



New Applicant Addendum Response

In accordance with AB 462, the SPCSA staff shall additionally “consider the degree to which the proposed public charter school will address the needs identified” in determining their application recommendations to the board.

Targeted Plan

(3) The SPCSA has defined demographic and academic needs as follows:

Demographics: Applicants meeting this need will propose a school model that includes demonstrated capacity, credible plans, and thorough research and analysis in order to intentionally serve the following student populations, each of which has been identified as persistently underperforming based on data provided by the Nevada Department of Education: Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, English Learners, and students with IEPs. Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to support these student populations in achieving academic performance at or above the state average.

Pahrump Valley Academy, herein referred to as PVA, is a proposed college preparatory public, charter school that will serve students in grades K-8, in the township of Pahrump, in Nye County, Nevada. PVA has developed a school model based on research and analysis in order to intentionally serve the following student populations, each of which has been identified as persistently underperforming based on the data provided by the Nevada Department of Education: Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch or socioeconomically disadvantaged students (SED), English Learners (EL), and students with disabilities (SWD).

The decision to serve the Pahrump community has been developed over time. As the township of Pahrump has grown so rapidly, it has struggled to establish and grow a strong infrastructure which includes high quality schools. PVA is attempting to change that by providing an option for families to choose a high quality, college preparatory elementary and middle school. Based on the demographics of special populations that was listed on the Nevada Report Card for 2017-2018 for Nye County School District (NCSD), the results are 76.73% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED), 7.53% English Learners (EL), and 14.65% Students with Disabilities (SWD).

The PVA Committee to Form has the demonstrated capacity to successfully serve this community. The PVA proposed Executive Director has taught in schools in Los Angeles and Las Vegas with similar demographics of SED students and SWD, but with a larger population of EL. Relevant to the high numbers of SED, SWD and EL, the proposed Executive Director is completing a doctorate in Cognition and Instruction. With this skillset, she has the capacity to address student needs by accelerating academic achievement. The PVA proposed Principal has taught and administrated in San Antonio with a similar demographic of SED students and SWD, again with a larger population of EL. More importantly, the proposed Principal taught SWD and then evaluated and oversaw the Special Education Department. For further information on the proposed school leaders track records of accelerating student achievement, please refer to Appendix 3. The proposed Office Manager currently works at a school in the NCSD and is well acquainted with the youth and the families served locally. In addition, the Committee Form has been carefully selected with respect to the diverse skills and interest in serving the children of Pahrump. Maria Jenkins, Ph.D., brings with



her the knowledge and experience of an Honor's Program university professor which includes, but is not limited to, what is required of a learner in order to one day succeed in higher education. Tom Waters, Ed.D., brings the knowledge and experience of a retired school principal with current Nevada instructional and administrative licenses, and a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, as well as, intimate familiarity with the culture, resources, and needs of Pahrump as only a Pahrump political insider (former town board member) may. Justin Curnutt, D.Ph. brings with him the knowledge and experience of a doctor in health sciences, as well as, intimate familiarity with the culture, resources, and needs of Pahrump as only a Pahrump business insider (Vice President of Pahrump Chamber of Commerce) may. Jonathon K. Nelson, J.D., brings the legal knowledge and experience of Pahrump's highest rated, best known attorney. Kenneth Johnson, M.T., brings the knowledge and experience of a retired teacher with a current Nevada teaching license and that of a successful entrepreneur in mass media. Michael Hines brings the financial knowledge of running a bank and serving as the Vice President. Collectively, the members of the Board hold four (4) Doctorates and five (5) Master's Degrees among them, as evidence not only of their authority level expertise in their fields, but also of their personal commitment to educational best. In addition, they each have a strong tie to either the local community of Pahrump, to the greater community of education, or to both Pahrump and education.

The educational plan is exceedingly credible to address the needs of the students in Pahrump to include serving the demographics of special populations. The education plan includes providing a classical education that is aligned with State and Common Core standards that address learning a required for college and career readiness. Trivium is a pedagogical practice established in a three part pattern (Bauer, 2018). In early elementary, the focus includes establishing a strong and solid foundation for advanced studies including mastery of recall and reproduction of facts and figures, demonstration of skills and concepts and a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy. In later elementary, the focus builds on the first part of the trivium and develops strategic thinking, exploration of logic for advanced studies including mastery of reasoning in both analytical and synthetical cognitive processing and relevant approaches to exploration. In middle school, the focus includes shifts toward the third part of the trivium. The focus includes mastery of the first and second part of trivium necessitates exploration of various knowledge domains. This plan ensures that the students of PVA have a strong academic foundation that will prepare students for high school. The practices of strategic thinking, exploration, analysis and exploration support the experiences needed for SED students, the linguistic needs of EL, and the differentiation and kinesthetic learning needs of SWD. This model will be supported by powerful interventions monitored and adjusted every six to eight weeks to ensure students are making academic growth in all areas and by enrichment including art, music and French to rounding out education and providing opportunities for the students to flourish in a literate world. The instructional strategies to be used will include: Explicit Direct Instruction (Archer & Hughes, 2011), Socratic Seminar, Graphic Organizers, Checking for Understanding (American Educator, 2012), Accessing and Activating Prior Knowledge, and Constructed Writing Response. These instructional strategies support all students, but especially students in special populations.

