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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Patrick Gavin and Nya Berry
SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 13—Pre-Kindergarten Memorandum of Understanding
DATE: September 29, 2017

Background:

In December of 2014, Nevada was selected as an award recipient of the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Preschool Development Grants program. The first year grant allotment was over \$6.4 million with a potential allotment over the next four years exceeding \$43 million. Governor Sandoval and the Nevada legislature supported with matching state funds, the improvement and expansion of full day Pre-Kindergarten seats in high quality early learning programs across the state while providing critical wraparound support for vulnerable families.

Goals and Objectives:

The Office of Early Learning and Development in the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), through the Nevada Ready! Pre-K Development Grant (PDG), will enhance state capacity to implement and sustain voluntary high quality pre-K programs in identified high-needs communities. This work will build off the existing successful state programs to develop an aligned system to support our youngest learners and their families.

Use of Funds:

NDE will work closely with all sub-grantees to align Pre-K development allocation in each high-need community. Each sub-grantee will be responsible to work with NDE to ensure that all development funds for expanded and improved high-quality Pre-K seats are monitored to ensure compliance with ECE, federal, state, and local policy and procedures.

The Authority is an approved sub-grantee of the Nevada Department of Education's Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant.

The Department of Education has directed the Agency to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department for Fiscal Year 2018 (This is the third year of the grant.) Additionally, the Authority is to execute an MOU with each charter school that is a sub-grantee for this particular grant program. Currently the SPCSA works with charter schools across the state in the identified communities written into the original proposal to the U.S. Department of Education. This year

charter schools will implement over 240 seats in collaboration with their K-8 programs. In Southern Nevada, Mater Academy and Coral Academy will implement 150 seats. In Northern Nevada, High Desert Montessori, Mariposa Academy, Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School, and Elko Institute of Academic Achievement in collaboration with Great Basin College are implementing 90 seats.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the MOU and requests that the Authority authorize the Chair and the Executive Director to execute the MOU between the Authority and the Department and the MOU between the Authority and each sub-grantee school upon receipt of the document from each charter school.