

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**Melissa Mackedon**  
*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

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** Southern Nevada Trades High School – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap  
**DATE:** March 1, 2024

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Southern Nevada Trades High School (SNTHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to reduce its 2023-24 enrollment cap.

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 3 of this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

SNTHS is located at the 1580 Bledsoe Lane Las Vegas 89110. SNTHS is currently in its first year of operation and serves grades 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and will add 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades over the next two school years. As of Validation Day 2023, SSA had 83 students enrolled.

The mission of SSA is, “To promote excellence in academic and career and technical education, preparing students for post-secondary education and careers in construction-related professions.”

According to the application, SNTHS is requesting to decrease its enrollment cap for the 2023-24 year to 87 students from the originally planned 200. SNTHS noted in its amendment application that enrollment was greatly affected by the delay in the building project and due to this delay school appeared to be a church until the week before the start date and SNTHS was unable to host tours of the new facility.

Additionally, the school has engaged an outreach coordinator as well as social media marketers. However, its main focus is on building relationships with key individuals at feeder schools and SNTHS has found success in establishing those and reaching potential families. SNTHS is also engaging current families and students as ambassadors to bring families to events and on tours.

SNTHS has engaged in a substantial fundraising drive prior to opening and was able to raise \$819,000 in addition to per-pupil funding. According to the amendment application, it was especially pertinent for the school to strengthen and refine its fundraising capabilities for the year.

SNTHS does not expect any staffing changes due to the lower than projected enrollment, and expects to have more success meeting enrollment projections during the 2024-25 school year since the facility is completed and more families are able to tour the site. The school is contracting with a bus company to provide pick-up/drop-off services to select students which SNTHS expects to further improve enrollment next school year.

If approved, SSA’s enrollment cap for the remainder of its charter term would be:

| <b>School Year</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> | <b>2025-26</b> | <b>2026-27</b> | <b>2027-28</b> | <b>2028-29</b> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Grade Levels       | 9 – 10         | 9 – 11         | 9 – 12         | 9 – 12         | 9 – 12         | 9 – 12         |
| Total Enrollment   | 84             | 300            | 400            | 450            | 500            | 550            |

**Legal Authority**

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 for RFA eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. SNTHS is in its first year of

operation and has not been rated academically, financially, or organizationally, however, staff finds no current issues that would impact the eligibility of this amendment request.

SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request of SNTHS to reduce its enrollment cap from 200 students to 84 students for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Southern Nevada Trades High School’s request to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2023-24 school year.**

If approved, Southern Nevada Trade High School’s enrollment cap for its charter term will be:

| School Year      | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Grade Levels     | 9 – 10  | 9 – 11  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  |
| Total Enrollment | 84      | 300     | 400     | 450     | 500     | 550     |

The current approved Southern Nevada Trades High School’s enrollment cap for its charter is:

| School Year      | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Grade Levels     | 9 – 10  | 9 – 11  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  | 9 – 12  |
| Total Enrollment | 200     | 300     | 400     | 450     | 500     | 550     |

**School Demographics since 2022 – Strong Start Academy Elementary School**

| Year  | Enrollment | A    | B     | C     | H     | I    | M    | P    | IEP   | ELL   | FRL   |
|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 23-24 | 83         | 0.0% | 25.3% | 22.8% | 49.3% | 0.0% | 1.2% | 1.2% | 19.2% | 12.0% | 61.4% |

- 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
- \* - Suppressed data due to n-count

**Financial Performance – Not Rated**

**Organizational Performance – Not Rated**

**Academic Performance – Not Rated**