



October 13, 2020

Ms. Rebecca Feiden
State Public Charter School Authority
2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Subject: 2020 Summer Cycle Charter Applications

Dear Ms. Feiden:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2020 Summer Cycle Charter Applications. As you are aware, none of the applicants have listed any Henderson zip codes within their tentative locations or zip codes to be served. The City of Henderson, however, remains supportive of Charter Schools that can provide families a choice in the delivery of education, especially in areas of overcrowded and lower performing schools.

Residents of the City of Henderson place the quality of a public-school education as a top priority. In the City's recently updated Strategic Plan, Quality Education is a new priority. The City created a Community Education Advisory Board (CEAB) in 2017 to engage community stakeholders in the development of programs to improve student outcomes. The Henderson Strong Comprehensive Plan seeks to support educational institutions in providing high quality K-12 learning environments to prepare today's youth for future success. The Plan also indicates that Henderson intends to remain a welcoming place for people from diverse backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, languages and incomes. In addition, the City has funded 63 school projects with a value of more than \$3.5 million in the last two years to implement a targeted set of initiatives to improve student achievement, reduce chronic absenteeism, and/or reduce income or racial/ethnic achievement gaps.

I am writing today to express support for the new charter school applicants in these proposed areas, which all include severely overcrowded schools. All of the applicants in the 2020 summer cycle are proposing to serve students from some of the most overcrowded schools within the Clark County School District.

It is unfortunate that none of the applicants are proposing to locate in Henderson or serve Henderson students. Including overcrowding as a criterion for the definition of 'need' is still important to the City. Our perspective is that overcrowding poses a serious issue in terms of delivering a quality, public school education conducive to learning, safety, and sense of belonging for students. Omitting this criterion may be limiting charter schools' interest in



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locating in Henderson and consequently, limiting our growing community's ability to provide sufficient educational opportunities for children.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 80% (21 of 26) of Henderson elementary schools were over 100% capacity and 23% (or 6 of the 26) were 125% over capacityⁱ. The addition of a handful of Charter schools throughout Henderson has helped to alleviate severe overcrowding for our students. Charter schools in Henderson emphasize a variety of specialties, including STEAM curriculum, a commitment to lower student/teacher ratios and research-based instructional practices, offering families choices in the delivery of education to their children.

As mentioned, charter schools in Henderson offer families a choice in the delivery of education to their children. Henderson strongly values the partnerships it has formed with charter and CCSD schools as we collectively seek to improve educational outcomes for all students. The City of Henderson recommends that the issue of overcrowding be included in the criteria for future Charter Applications.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SPCSA's 2020 Summer Cycle Charter Applications. The City of Henderson looks forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen educational opportunities in Nevada.

Sincerely,

Lisa Corrado, AICP
Assistant Director of Community Development

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ⁱ CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 MONTHLY ENROLLMENT REPORT BY LEVEL