



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Mike Dang, Manager, Financial and Organizational Performance  
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing  
**SUBJECT:** **Honors Academy of Literature**  
1. **Request for Approval of Request for Good Cause Exemption**  
2. **Request for Approval to expand enrollment in existing grades and facilities**  
**DATE:** August 28, 2020

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Honors Academy of Literature (Honors) is requesting the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA):

1. Approve its request for a good cause exemption to hear this matter; and
2. Approve its request to expand enrollment in existing grades and facilities

SPCSA staff have reviewed Honors' application and recommend approval of both requests.

**Background**

As of the 2019-20 school year, Honors serves 216 students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and operates under charter contract entered into in 2018 which ends after the 2023 – 24 school year. Honors is located in Washoe County at 195 N Arlington Ave, Reno, NV 89501. Andrea Morency is the Executive Director and Principal of the school. The Governing Body consists of 5 voting members and 2 non-voting members. The NSPF identified Honors as a 3-star elementary school and a 5-star middle school in 2019 and a 5 star elementary and 5 star middle school in 2018.

Honors Academy of Literature's mission is to offer a differentiated curriculum that supports education equity through consistent learning and growth; to enliven a love of learning and educational discovery through the exploration of Children's Literature; and to provide all students a foundation for excellence in education upon which to build success in future learning.

## Applicant Eligibility

When reviewing any RFA, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Upon review, staff finds Honors in compliance with SPCSA requirements.

## Analysis

According to the amendment submission, Honors would like to increase its approved enrollment cap of 211 students to 225 students beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. Honors' rationale for this increase is the school currently staffs for 12 classrooms. The amendment would allow Honors to completely fill the 12 classes while also maintaining fidelity and consistency to the school's academic model, mission, and vision.

The school facility could have up to 280 students enrolled. However, the Honors has chosen not to seek that degree of enrollment change so as to not jeopardize the flex class instruction where class size is kept low to engage in more targeted, direct, instruction for those students who need additional support. SPCSA staff find that decision commendable because Honors chooses to focus on the academic needs of its students instead over maximization of enrollment at the school.

Honors seeks no changes to its academic or operational programs with the change to the enrollment cap.

## Summary, Recommendation and Condition

For these reasons and those listed within the amendment submission, SPCSA staff recommends approval of both requests by Honors Academy for good cause exemption and increasing the enrollment cap from 211 students to 225 students with one condition.

1. Submission of a revised budget, approved by the Nevada Department of Education, after the budget true ups are finalized in the fall of 2020

## Proposed Motion:

**Approve Honors Academy's requests, first for a good cause exemption to hear this matter and, second, for it to increase its enrollment cap from 211 students to 225 students, subject to the condition described herein.**

If approved, the enrollment cap of Honors will be as follows:

School Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Enrollment	225	225	225	225

Nevada School Performance Framework Ratings (NSPF): Honors Academy of Literature

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Rating(s)</u>
2016 – 2017	Honors ES: 4 stars Honors MS: 3 stars
2017 – 2018	Honors ES: 5 stars Honors MS: 5 stars
2018 – 2019	Honors ES: 3 stars Honors MS: 5 stars

Current Enrollment Cap for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Enrollment	211	211	211	211

*School Demographics and enrollment since 2015*

Year	Total Enrollment <sup>1</sup>	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	185	2.2%	2.7%	74.1%	14.1%	2.2%	4.3%	0.5%	21.1%	2.7%	17.3%
16-17	207	0.5%	2.4%	75.4%	15.9%	1.4%	3.9%	0.5%	19.8%	1.0%	13.5%
17-18	215	0.5%	2.8%	74.0%	15.3%	0.5%	5.1%	1.9%	18.1%	0.5%	0.0%
18-19	211	0.0%	1.4%	75.4%	16.6%	0.0%	5.7%	0.9%	11.8%	1.4%	18.5%
19-20	216	1.4%	1.4%	71.3%	19.9%	0.0%	4.6%	1.4%	13.0%	1.9%	16.2%

*Note: all enrollment numbers are from Validation Day each year.*

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