirements for amending a charter contract to acquire and occupy a new or additional facility can be found in [NAC 386.3265](#) et seq. and Section 7 of R089-16A.

**Recommendation:**

Nevada State High School was classified a 5-star high school prior to 2016. Since that time, the state has not released any ratings for high schools. It is important to note, however, that the school has had an exemplary graduation rate for many years. Indeed, their 2016-2017 graduation rate was so high that the Nevada Department of Education determined that it could not be publicly reported due to risk of inadvertent violation of federal privacy regulations. The school has been operating under a Notice of Concern stemming from performance under the financial framework from the 2015 – 2016 school year. Authority staff believes, however, that the school remains financially viable. This should not change as long as the school maintains sufficient enrollment.

The school is organizationally sound and Authority staff has no compliance concerns.

Authority staff recommends approval, but with conditions that will ensure that all details related to the expansion of both the Southwest and Northwest campus are in place well before they open for students for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years, respectively. The following should be submitted by the school to Authority staff for both campuses:

- Quarterly financial reports, beginning in Quarter 1 of 2019
- Proof of purchase, facility or rental agreement
- Building inspector report (if purchased)
- Final Inspection of the new facility
- All other materials required by state and federal law
- Enrollment updates for both the Southwest and Northwest campuses at least three months prior to opening

It should be noted that the current charter for Nevada State High School expires on June 30, 2022. This conditional approval does not supersede that obligation, and the renewal of the Nevada State High School charter will be considered by the Board at a later date.

**Total Current Enrollment Across All Campuses:**

Grade Level	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students						
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Pre-K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	115	110	149	136	174	218	224
12	130	116	130	176	167	216	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>489</b>

**Proposed Expanded Enrollment for the Additional Campus:**

Grade Level	Planned Enrollment at Proposed Southwest Campus - Number of Students				
	2019 – 2020	2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 - 2024
Grade 11	60	70	70	70	80
Grade 12	50	50	56	62	59
TOTAL	110	120	126	132	139

Grade Level	Planned Enrollment at Proposed Northwest Campus - Number of Students				
		2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 - 2024
Grade 11		60	70	70	70
Grade 12		50	50	56	62
TOTAL		110	120	126	132

**Full Enrollment if Approved:**

Grade Level	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students				
	2019 – 2020	2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 – 2024
Pre-K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	284	354	364	364	374
12	315	365	371	383	389
<b>Total</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>763</b>

**Background:**

**Nevada State High School Academic Performance**

Year	NSPF Rating
2012	Elementary: N/A
	Middle School: N/A
	High School: 5 Star
2013	Elementary: N/A
	Middle School: N/A
	High School: 5 Star
2014	Elementary: N/A
	Middle School: N/A
	High School: 5 Star
2015	Elementary: N/A (frozen from 2014)
	Middle School: N/A (frozen from 2014)

	High School: 5 Star (frozen from 2014)
2016	No star rating published by State
2017	Elementary: N/A
	Middle School: N/A
	High School: N/A

### School Demographic Change since 2015

NV State HS	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	341	7.3%	6.4%	49.2%	27.5%	0.5%	8.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	31.6%
NV State HS	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
16-17	434	5.2%	6.6%	49.7%	26.7%	0.4%	10.8%	0.2%	1.1%	0.2%	30.6%
NV State HS	TOTAL ENROLLED	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	492	8.7%	4.2%	46.9%	30.6%	N/A	8.3%	0.2%	0.8%	2.2%	27.4%

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

A – Asian

H – Hispanic

B – Black

C - Caucasian

I – Pacific Islander

2/MR – Two or more races

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