



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV
SUBJECT: **Doral Academy of Nevada**
Request to Amend Mission and Vision Statement
DATE: December 3, 2021

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Doral Academy of Nevada (Doral) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the change to the school's Mission and Vision Statements.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the school's request for a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school's amendment proposals.

Background

Doral Academy of Nevada (Doral) is an arts integration school, which serves students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Doral opened its first Nevada campus in 2013. It has since expanded into a network of five different campuses in the Las Vegas area. Each campus is led by an individual principal with their corresponding administrative staffs and together they serve more than 6,100 students combined as of the most recent Validation Day data.

Doral's governing board oversees all of the Doral campuses in the Las Vegas area. The governing board members possess a variety of expertise and experience, which have helped the Doral network gain the success it has today.

Doral recently developed a new mission and vision statement as part of their recent Strategic Plan for the network's next 3-5 years of operation. Doral is now requesting approval of this change to their mission and vision statements to better serve their community.

This change in the network's mission and vision statements will not alter the schools' target communities or model. Doral's target community will continue to be all current Doral students.

This requested amendment will also not alter Doral's targeted outcomes. Doral will continue to be driven and focused on student achievement and success both in school and in life. Doral is focused on providing students the tools necessary to succeed in the 21st Century. Their guiding principles include academic excellence, intellect, community, appreciation for the arts, collaboration, engagement, creativity, expression, and inspiration.

The current mission and vision of Doral are as follows:

Mission Statement (Current)

Doral is dedicated to providing an enhanced educational experience. We will develop outstanding student achievement with focus on each child being well-rounded in all parts of their education. Students will be prepared in an academically challenging and personally meaningful learning environment with an emphasis on arts integration. A collaborative effort including all students, teachers, parents, and staff will be devoted to establishing, achieving, and celebrating individual goals for each child at Doral Academy.

Vision Statement (Current)

The educational outcome from Doral will create students who think critically and analytically, are confident decision makers, utilize problem solving skills, work collaboratively, and are imaginative and creative thinkers. We are committed to equipping students with the skills and personal growth necessary to be successful scholars throughout life.

Doral is now seeking to change their mission and vision statements to the following:

Mission Statement (Proposed)

Ancient legend says that dragons embody perseverance, intelligence, and boldness-flying with the freedom to forge their own destiny. Doral fosters a creative community of learners who, much like dragons, soar with determination, knowledge, and courage to achieve excellence. We unite to surround our Doral Dragons with unwavering support and encouragement as they navigate the present and ascend into the future.

Vision Statement (Proposed)

At Doral, we envision a dynamic student-centered community. We foster ownership of goals and achievement, employing rigorous, engaging curriculum and arts integration strategies that infuse visual, performing, and digital arts. We commit to developing collaborative, creative problem solvers who lead with a growth mindset into the future.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

Existing charter schools sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA. The application is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for SPCSA Board action. Amendment requests typically are to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, add a new campus, or change mission and vision statements.

Eligibility, Analysis, Summary and Recommendation

For this specific type of Amendment request, the sponsor of the charter school shall review the written request to determine if the written request: (a) Complies with NRS 388A.010 to 388A.640, inclusive, and the regulations applicable to charter schools; and (b) Is complete in accordance with regulations of the Department.

This review also includes an assessment of the charter school’s compliance with regards to such applicable law, regulations and SPCSA requirements including those described in the Academic Performance Framework, Organizational Performance Framework, and the Financial Performance Framework.

At this time, SPCSA staff finds that Doral is meets those standards, including those of the SPCSA Academic, Organizational and Financial Performance Frameworks. It is worth noting that while Doral is not seeking to expand its enrollment under this amendment, only those existing charter schools that are meeting expectations in regard to academics (under both the Department of Education’s Nevada School Performance Framework -- the “Star Ratings” -- and the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework), are compliant in regard to the SPCSA’s Organizational Framework, and are fiscally sound may be approved for expansion. Furthermore, the academic, organizational, and financial performance of other charter schools that contract with the same Charter Management Organization or Educational Management organization is taken into account when reviewing an expansion application.

This amendment will not make changes to the school’s successful academic program, will not impact their high performing organizational structure, or impact their healthy financial position.

For these reasons, SPCSA staff recommend the Authority approve the requested Mission and Vision Statements changes for Doral Academy of Nevada.

Proposed Motion:

Grant Doral Academy of Nevada a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to change their Mission and Vision statements as stated in this memo.

The chart below provides the current Doral enrollment caps for each year of the current charter term:

School Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Cactus				
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004
Fire Mesa				
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Red Rock				
Grade Levels	K-12	K-12	K-12	K-12
Enrollment Cap	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Saddle				
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Pebble				
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	960	960	960	960
Total Enrollment Cap	6,370	6,370	6,370	6,370

Doral Academy of Nevada Star Rating, Grade Structure, Historical Enrollment, and Demographics

