



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mike Dang, Manager, Financial and Organizational Performance
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - Contract Amendment Request: Addition of a
Program where Students may Earn College Credits
DATE: April 24, 2020

Summary of Request:

Pinecrest Academy of Las Vegas (PAN) is seeking from the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority approval to implement a dual credit program for eligible high school students in the Pinecrest Academy of Las Vegas network.

Under [NRS 389.310](#), each “school district and charter school shall enter into cooperative agreements with one or more community colleges, state colleges and universities to offer dual credit courses to pupils enrolled in the school district or charter school.”

PAN also requests a good-cause exemption to submit this after-the-fact RFA. This is an after-the-fact request as the school has already implemented their Dual Credit program.

SPCSA staff recommend approval of the PAN requests.

Background:

PAN opened its first campus in 2012, serving students in grades K-7. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada has grown to five campuses located across the Las Vegas Valley, serving students in grades K-12. Its mission is “Pinecrest Academy of Nevada unites the community to prepare students for college and career.” Its vision is “Scholars perform at the highest level on all academic measures.”

PAN began offering dual credit options to student in Fall 2018 although the initial MOU with the College of Southern Nevada has been revised since that time. The duration of the current MOU runs from October 1, 2019, through May 31, 2024, with written confirmation to extend for an additional

five years through May 31, 2029. Either party may terminate the MOU without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice and any PAN students will be able to complete the course(s) they are enrolled in pursuant to the MOU at the time notice.

PAN hopes to be approved for the addition of a dual _credit program in order to enhance student outcomes and “prepare students for college and career” as aligned to their mission. As stated in the application, PAN’s Governing Board, Executive Director, and campus principals will ensure that the school’s values of high academic achievement, community unity, and quality school operations are implemented and executed faithfully with the addition of this requested dual credit program. To do so, according to the application, PAN will implement best practices and use system-wide resources to minimize the potential for otherwise common issues.

CSN staff will also provide a new student orientation to PAN students as well as access to academic advisors and success coaches. According to the application, these are the same services provided to any CSN student. PAN is responsible to pay for all application fees to PAN students enrolled at CSN. CSN will charge via CSN invoice within 30 days of the start of the courses and Pinecrest Academy will submit payment within 30 days of receipt of invoice. PAN plans to pursue grants and other funding opportunities to help support their students in the dual enrollment program.

As stated in the application and the MOU, CSN requires all dual credit students to attend an orientation prior to the start of their classes where policies and practices are reviewed with participants. Both CSN and PAN will be responsible to initiate and maintain respective student attendance and grades for the courses in which they are enrolled.

CSN will comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). PAN students must sign a FERPA document before CSN will release any academic records to PAN schools. Upon successful completion of any course in which a student is enrolled, CSN will award corresponding credits listed in the CSN course catalog at CSN and credit for a course at PAN. A PAN staff member charged with maintaining student records will ensure the appropriate credit(s) are entered onto student transcripts. Communication between CSN and PAN will be ongoing throughout the various sports seasons in order to monitor student attendance and academic achievement in accordance with Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association’s eligibility requirements.

As stated in the application, PAN’s request does not affect its current Academic, Operational, or Financial plan.

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for consideration of approval of a contract amendment a school must timely submit a complete and accurate RFA, in accordance with the requirements and directions stated in the RFA application.

The RFA application includes Eligibility Requirements that a charter school must be “meeting the requirements of the performance framework concerning academics, finances or organization”, in good standing in all three domains of the Authority’s academic, financial and

organizational performance frameworks and it must not be considered a low-performing school or otherwise ineligible. This includes those schools rated at the approaches standards, unsatisfactory, or critical level on the authority performance framework either in aggregate or at the elementary, middle, or high school level. This memo now summarizes staff's review in light of the Eligibility Requirements.

1. Academic Performance Framework

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada has achieved one of the three highest ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools, putting it in good standing. Please see the attached Academic Performance table.

2. Financial Performance Framework

Pinecrest "met standards" for all 8 measures in the two most recent years available (SYE 18 and SYE 17).

3. Organizational Performance Framework

While this framework was approved by the Authority over the summer, School-Year-End results were not contemplated for or available for (SYE) 2019-2020. This framework primarily covers compliance with legal requirements including with Open Meeting Laws, compliance reporting, meeting reporting requirements and other matters. To date, staff finds Pinecrest Academy to be in compliance and in good standing.

