

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT: **Futuro Academy – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap**
DATE: July 28, 2023

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Futuro Academy (Futuro) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the school to reduce the enrollment cap for the 2023 – 24 school year from 522 to 450 students and to also reduce its enrollment cap for remainder of its 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 Analysis

Futuro is located at 920 N Lamb Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89110 and serves 462 students in grades K – 5 as of the 2022 Validation Day. According to the amendment application, given the increase in per-pupil allocations as part of the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session, part of Futuro’s strategic plan has been to reduce class sizes due to the generalized academic and socio-emotional benefits to students, teacher morale and working conditions. Additionally, according to the amendment application, Futuro’s current charter contract was entered into in 2021, under unique and difficult circumstances during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, schools were directed to assume a potential 10-14% shortfall in revenues. As a result, Futuro provided enrollment projections to the SPCSA, and requested their baseline be set to 522 students.

With the approval of additional funding for public schools during the 2023 Legislative Session, Futuro would like to reduce the previous enrollment cap of 522 students down to 450 to allow for a smaller student to teacher class size ratio which is more in line with the mission and vision of the school. According to the amendment application, Futuro does not expect this cap reduction to adversely impact students currently enrolled at the school. As of July 2023, Futuro had 511 enrollments completed, however considering past enrollment precedent, Futuro expects attrition prior to count day, and is forecasting 455-465 students by the October 1, 2023, count day. According to the amendment application, in order to ensure that the school meets the 10% threshold of the 450-student enrollment cap, Futuro will not backfill seats that become vacant over the coming months in order to ensure they do not go 10% above their cap.

Futuro also noted in the amendment application that families enrolled at the school are supportive of ensuring smaller classroom sizes and are supportive of the school’s request to cap the enrollment at 450. Additionally, Futuro submitted an updated budget which contemplates the lower enrollment cap, and the financial condition of the school remains strong at the requested cap level.

If approved, the enrollment cap for Futuro will be:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	450	450	450

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. Futuro has yet to be rated under the Nevada School Performance Framework. Following the two-year gap in new star ratings due to the impacts of COVID-19 and a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, the 2021 – 2022 NSPS index score for Futuro was 20.0 and 25.0 under the SPCSA’s Academic Framework score which did not meet the standards. The Authority approved SPCSA staff to conduct additional academic monitoring of Futuro at its November 18, 2023, board meeting.

Additionally, the school earned 98 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.’ Futuro has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2022 SPCSA

Financial Performance Framework, which was approved at the March 3, 2023 SPCSA board meeting.

Overall, SPCSA staff will continue to monitor Futuro with regard to academic performance but is supportive of Futuro’s plan to reduce enrollment in order to allow the school to refocus its academic efforts to improve outcomes for students and to create smaller class sizes which will also allow for more engagement between students and their teachers. SPCSA staff initially was concerned this reduction would impact family’s ability to re-enroll at the school, but as noted previously in the memo, Futuro will continue to serve all students who currently have a seat and will reduce its enrollment through natural attrition and not backfilling vacancies as they open. Staff also appreciates that Futuro is seeking to implement transportation as part of its overall plan, and staff looks forward to seeing positive outcomes for families attending the school. Additionally, as previously noted in this memo, Futuro submitted a budget that showed the school not being negatively affected by reducing the approved enrollment cap, and staff finds the budget to be reasonable based on the lower enrollment.

Proposed Motion:

Grant Futuro Academy a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request of the school to reduce the enrollment cap for the 2023 – 24 school year, and remainder of the charter term, from 522 students to 450.

If approved, the enrollment cap for Futuro Academy will be:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	450	450	450

The currently approved enrollment cap for Futuro Academy is:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5
Total Enrollment	522	522	522

Historical Performance and Demographic Information – Futuro Academy

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	110	0.9%	9.0%	6.3%	81.8%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	*	35.4%	80.0%
18-19	259	1.5%	10.4%	4.6%	78.3%	0.7%	3.8%	0.3%	<5	37.8%	86.8%
19-20	342	1.1%	11.4%	4.0%	79.8%	0.8%	2.6%	0.0%	5.8%	46.7%	>95%
20-21	435	0.9%	8.2%	5.2%	81.8%	0.6%	2.7%	0.2%	6.4%	46.2%	>95%
21-22	476	1.0%	7.5%	5.0%	83.1%	0.0%	2.9%	0.2%	7.3%	46.4%	>95%
22-23	462	1.2%	9.7%	4.7%	80.9%	0.2%	2.5%	0.4%	6.4%	44.8%	>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

Futuro Academy Charter School Financial Performance

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

Futuro Academy Charter School Organizational Performance

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

Futuro Academy Academic Performance

Year	Rating
2021 – 2022 Index Scores	ES: 20.0

2020 - 2021 ¹	Not Rated
2019 – 2020 ²	Not Rated
2018 – 2019	Not Rated
2017 – 2018	Not Rated

Futuro Academy 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results³

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Futuro ES	25.0	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020 – 21 school year waiver from the US 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 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020 – 21 school year.

² 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

³ 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>