Year	NSPF Rating
2021 ¹	<p><i>Due to the pause in NDE updating ratings, 2020 ratings are extended.</i></p> <p>Pebble elementary: 5 stars Pebble middle: 5 stars Cactus Campus elementary: 5 stars Cactus Campus middle: 5 stars Fire Mesa elementary: 5 stars Fire Mesa middle: 5 stars Red Rock elementary: 5 stars Red Rock middle: 4 stars Red Rock high: NR Saddle elementary: 4 stars Saddle middle: 5 stars</p>
2020 ²	<p>Pebble elementary: 5 stars Pebble middle: 5 stars Cactus Campus elementary: 5 stars Cactus Campus middle: 5 stars Fire Mesa elementary: 5 stars Fire Mesa middle: 5 stars Red Rock elementary: 5 stars Red Rock middle: 4 stars Red Rock high: NR Saddle elementary: 4 stars Saddle middle: 5 stars</p>
2019	<p>Pebble elementary: 5 stars Pebble middle: 5 stars Cactus Campus elementary: 5 stars Cactus Campus middle: 5 stars Fire Mesa elementary: 5 stars Fire Mesa middle: 5 stars Red Rock elementary: 5 stars Red Rock middle: 4 stars Red Rock high: NR Saddle elementary: 4 stars Saddle middle: 5 stars</p>

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020-21 school year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020-21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate new Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020-21 school year.

² 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.

2018	Pebble elementary: 5 stars Pebble middle: 4 stars Cactus Campus elementary: 4 stars Cactus Campus middle: 5 stars Fire Mesa elementary: 3 stars Fire Mesa middle: 4 stars Red Rock elementary: 5 stars Red Rock middle: 5 stars Red Rock high: NR Saddle elementary: 4 stars Saddle middle: 3 stars
2017	Elementary: 5 stars Middle: 5 stars
2016	Elementary: 5 stars Middle: 3 stars
2015	Elementary: 5 stars Middle: 3 stars

Historical Enrollment and Demographic Information (as of Validation Day each year)

Doral Cactus Campus

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	997	9.5%	4.4%	53.4%	17.9%	0.1%	12.8%	1.7%	7.9%	^	^
18-19	1002	10.4%	4.5%	51.6%	17.0%	-%	13.6%	2.3%	7.6%	^	8.2%
19-20	995	9.6%	4.6%	50.0%	18.3%	0.1%	14.7%	2.4%	8.8%	^	12.7%
20-21	988	10.9%	4.7%	48.3%	19.5%	0.1%	13.9%	2.3%	8.9%	^	14.1%
21-22	982	13.1%	6.0%	42.8%	21.1%	0.3%	14.7%	1.7%	8.1%	^	18.5%

^ indicates count data are suppressed to protect student privacy, because rate is in extreme value (<5 or >95)

Doral Fire Mesa Campus

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	985	6.1%	10.1%	44.7%	28.8%	0.1%	8.4%	1.5%	9.3%	^	14.9%
18-19	981	5.0%	8.9%	41.8%	33.0%	0.1%	9.2%	1.6%	9.8%	^	28.0%
19-20	973	4.2%	9.9%	38.3%	35.8%	0.1%	9.8%	1.6%	10.1%	^	34.5%
20-21	985	4.2%	10.5%	35.9%	37.4%	0.2%	10.1%	1.4%	10.7%	^	31.0%
21-22	980	4.8%	10.0%	34.8%	38.1%	0.2%	10.2%	1.7%	12.0%	^	36.9%

^ indicates count data are suppressed to protect student privacy, because rate is in extreme value (<5 or >95)

Doral Red Rock Campus

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	1423	8.9%	4.1%	55.6%	19.3%	0.4%	9.4%	2.1%	9.4%	^	^
18-19	1637	8.1%	4.1%	54.9%	20.8%	0.4%	9.2%	2.1%	9.5%	^	14.5%
19-20	1814	8.7%	5.1%	54.4%	21.1%	0.5%	8.4%	1.5%	10.1%	^	14.3%
20-21	2012	8.6%	5.8%	52.0%	22.2%	0.4%	9.2%	1.4%	11.2%	^	19.7%
21-22	2189	9.0%	5.9%	49.5%	24.5%	0.4%	9.1%	1.2%	10.7%	^	24.0%

^ indicates count data are suppressed to protect student privacy, because rate is in extreme value (<5 or >95)

Doral Saddle Campus

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	972	11.1%	8.1%	46.2%	19.9%	0.2%	12.2%	2.0%	9.4%	^	^
18-19	995	12.9%	8.5%	43.1%	20.7%	0.2%	12.1%	2.3%	7.6%	^	16.4%
19-20	986	13.5%	9.6%	40.9%	21.9%	0.1%	11.4%	2.3%	8.2%	^	18.6%
20-21	997	13.6%	9.9%	37.7%	23.0%	0.4%	13.3%	1.9%	8.0%	^	27.2%
21-22	983	15.1%	8.9%	34.8%	24.8%	0.1%	14.6%	1.5%	9.3%	^	30.7%

^ indicates count data are suppressed to protect student privacy, because rate is in extreme value (<5 or >95)

Doral West Pebble Campus

Year	Total Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	796	16.9%	6.2%	41.3%	22.7%	0.1%	9.7%	2.7%	5.2%	^	^
18-19	920	17.3%	7.0%	40.8%	22.7%	0.1%	9.5%	2.2%	6.1%	7.2%	22.7%
19-20	978	19.5%	9.1%	37.6%	21.8%	-%	10.1%	1.7%	7.7%	7.2%	25.7%
20-21	987	19.5%	10.8%	35.4%	20.4%	-%	12.3%	1.3%	7.3%	6.2%	24.6%
21-22	976	21.0%	9.9%	33.4%	21.8%	-%	12.7%	1.1%	8.1%	^	24.4%

^ indicates count data are suppressed to protect student privacy, because rate is in extreme value (<5 or >95)

- 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