Staff have reviewed the application in light of relevant NRS law and NAC regulations mentioned above, the RFA template with its Eligibility Requirements, and prior and current best practices. Staff finds Pinecrest in good standing with regards to the performance framework and also with regards to the statutory, regulatory and SPCSA requirements mentioned above.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Despite submitting this request for amendment after-the-fact, SPCSA staff believe that offering dual credit courses is in the best interest of students. Because this amendment will both enable the school to come into compliance with NRS 389.310 and to provide access to college-level coursework to students, SPCSA staff recommend that the board:

1. Approve the Good-Cause exemption;
2. Approve the PAN RFA to implement a dual credit program for all eligible high school students enrolled in the PAN Las Vegas network, subject to the following condition:
 - a. Supporting documentation that the governing body of PAN has applied and been approved by the State Board, thereby permitting students to earn dual credit.

Proposed Motion:

Approve, with conditions described herein, Pinecrest Academy of Nevada’s request to implement a dual credit program for all eligible high school students enrolled in the Pinecrest Academy of Nevada Las Vegas network.

Background:

Academic Performance of Pinecrest Academy of Las Vegas

Year	NSPF Rating
2019	Cadence elementary: 4 stars Cadence middle: 5 stars Horizon Campus elementary: 4 stars Inspirada elementary: 5 stars Inspirada middle: 5 stars St. Rose elementary: 4 stars St. Rose middle: 4 stars
2018	Cadence elementary: 5 stars Cadence middle: 5 stars Horizon Campus elementary: 5 stars Inspirada elementary: 5 stars Inspirada middle: 5 stars St. Rose elementary: 4 stars St. Rose middle: 5 stars
2017	Elementary: 5 stars Middle: 5 stars

School Demographic Change since 2016 (prior to 17-18, demographic data was not separated by campus)

Name	Year	Total Enrolled	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
PAN Systemwide	2016-2017	3716	7.2%	5.1%	54.5%	21.3%	0.4%	9.9%	1.6%	8.2%	1.7%	22.0%
PAN Horizon	2017-2018	866	3.8%	8.2%	55.2%	25.3%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	11.2%	1.5%	17.7%
PAN Horizon	2018-2019	703	4.6%	5.1%	51.6%	29.9%	0.3%	7.8%	0.7%	10.2%	1.9%	27.7%
PAN Horizon	2019-2020	771	3.6%	7.3%	47.5%	31.6%	0.4%	8.7%	0.9%	12.1%	0.8%	31.1%
PAN Inspirada	2017-2018	1017	10.4%	3.9%	52.0%	18.6%	0.0%	12.9%	0.0%	9.6%	0.0%	3.2%
PAN Inspirada	2018-2019	1099	10.7%	4.6%	50.3%	19.2%	0.4%	13.3%	1.6%	8.5%	0.0%	11.0%
PAN Inspirada	2019-2020	1193	12.1%	4.5%	49.9%	18.4%	0.4%	12.9%	1.8%	9.1%	1.0%	9.9%
PAN St. Rose	2017-2018	982	12.0%	5.3%	44.7%	23.0%	0.0%	10.5%	0.0%	7.3%	2.6%	8.3%
PAN St. Rose	2018-2019	992	13.2%	5.0%	42.1%	23.9%	0.2%	11.7%	3.8%	8.6%	1.9%	19.6%
PAN St. Rose	2019-2020	980	15.8%	6.6%	34.2%	27.6%	0.2%	12.7%	3.0%	8.6%	1.4%	26.0%
PAN Sloan Canyon	2019-2020	1236	14.1%	4.9%	38.4%	25.8%	0.2%	14.5%	2.1%	8.8%	1.8%	17.1%
PAN Cadence	2017-2018	1261	5.2%	6.6%	53.1%	25.4%	0.0%	8.6%	0.0%	11.4%	3.7%	18.0%
PAN Cadence	2018-2019	1628	5.9%	7.3%	49.3%	26.9%	0.4%	8.7%	1.6%	11.6%	3.6%	30.8%
PAN Cadence	2019-2020	1814	5.5%	7.2%	48.3%	27.9%	0.4%	9.0%	1.6%	12.5%	2.8%	30.9%

A – Asian

B – Black

C - White

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