



Via: Email

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

FROM: Dr. Raul Carranza & Matt Brown on behalf of TEACH Las Vegas Committee to Form

DATE: June 8, 2020

SUBJECT: TEACH Las Vegas Charter Application – Good Cause Exemption

The TEACH Las Vegas (TEACH) committee to form is requesting a “Good Cause Exemption” to the submission deadline of July 15 under NAC 388A.260 for summer charter school applications. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting state shelter in place orders, school closures and economic recession created several obstacles in submitting a complete charter school application by July 15, 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of schools in California, TEACH was unable to conduct spring NWEA & annual SBAC testing at its Los Angeles schools. As a result TEACH won’t have math and ELA student growth data nor California state dashboard data as an indicator of our schools performance during the 2019-2020 school year. TEACH is currently planning for both in person and virtual NWEA testing when school resumes in August. This testing data will provide valuable information in support of our Nevada application.

COVID-19 also limited TEACH’s ability to engage the community and prospective families in Las Vegas. TEACH had planned several spring visits to Las Vegas to conduct community outreach that had to be cancelled due to shelter in place orders. Additionally, TEACH has planned to host many of our Nevada partners at our Los Angeles schools, which also had to be cancelled. We hope to reschedule these events in the near future now that shelter in place orders in both Nevada and California are slowly being lifted.

Additionally, COVID-19 and the resulting economic impact have clouded future school funding rates in Nevada and made it nearly impossible to develop accurate budget projections. A schools budget is the foundation of its operations and the services it can provide students. TEACH is hopeful clarity will be provided in the coming months that will allow for more accurate budgeting, and as a result, drafting of the charter application’s educational program offerings.



The TEACH committee to form has been working towards submitting a charter application in Nevada over the last two years. This work has included attending numerous trainings, networking and community engagement events coordinated by the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority, Opportunity 180, Charter School Association of Nevada and the National Alliance For Public Charter Schools. TEACH has obtained commitments from parents and educators in Las Vegas to serve on both the committee to form and TEACH Las Vegas's nonprofit board of directors. Additionally, TEACH has worked with its facilities partners to obtain access to a school ready site for its TK-12 Las Vegas home. TEACH believe with a Good Cause Exemption it can still be prepared to open school for the 21-22 school year, should its application be approved.

TEACH has an excellent track record with its California authorizer, Los Angeles Unified School District. In the last 3 years, TEACH has been granted a new charter petition to start its elementary school (TEACH Preparatory Elementary School) and renewals of its two outstanding schools (TEACH Academy of Technologies and TEACH Tech Charter High Schools). These charter have all been approved unanimously by the LAUSD school board. TEACH has also increased its annual district oversight scores each year, demonstrating our continued growth and improvement.

TEACH will work to submit its application no later than October 1, 2020, with the hope of receiving approval by March 1, 2021 and opening for the 2021-2022 school year.