Academic Needs: Geographies with 1 and 2 Star Schools: Applicants meeting this need will seek to provide access to 3, 4 and 5-Star schools in zip codes where students are attending a 1- or 2 Star



school. A map and list of zip codes will be provided; SPCSA public charter schools will be removed from the data set used to identify zip codes.

The goal of PVA is to provide access to 3, 4 and 5-Star schools in zip codes where students are attending a 1 or 2-Star school. PVA proposes to serve the community of Pahrump as identified by the three (3) zip codes of 89048, 89060, and 89061, with particular focus on serving the geographic area located within the zip code of 89048. 89048 is served by J. G. Johnson Elementary School, which has a one (1) Star school serving 488 students K-5, with a record of 100% SED students, 10.38% EL and 19.05% SWD. The students scores are 22.8% of students who met or exceeded mastery standards in English Language Arts and 16% of students who met or exceeded mastery standards in Mathematics as reported by the Nevada State Report Card 2017-2018. The middle school that serves 89048 is served by Rosemary Clarke Middle School which has a two (2) Star school serving 982 students 6-8, and it is the only Pahrump middle school option. The student scores are 41.1% of students who met or exceeded mastery standards in English Language Arts and 28.5% of students who met or exceeded mastery standards in Mathematics as reported by the Nevada State Report Card 2017-2018.

PVA is committed to achieving a minimum of a 4-Star School rating by the end of the Charter Term.

Academic Need: Students at Risk of Dropping out of School: Applicants meeting this need will propose a public charter school model that includes demonstrated capacity, credible plans, and thorough research and analysis in order to prevent at-risk students from dropping out of school. Models may include but are not limited to programs designed for populations most at-risk of dropping out or programs aimed at enabling credit-deficient students to get back on track to graduate. Applicants should demonstrate a strong understanding of grade-level appropriate indicators for successful high school completion, such as early literacy, attendance, and credit sufficiency and plans to enable students to successfully meet these milestones.

PVA is a proposed college preparatory public, charter school that will serve students in grades K-8 in the township of Pahrump in order to prevent at-risk students from dropping out of school. The building blocks of college preparation begins in Kindergarten. In the charter application, PVA reviewed the 2017-2018 Graduation Rate. NCS D has a 79.31% graduation rate which is lower than the state at 80.85% which means that over 20% of the students in NCS D do not earn a high school diploma. Of the students successfully graduating, fewer are meeting the requirements to enter the state's higher education systems, as the ACT scores for the only high school in the NCS D serving the Pahrump Valley is 17, lower than the average ACT score at UNLV which is 22.

Moreover, the emergent trend in the community is a growing number of young people who are opting to not go to school through the traditional means. The Pathway Alternative Education has been provided by the school district as means to provide a last recourse to students prior to dropping out of the school system that is their only educational choice. Unfortunately, in Pahrump, Pathway has experienced its own share of difficulties. **143 high schoolers** enter Pathway Alternative Education Systems of the NCS D of whom only **47.69%** will graduate with a **13.82** ACT composite. **37 middle schoolers** enter Pathway Alternative Education Systems of the NCS D with 34.7% of the students scoring met and exceeded standard mastery in English Language Arts and only 9% in Mathematics.



Respectively, as educators, we know today that high school graduation is not an event, rather the culmination of a process. It is the culmination of a cognitive process which begins in kindergarten and the foundation of which must be properly established in grades kindergarten to eight. Pahrump Valley College Preparatory Academy proposes to establish an educational institution committed to building the said building blocks in the youths partly forgotten, partly given upon, in the high needs zip code of 89048. Important to the PVA curriculum is its definition of College Preparedness. PVA defines College Preparedness in first being grade level and beyond literate. The aforementioned means that at the end of grade 8, a PVA student is expected to be able to communicate through both the system of words and numbers at the given grade level or above. This expectation is not only placed on the learner and the teacher, but also on the institution, its leadership (site level, executive level, and Board level). PVA understands that teaching through role modeling extends to role modeling the assumption of responsibility and takes it very seriously. Moreover, as a member of the community in question, the PVA site leadership, executive leadership and majority of the Board leadership are personally invested in the given community. The Committee to Form lives in the community, attends church in the community, work in the community, and frequents the community's restaurants, coffees shops, and pubs.

