



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: **American Preparatory Academy of Las Vegas Amendment Request: Name Change and Grade Configuration**
DATE: July 24, 2020

Summary of Request and Recommendation

American Preparatory Academy of Las Vegas (APA) is a charter school located in Clark County, and as of the 2019 – 2020 school year, operated one campus that served 1,637 students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade.

APA has submitted an amendment seeking the following:

- 1) Approval of an official name change from American Preparatory Academy to Amplus Academy; and
- 2) Approval of changing the grade configurations for both the current and new campus that is scheduled to open this fall for the 2020-21 school year only. The current campus, hereafter referred to as the Durango campus, would serve students in 4th – 12th grades. The campus to open in the upcoming school year, hereafter referred to as the Rainbow campus, would serve students in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade. A chart below outlines the nature of this request.

	Current Configuration for 2020 – 21	Proposed Configuration for 2020 – 21
Durango Campus	Kindergarten – 12 th grade	4 th grade – 12 th grade
Rainbow Campus (new)	Kindergarten – 6 th grade	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade

SPCSA staff have reviewed the school's request for a Good Cause Exemption as well as both amendment proposals, and recommends that the Authority grant the school's Good Cause Exemption request and approve both proposals as presented.

Analysis

According to the amendment submission, the APA Board and school community would like for the school to be called Amplus Academy. The name itself is Latin and has multiple meanings, including distinguished, honorable and esteemed. The amendment submission states that these three words are to be incorporated into the new mission statement of the school because they reflect the aspirations for both the culture of the school as well as the students.

Regarding the grade configuration request, the APA board proposes that the Durango Campus, which previously served grades K-12, will serve grades 4-12 for the 2020-21 school year. The Rainbow campus, which was proposed to serve grades K-6 would instead serve grades K-3 for the 2020-21 school year. APA lists three primary reasons for this element of the amendment submission. First, APA states that the placing all K-3 students at the Durango campus and all 4th – 12th grade students at the Rainbow campus fosters ongoing teamwork and communication for instructional progress for teachers. Second, the amendment submission states that this grade configuration will create operational efficiencies at both campuses, specifically in terms of inventory and resources needed for students. Lastly, the available spaces at both campuses present benefits to the proposed student populations.

For these reasons and those listed within the amendment submission, SPCSA staff recommends approval of both requests.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request of APA and approve the requests to:

- **Rename the school Amplus Academy; and**
- **Locate Kindergarten – 3rd grade students at the Durango campus and 4th – 12th grade students at the Rainbow campus for the 2020 - 2021 school year.**

If approved, the enrollment of APA will be as follows:

School Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Durango Campus					
Grade Levels	4-12	K-12	K-12	K-12	K-12
Enrollment	1466	1616	1656	1656	1656
Rainbow Campus					
Grade Levels	K-3	K-6	K-6	K-6	K-6
Enrollment	770	640	640	640	640
Total Enrollment	2236	2256	2296	2296	2296

Nevada School Performance Framework Ratings (NSPF): American Preparatory Academy – Las Vegas

School Year	Rating(s)
2014 – 15	Elementary: Not Rated Middle: Not Rated
2015 – 16	No Star Ratings Released
2016 – 17	Elementary: 4 stars Middle: 5 stars High: Not Rated
2017 – 18	Elementary: 4 stars Middle: 5 stars High: Not Rated
2018 – 19	Elementary 2 stars ¹ Middle: 5 stars High: 2 stars

School Demographics since 2015

Year	Total Enrollment¹	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	548	14.4%	12.6%	42.7%	19.5%	0.4%	8.6%	1.9%	4.3%	6.7%	9.3%
16-17	402	16.2%	12.9%	43.4%	18.5%	0.4%	6.6%	1.9%	5.4%	3.1%	2.7%
17-18	384	17.0%	14.6%	41.4%	18.3%	0.3%	5.8%	2.6%	5.2%	3.2%	0.0%
18-19	1657	16.4%	16.1%	39.9%	18.5%	0.2%	6.2%	2.7%	5.1%	1.8%	14.4%
19-20	1637	17.3%	14.6%	39.8%	19.4%	0.1%	6.1%	2.6%	4.8%	1.5%	19.3%

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Mixed/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

¹ The Elementary school is currently operating under an Academic Notice of Concern that was issued on October 4, 2019.