



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: **Futuro Academy Amendment Request to**
- **Change Lottery Policy Preferences**
- **Enter into an Articulation Agreement with Equipo Academy**
DATE: December 3, 2021

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Futuro Academy currently operates one campus in East Las Vegas, serving 476 students in grades K – 5. The school has submitted a Good Cause Exemption request to consider their proposal to adopt a lottery policy creating enrollment preferences for students that are enrolled at Equipo Academy with which Futuro has an articulation agreement pursuant to [NRS 388.456\(1\)\(d\)](#). Futuro Academy seeks approval of these preferences and the articulation agreement prior to the upcoming application and enrollment period for the 2022 – 23 school year.

After a thorough review of the amendment application, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority grant Futuro a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the request to enter into an articulation agreement with Equipo Academy prior to the upcoming application window and enrollment for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Background and Analysis

Futuro Academy opened for the 2017 – 18 academic year at its current location, 920 N. Lamb Boulevard in Las Vegas. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. According to the amendment application, through rigorous academics and personal excellence, Futuro Academy educates all K-5 scholars to excel through middle school, into high school, and at the university of their choice. The amendment goes on to state that Futuro Academy embraces the challenge of serving an at-risk population in East Las Vegas as the most important work required to ensure a strong future for all of the children growing up in Las Vegas. Additionally, the amendment notes that the founding team at Futuro firmly believes that the success of their mission will change the community by creating, first, hundreds of high quality K-5 seats in a community that

currently has scarce access, and over time, by creating a future of a strong, skilled, united Las Vegas in which all students have the necessary academic and character foundation to (1) be the next generation of business, political, educational and community leaders and (2) build lives of opportunity for themselves and their families.

The amendment application states that Futuro is a college preparatory charter school with a goal of working for the families of East Las Vegas, built upon rigorous academics and personal excellence. Futuro Academy draws upon the most successful practices of the highest achieving charter schools across the country, leverages the resources of and relationships with a national network of high performing schools on behalf of our staff and students, and puts all children on the road to college and life success starting in Kindergarten.

According to the amendment, Futuro is seeking to change current lottery policy by entering into an articulation agreement with Equipo Academy, a public 6-12 college preparatory charter school sponsored by the SPCSA in East Las Vegas. Futuro Academy is seeking to put in place an articulation agreement as governed by [NRS 388A.456\(1\)\(d\)](#). The requested lottery change seeks to create:

- Priority enrollment for students seeking to matriculate from 5th grade at Futuro Academy into 6th grade at Equipo Academy; and
- Establish reciprocal priority enrollment for siblings enrolled at both campuses, and children of staff or board members employed at both campuses.

The amendment application states that the central goals of these requests are as follows:

- To provide an integrated, comprehensive K-12 education experience from two schools that share significant similarities in mission and vision
- To promote greater collaboration in enhancing the family experience transitioning between elementary and secondary grades
- To ultimately promote greater proficiency and mastery of academic content resulting in college and career readiness of students in East Las Vegas enrolled at Futuro Academy and Equipo Academy.

A copy of the proposed lottery policy to be implemented under these changes is included in the amendment submission. Futuro Academy has also provided a copy of the proposed articulation agreement. The amendment maintains that there are no planned changes to governance, management, or fiscal structures for the school.

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. In this case, SPCSA staff finds that a change to the lottery policy of a charter school represents a material change to the charter contract, necessitating consideration and possible approval by the Authority.

Applicant Eligibility

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.

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Academically, Futuro has yet to be rated under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Report Card as the school did not serve 3rd grade or higher until the 2019 – 2020 school year. A table summarizing the academic performance of Futuro Academy is provided on page 4 of this memo¹.

Financially, Futuro has yet to be rated under the Financial Performance Framework as adopted by the Authority. SPCSA staff does not have any performance concerns based upon available information, and SPCSA staff anticipates that the school will demonstrate high performance once rated under the Financial Performance Framework for FY21.

From an organizational perspective, SPCSA staff does not have any performance concerns based upon available information. SPCSA staff anticipates that the school will demonstrate high performance once rated under the Organizational Performance Framework for FY21.

Overall, SPCSA staff finds that Futuro is eligible for this amendment request to be considered by the Authority.

Summary and Recommendation

SPCSA staff find that the proposed articulation agreement can be mutually beneficial to both schools. Given their proximity, offering enrollment preferences to families can help ensure that students have access to a high-quality school of choice that share various similarities, including a college preparatory environment.

As such, SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request of Futuro Academy to enter into an articulation agreement with Equipo Academy prior to the upcoming application window and enrollment for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Proposed Motion:

Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Futuro Academy to adopt modified enrollment preferences and to enter into an articulation agreement with Equipo Academy as permitted under NRS 388A.456(1)(d) on the condition that the school provides the SPCSA with a fully-executed copy of the articulation agreement with Equipo Academy.

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 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) for both the 2019 – 20 and 2020 – 21 school years. 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. For the 2020 – 2021 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were administered, but the NDE did not calculate new NSPF school ratings for the 2020 – 21 school year.

If approved, the enrollment cap for Futuro Academy will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 – 2024	2024 – 2025	2025 - 2026
Enrollment Cap	464	522	522	522	522

Historical Performance and Demographic Information

Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) – Futuro Academy

Year	Ratings
2021 ²	Not Rated
2020 ³	Not Rated
2019	Not Rated
2018	Not Rated

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017⁴

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	110	0.9%	9.0%	6.3%	81.8%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	*	35.4%	80.0%
18-19	259	1.5%	10.4%	4.6%	78.3%	0.7%	3.8%	0.3%	<5	37.8%	86.8%
19-20	342	1.1%	11.4%	4.0%	79.8%	0.8%	2.6%	0.0%	5.8%	46.7%	>95%
20-21	435	0.9%	8.2%	5.2%	81.8%	0.6%	2.7%	0.2%	6.4%	46.2%	>95%
21-22	476	1.0%	7.5%	5.0%	83.1%	0.0%	2.9%	0.2%	7.3%	46.4%	>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

* - Suppressed data due to n-count

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ *indicates a population size >0 and <10; count and rate data are suppressed to protect privacy. <5 is shown for rates below 5% to protect student privacy.