Additionally, of the students successfully graduating, fewer are meeting the requirements to enter the state's higher education systems, as the ACT scores for the only high school in the Nye County School District serving the Pahrump Valley is 17, lower than the average ACT score at UNLV which is 22. The current body of research for preschool argues that early education prevents future high school drop outs. The need to add high-quality early-childhood interventions to reduce well-documented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in school readiness shows to reduce high school dropout rates (Fiscella, 2008). The PVA's educational program incorporates these strong academic interventions, focus on positive daily attendance and enrichment which inspires students to come to school daily and timely and experience opportunities like art, music and French which are frequently removed from traditional public schools.

According to the latest data made available by the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the state university of Nevada's Southern region campus, of the first-time/full-time learners who entered the university in 2013, 52.8% had not completed their degrees by 2017. The UNLV four-year graduation rates rank half that of the Nation's (College Factual, n.d.). Meanwhile, UNLV is a university driven to rise through the academic ranks, as it has through successful investments in scientific research and discovery elevated its research activity ranking to R1, very high research activity (UNLV, n.d.). The combination of highest investments in research activity by the university and lagging behind four-year graduation rates by its first-year/full-time students speak to the importance and urgency of the problem of not only raising the graduation rates in the region, but also raising the quality of kindergarten to twelfth grade education in the region.

PVA intends to utilize Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math which will provide schoolwide reading and calculation intervention and enrichment programs. Since early literacy and numeracy are mandatory for future academic success. PVA supports the Reading by Nine program which is well-documented to prove a reduction in high school dropout rates. The educational model that PVA will follow is a Multi-Tier Support System. The schoolwide intervention and enrichment programs will serve students on the basis of skill level rather than grade level in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. The students' progress will be



monitored every eight weeks. Eight weeks are deemed sufficient to effectively intervene and correct achievement gaps prior to their upsurge and expansion (Buffum, Mattos, & Webber, 2012), and prior to the student's acceptance of the said gap as a part of his or her academic identity.

Given the above definitions, please describe how your proposed school would meet one or more of the needs defined in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. Note that the SPCSA will evaluate charter applications based upon both the public charter school application rubric and the proposed school's plans to meet statewide academic and demographic needs found within the Needs Assessment. More information can be found within the Needs Assessment, which can be found [here](#).

In accordance with AB 462, the SPCSA staff shall additionally “solicit input from the board of trustees of the school district in which the proposed public charter school will be located” in determining their application recommendations to the board.

To support the SPSCA, the Pahrump Valley Academy Committee to Form, met with the Nye County Superintendent of Schools in Spring 2019 and additionally has procured support from the Nye County Board of County Commissioners. Please find the attached letter of support for Pahrump Valley Academy.

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August 6, 2019

Charter School Authority of Nevada
twaters2015@gmail.com

Subject: Support for Pahrump Valley Academy

To the Charter School Authority of Nevada:

Nye County is the largest county in the Silver State and the third largest county in the contiguous United States. It expands over 18,000 square miles throughout the Southern Nevada. Its seat is Tonopah, but its largest most populated town is Pahrump. As of the 2010 U.S. Census, Pahrump population has been reported to be 43,946. Nye County, including the Township of Pahrump in Nye County, is governed by a five-person Board of County Commissioners: District 1, Commissioner Lorinda Wichman; District 2, Commissioner John Koenig, Chairman; District 3, Commissioner Donna Cox; District 4, Commissioner Leo Blundo; District 5, Commissioner Debra Strickland, Vice Chair.

As this board, we govern Nye County with the intent of improving the quality of life across its cities, townships, and neighborhoods. Education is one of the most important elements determining the quality of life for families in every American neighborhood. Recognizing and acknowledging this importance, on January 7, 2019, we, the Board of County Commissioners of Nye County recognized the January 20-26, 2019 as the Nye County School Choice Week and as such brought School Choice to the attention of all of our citizens, in the county. This attention has been focused on the subject for some time now by one of our local citizens, Sable Marandi.

Sable Marandi is known in Pahrump as the doctoral researcher and the cognitive scientist, the very passionate educator, who has become the community advocate and torch-bearer for new possibilities offered through college preparatory education. She has introduced herself before the town at our commissioners' meetings, held public town halls, even been written about in our local newspaper. She has captured the attention of the parents and families and it is our understanding that well over 100 learners in the town of Pahrump have been enrolled by their families and legal guardians in her proposed charter school, Pahrump Valley Academy.

We have recognized January 20-26, 2019 as Nye County School Choice Week, one of our citizens has educated our citizens as to that choice, even engaged many of them in personally embracing it. We now ask that you do your part and help bring choice to our citizens. Please authorize the proposed charter school Pahrump Valley Academy, PVA.


Sincerely,



John Koenig, Chairman



Debra Strickland, Vice Chairman



Lorinda Wichman, Commissioner



Leo Blunde, Commissioner



Donna Cox, Commissioner