



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775)687-9174 · Fax (775)687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702)486-8895 · Fax (702)486-5543

RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mike Dang, Manager, Financial and Organizational Performance
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Sports Leadership and Management Academy - Contract Amendment Request:
Addition of Program where Students may Earn College Credits
DATE: December 4, 2020

Summary of Request:

Sports Leadership and Management Academy (SLAM) is seeking from the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority approval to implement a dual credit program for eligible high school students.

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.”

SLAM also requests a good-cause exemption to submit this after-the-fact RFA.

SPCSA staff recommend approval of this SLAM amendment.

Background:

Sports Leadership and Management Academy (SLAM) of Nevada is a public charter school, currently serving grades 6-12. The school is located at: 1095 Fielders Street, Henderson, NV 89011. The school’s first year of operation was in August 2016. The school is currently led by Principal Dan Triana and is governed by a 7-member Board of Directors.

Currently, the school serves a diverse student population where approximately 55% of the student population identify as Hispanic/Latino, 22% as White, 13% as Black/African-American, and 5% as Two or More in middle and high school grade levels.

SLAM hopes to be approved for the addition of a dual-credit program in order to enhance the SLAM student experience and “provide viable innovative educational choices for students ultimately yielding college-bound and career-oriented graduates” as part of their mission and vision.

The relationship between SLAM Academy and the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) began in the fall of

2020. SLAM Academy and CSN have a draft written MOU with terms commencing on July 1, 2020 and extending through May 31, 2025. Either party will have the ability to terminate the agreement without cause upon 30 days written notice.

CSN, through the Academic Affairs department will oversee the administration, enrollment and educational requirements for the dual credit courses offered to SLAM students. Any SLAM student who successfully passes each course in the program will receive the appropriate amount of college credit assigned to the specific course offered and credit for a course at SLAM.

SLAM will be responsible to pay for all fees applicable to SLAM students enrolled at CSN. CSN will charge via CSN invoice within 30 days of the start of the courses and SLAM will submit payment within 30 days of receipt of invoice.

As stated in the application, SLAM'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

In summary, SLAM's middle school program has demonstrated adequate performance according to the NSPF during the most recent rated academic year by earning a 3-star rating, which represents an increase from the 2018 results and SLAM's high school program is yet to be rated. SPCSA staff applauds the leadership team at the school for instituting a plan that appears to have been successful. Nevertheless, SLAM's middle school results in its first three years of operation have been inconsistent and while some data is available for the high school, ultimately, the school has not yet received a rating.

2. Financial Performance Framework

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

3. Organizational Performance Framework

SLAM "met standards" for all 5 measures in the most recent year available (SYE 20). The school earned 100/100 points on the framework that was approved by the Authority on November 6, 2020.

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 SLAM in good standing with regards to the performance framework and also with regards to the statutory, regulatory and SPCSA requirements mentioned above.

Recommendation: Approve

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 SLAM RFA to implement a dual credit program for all eligible high school students enrolled with the following condition:
 - a. Supporting documentation that the governing body of SLAM has applied and been approved by the State Board, thereby permitting students to earn dual credit.

Proposed Motion:

Approve, with the conditions described herein, SLAM Academy of Nevada’s request to implement a dual credit program for all eligible high school students enrolled at the SLAM Academy charter school.

Background:

Academic Performance of SLAM

Year	NSPF Rating
2020 ¹	High School: Not Rated Middle School: 3 stars
2019	High School: Not Rated Middle School: 3 stars
2018	High School: Not Rated Middle School: 2 stars
2017	High School: Not Rated Middle School: 3 stars

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	738	3.0%	8.0%	28.6%	51.1%	0.7%	6.8%	1.9%	8.5%	7.3%	32.7%
18-19	921	3.5%	12.2%	23.5%	52.2%	0.3%	6.1%	2.3%	9.6%	10.3%	52.0%
19-20	1043	3.6%	11.0%	21.9%	54.7%	0.6%	5.8%	2.5%	11.3%	10.7%	52.3%

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C - White
- H – Hispanic
- I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019-20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019–20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings.

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