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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Mike Dang, Manager of Organizational and Financial Performance  
Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Transportation Plan: Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus  
**DATE:** October 13, 2023

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**Background**

[Assembly Bill 400 \(2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature\)](#) appropriated \$7 million to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for each year of the upcoming biennium (the 2023-24 fiscal year and the 2024-25 fiscal year) to award to charter schools, including SPCSA-sponsored and district-sponsored charter schools, to fund student transportation. To receive funding, a charter school must submit a Transportation Plan to the SPCSA and the SPCSA may approve the Transportation Plan and award funding to the charter school if the plan meets the following criteria:

1. “The transportation plan is comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented;
2. The transportation plan will materially improve access to education in the region served by the transportation plan;
3. The transportation plan demonstrates that the charter school will be able to comply with statutory and regulatory transportation requirements, including, without limitation, the certification of bus drivers and vehicle safety;
4. The transportation plan is financially viable;
5. The transportation plan would not cost more, on a per pupil basis, than the average cost for transportation for other public schools operating in the school district in which the charter school is located; and

6. The academic, financial and organizational performance of the charter school indicate that the transportation plan is in the interest of pupils who will be served by the transportation plan.”<sup>1</sup>

It is important to note that pursuant to NAC 388A.330(4), a charter school is only permitted to provide transportation to pupils if the school has approval to do so from its sponsor. Therefore, charter schools that are not already approved to provide student transportation will be required to submit to their sponsor a contract amendment request in order to implement the Transportation Plan. For those schools sponsored by the SPCSA, the amendment request to provide student transportation was incorporated into the application process, and the SPCSA Board will consider approval of the amendment request in conjunction with the Transportation Plan.

Applications for the 2023-24 school year will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis from July 7, 2023 and through September 30, 2023<sup>2</sup>. While the SPCSA hopes to fund all applicants that submit a compliant transportation plan, because there is only \$7 million available in each school year, the SPCSA may prioritize funding Title I charter schools.

Additional details and form associated with the Transportation Plan and Funding Application can be found on the [SPCSA’s website](#).

## **Transportation Plan Overview**

Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus (Legacy Cadence) is requesting a total of \$243,000 to implement the school’s Transportation Plan. Below is an overview of the proposed Transportation Plan for Legacy Cadence, as provided in the application.

“Legacy Traditional at the Cadence Campus qualifies to apply for \$538,821 according to our Quarter 4 Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) Report from 2022-23. We are applying for \$243,000 with the following goals in mind: safety, efficiency, and support to families. Our families are dedicated to Legacy Cadence and we want to show them the appreciation they deserve by making enrollment more accessible using transportation.

The Legacy Cadence campus is currently under-enrolled, but not for lack of interest in Legacy Traditional Schools. Our Southwest campus has an extensive waitlist which demonstrates that there are many families eager to join the Legacy community if space were to become available. As of September 28, the Southwest campus had a waitlist of nearly 1800 students seeking to enroll. Many of our current and prospective students live in southern Las Vegas, and survey data suggests that some would be open to commuting to Cadence if transportation was an option. As a result, we are applying to have a bus run from Legacy Traditional at the Southwest campus to the Cadence campus with strategic stops in between should space allow. We also plan to have an additional route from Boulder City to Cadence to accommodate underserved students in southeast Las Vegas and Boulder City

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<sup>1</sup> Section 28.5 of Assembly Bill 400 (2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature)

<sup>2</sup> After September 30, 2023, the SPCSA will determine if there are remaining funds that have not yet been awarded. If funds remain, the SPCSA will re-open the transportation application.

should additional space remain at the Cadence campus after drawing from the waitlist. Recruiting from these two geographical areas will allow us to reach eager families who already want to come to a Legacy Traditional School. Funds will be used to contract services with a transportation provider and to purchase two buses that we will lease to the service provider.

Since each bus will be accommodating many scholars, we are proposing that each bus has a Safety Coordinator to ensure safety at the bus stops and on the bus ride.

Legacy also plans to use funds for truancy support and a truancy support vehicle. Given that truancy is a concern across the network, this vehicle may support students also attending the North Valley and Southwest campuses in addition to Cadence and could be used in certain, unique situation to support student attendance and/or home visits when necessary.”

### **Analysis and Recommendation**

Legacy Cadence is a Title I School and is requesting approval of its Transportation Plan and funding to implement the Transportation Plan. In addition, because Legacy Cadence is not currently approved to provide transportation, the school is also requesting to amend its charter contract to provide transportation and has submitted a good cause exemption request to have this amendment considered outside of the established amendment windows.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the Transportation Plan and find that the Plan meets the requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 400.

1. The Transportation Plan is comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented.
2. The narrative provided by the school explains that “If the transportation plan is approved and funded, Legacy Traditional Cadency will be able to serve a more significant geographical area. The proposed plan would expand our equitable recruitment footprint to include more of the Las Vegas area while improving access to our programming by students and families currently on our waitlist.” This demonstrates that the Transportation Plan will materially improve access to education in the region.
3. The Transportation Plan includes details regarding how the charter school will ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory transportation requirements.
4. The budget provided within the Transportation Plan demonstrates that the Transportation Plan is financially viable.
5. The average daily enrollment for Legacy Cadence during the fourth quarter of the 2022-23 school year was 1,120. Legacy Cadence is located in Clark County where the four-year average (per pupil) in transportation funding for the 2023-24 school year is \$481. The total funding request for Legacy Cadence was \$243,000, which is less than or equal to the average cost, per pupil, for transportation within the Clark County School District.
6. The academic, financial and organizational performance of the charter school indicate that the transportation plan is in the interest of pupils who will be served by the transportation plan. Specifically, the Transportation Plan indicates that transportation will reduce chronic absenteeism, as supported by large scale national research, as well as

increase operational efficiencies at the beginning and end of the school day for arrival and dismissal of students.

Therefore, SPCSA staff recommend approval of the Legacy Cadence Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the plan. Furthermore, SPCSA staff recommend approval of the good cause exemption and amendment request to enable the school to provide transportation to students.

Proposed Motion:

1. Approve the Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus to allow the school to provide student transportation.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.

*If approved, the enrollment for the remainder of the contract term will remain unchanged:*

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Total Enrollment	1,450	1,450	1,450