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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, SPCSA
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **Equipo Academy – Charter Amendment Request To Offer Dual Enrollment for High School Students**
DATE: December 16, 2022

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Equipo Academy (Equipo) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school's request to amend their current charter to include a Dual-Credit program.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion along with conditions can be found on page 3 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

Equipo Academy is located at 4131 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89110 serving grades 6th through 12th. As of the 2022 Validation day, Equipo had 798 students enrolled. Equipo opened in 2015 and its mission is to empower students to meet high expectations, excel to and through college, and become leaders and change makers for East Las Vegas.

Nevada Revised Statute 389.310(1) states that “each school district and charter school shall and a university school for profoundly gifted pupils may establish a program for dual credit, or partner with another school district or charter school that has already established a program for dual credit, whereby pupils enrolled in the school district or charter school may enroll in a dual credit course at a community college, state college or university that has been approved for dual

credit.” Equipo is amending its charter contract to formally establish dual credit programming with the University of Nevada - Las Vegas.

According to the application, Equipo is seeking this change so they will be able to offer an on-campus opportunity for a group of students to earn the first of their four-year college credits from a nationally known university while finishing high school. Also, according to the application, Equipo’s dual-credit model is open to all students willing and committed to the work. The school’s overall target community is students and families in East Las Vegas centered in the 89110 zip code with an emphasis on college access for all.

According to the dual credit application submitted by Equipo to UNLV, students who enroll in the dual credit program will be part of a concurrent enrollment program type. Concurrent enrollment means that students will be taught college courses at their high school by their high schools teachers, who are approved to teach college courses by the university. Also, according to the application, the teachers at Equipo who teach the college courses will be offered \$250.00 per dual credit section taught. Finally, according to the application, fees and tuition for courses and textbooks will be paid for by Equipo.

Legal Authority

Existing charter schools that are sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA – which is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for SPCSA Board action – in order to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, or add a new campus. When determining whether to approve an amendment request, the sponsor considers the charter school’s compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics, finance and organization of the charter school. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Academically, Equipo is currently highly rated under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Report Card, with the middle school program earning a 5-star rating and the high school program earning a 4-star rating. The middle school program did earn a 2-star rating under the NSPF ratings in the 2016 – 2017 school year, resulting in a Notice of Concern being issued to the school. However, Equipo has exhibited improvement since that time and is no longer in the SPCSA Performance Framework intervention ladder. A table summarizing the academic performance of Equipo Academy is provided on page 5 of this memo

Financially, SPCSA staff finds that Equipo Academy is meeting performance standards as adopted by the Authority under the Financial Performance Framework. The results from the 2020 – 21 school year indicated that the school was Meeting the Standard. These results were approved by the Authority on January 28, 2022.

From an organizational perspective, SPCSA staff found Equipo Academy to be ‘Meeting Standards’ for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The school earned 99 points out of 100 under the 2021 Organizational Performance Framework as approved by the Authority on January 28, 2022.

Given the historic academic, organizational, and financial performance under SPCSA Performance Frameworks, SPCSA staff finds Equipo Academy of Nevada to be eligible for this amendment request.

SPCSA staff finds that the proposed addition of a Dual-Credit program will enhance the academic programming at Equipo Academy in addition to meeting the requirements for all high schools in Nevada. Therefore, SPCSA recommends that the Authority approve Equipo Academy’s request to offer dual credit in partnership with the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Equipo Academy’s request to add a Dual-Credit program with the following condition:

- **That the school provide evidence that the governing body of Equipo Academy has applied and been approved by the State Board of Education, thereby permitting students to earn credits as early as the upcoming semester, and provide evidence of a final, signed, