



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mike Dang, Manager, Financial and Organizational Performance
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Request to Relocate and Reduce the Enrollment Cap for Girls Athletic Leadership
School Las Vegas (GALS)
DATE: April 23, 2021

Summary of Request and Recommendation

The Girls Athletic Leadership School Las Vegas (GALS LV) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) approve the following requests to:

1. Grant it a good cause exemption to hear this request today,
2. Relocate its campus to a new address into a prior SPCSA approved zip code listed in the Academic and Demographics Needs Assessment (ADNA), and
3. Reduce the enrollment cap from 270 for the 2021-2022 school year to 160 students.

SPCSA staff reviewed the application and recommends approval for all three requests, subject to condition described below.

Background

GALS LV is a middle school specifically designed to meet the needs of girls with plans to ultimately enroll approximately 405 students in grades 6th-8th. GALS was approved by the SPCSA Board at the January 31, 2020 Board meeting to open fall of 2020.

The school states that the “GALS LV mission is to provide high quality education as measured by four and five stars in a supportive environment that fosters the academic mastery and personal development necessary for every girl to become a powerful advocate for herself and a leader of her community.

GALS LV envisions a world where all young women, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to access the skills, knowledge, and self-determination to succeed in secondary school, college, and in their communities and the world.”

GALS LV did open August 2020 with 95 students at the Boys and Girls Club located at 920 Cottage Grove Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89119 on the University of Nevada Las Vegas campus. Since opening, GALS has secured a long-term lease for a facility at 4220 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119 and plans to move over the summer.

The 89119 zip code is a zip code is listed in the [2021 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#).

In its May 29, 2020 meeting, the SPCSA board approved the following enrollment plan.

GALS LV Approved Enrollment

Grade Level	Number of Students					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
5						
6	80	90	135	135	135	135
7	55	90	135	135	135	135
8		90	135	135	135	135
9						
Total	135	270	405	405	405	405

After securing this location, GALS began processing for local government approvals for its move in to the new proposed location on Maryland Parkway. The school requires a Special Use Permit as it is locating in an area zoned for office uses. The site is within two blocks east of UNLV and Maryland Parkway and just south of Flamingo Road. The area is located across the street from a Clark County Library branch.

The County would like to see a slow growth into the facility to moderate growth and minimize impacts. Consequently, the County set a condition for the Special Use Permit that the school’s enrollment not exceed 160 students for is 2021-2022 school year. GALS now comes before the SPCSA board for approval to comply with this condition.

The GALS school board approved GALS leadership submitting this RFA at its March 15, 2021 school board meeting and on March 17, 2021 the GALS school Board Chair, Julie Schoolmeester, executed a letter of request for a Good Cause Exemption that the SPCSA board hear this matter and approve their requests.

Applicant Eligibility

When reviewing any RFA, SPCSA staff and board review the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school in addition to the applicant’s RFA supporting documentation. GALS is in process of completing its first school year this June of 2021 so performance documentation against these frameworks will be available at the conclusion of the school year. Nevertheless, to the best of staff’s knowledge and observations, the school has been in compliance with applicable requirements. Consequently, staff finds GALS in compliance with SPCSA requirements.

Summary and Recommendation

Overall, SPCSA staff finds the GALS RFA application to be compelling and sufficiently supported such that staff recommends the SPCSA board approve GALS’ Request For Amendment.

This request would be with the condition that GALS submit a copy of the final, approved Special Use Permit documents from Clark County, and any final versions of building or tenant improvement plans showing final classroom and school layouts and planned traffic flows, including during drop off and pick up times.

Proposed Motion:

Approve the request of the Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS) to:

- 1. Grant it a good cause exemption to hear this request today,**
- 2. Relocate its campus to a new address into a prior SPCSA approved zip code listed in the Academics and Demographics Needs Assessment (ADNA), and**
- 3. Reduce its enrollment potential from an approved enrollment of 270 for the 2021-2022 school year to a not to exceed cap of 160 students for this period pursuant to a Clark County request.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for GALS LV for the remainder of this charter term would be as follows:

	2021 -22	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Enrollment Cap	160	325	405	405	405
Grades	6 – 8	6 – 8	6 – 8	6 – 8	6 – 8

School Demographics and Enrollment since 2020

Year	Total Enrollment ¹	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
20-21	96	4.1%	18.7%	6.2%	65.6%%	0.0%	3.1%	2.0%	11.4%	17.7%	100.0%

- A – Asian
 - B – Black
 - C – Caucasian
 - 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
- **

¹ Represents the Validation Day count for each year (October 1).

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