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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, SPCSA  
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** Nevada Prep Charter School – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap  
**DATE:** March 3, 2023

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Nevada Prep Charter School has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school to reduce its enrollment cap for 2022-2023 school year and the remainder of the charter term.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page of 3 this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

NV Prep is a charter school in Clark County located at 1780 Betty Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89156. Its mission is to educate every third- through 8th grade scholar to excel in high school, college, and life with a focus on academic achievement and leadership development.

NV Prep, serving grades 3-8, and opened in the fall of 2018 and is currently in its fifth year of operation. According to the amendment application, NV Prep is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years. If approved, the NV Prep enrollment caps would be:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
Grade Levels	3-8	3-8	3-8	3-8
Total Enrollment	300	480	540	540

According to the amendment application, NV Prep is seeking to make the requested changes due to challenges and delays in moving into their permanent facility, which occurred at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Because of the delays, NV Prep postponed some planned enrollment growth according to the application.

NV Prep noted that in addition to the delay of planned enrollment, NV Prep hosted a short-term charter school tenant, which limited the amount of available space NV Prep had to use. The tenant’s lease was delayed through January 2023 and has since moved to a new facility. According to the amendment application, NV Prep has chosen not to add additional students this late in the school year. Beginning next school year, NV Prep will sublease to a different charter school, Rooted School – Clark County, and therefore is requesting a decrease of 95 students for their 2023-24 approved cap. According to amendment application, this decrease will have minimal impact of the overall budget of the school as the school will receive revenues from the new charter school that will be leasing their space.

NV Prep also added that recruitment has returned to a more normal pattern since being able to occupy their permanent facility and the school is on track to meet enrollment targets for August 2023. According to the amendment application, more than 225 current students are scheduled to return, and a majority of the non-returning students are eighth graders moving on to high school. NV Prep also noted that as of February 2023, more than 60 additional students have applied as friends and family of current students.

Finally, NV Prep explained in the amendment application that the reduction in enrollment will not have an impact on staffing at the school and the school is fully staffed for its current enrollment count.

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

Existing charter schools that are sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA – which is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for SPCSA Board action – in order to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, or add a new campus. When determining whether to approve an amendment request, the sponsor considers the charter school’s compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics, finance and organization of the charter school. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

**Analysis and Staff Recommendation**

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPCSA staff has waived the requirement that schools maintain enrollment levels at or above 90% of their contractual cap due to the many extenuating circumstances impacting students and families. Staff believes schools are now better positioned to adhere to this

requirement for the 2022 – 23 school year, necessitating this amendment. NV Prep’s elementary school is currently rated as a 2-star elementary school program and is operating under a notice of concern. The middle school is rated as 5-star according to the 2018 – 19 NSPF ratings. The NV Prep elementary school received 19.3 points on the 2021-2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and was found to be below standards. The Authority approved SPCSA staff to conduct additional academic monitoring during the 2022-23 school year due to the 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance results. The middle school received 84.6 points and was found to be exceeding standards.

Additionally, the school earned 90 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2021 – 22 school year as approved by the Authority on December 16, 2022. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ NV Prep has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2021 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework. Additionally, preliminary results under the 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework appear to signal that the school is in a sound financial position.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NV Prep. NV Prep continues to be a great partner for charter schools in Nevada and has been able to provide facility assistance when charter schools were unable to find a permanent facility. NV Prep provided reasonable explanations as to why they are seeking this reduction, and SPCSA staff sees no reason to decline the request. While NV Prep’s elementary school has shown a need for improvement, the middle school continues to exceed standards, which shows that as students progress through the NV Prep they do see improvements in their educational outcomes. SPCSA staff finds the staffing and budget assumptions to be reasonable as well. As such, SPCSA staff recommend the Authority approve NV Prep’s request for a reduction of its 2022-23 school year, and the remainder of the charter term.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Nevada Prep Charter School’s request to reduce its 2022-2023 approved enrollment cap from 575 students to 300 students and to reduce the cap for the remainder of the charter contract term as detailed in this recommendation memo.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for NV Prep will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	3-8	3-8	3-8	3-8
Enrollment	300	480	540	540

The current, approved, enrollment caps for NV Prep is as follows:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	575	575	575	575

**School Demographics change since 2018 – NV Prep**

**NV Prep**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	113	0.0%	17.6%	9.7%	70.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	13.2%	18.5%	90.2%
19-20	214	0.4%	13.0%	15.8%	70.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	14.4%	22.4%	>95%
20-21	246	1.2%	15.4%	8.9%	73.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%	10.9%	25.6%	>95%
21-22	215	1.8%	26.9%	6.5%	63.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	11.1%	28.8%	>95%
22-23	283	2.1%	26.5%	5.3%	64.3%	1.4%	0.0%	0.3%	13.4%	29.3%	>95%

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C – Caucasian
- 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

**NV Prep Financial Performance**

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard

**NV Prep Organizational Performance**

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard

## NV Prep Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2021 – 2022 Index Scores	Elementary Index Score: 12.2 Middle Index School: 74.4
2020 – 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars
2019 – 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars
2018 – 2019	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars

## NV Prep 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results<sup>3</sup>

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NV Prep ES	19.3	BELOW STANDARD
NV Prep MS	84.6	EXCEEDS STANDARD

<sup>1</sup> Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020-21 school year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020-21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate new Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020-21 school year.

<sup>2</sup> Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings

<sup>3</sup> The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>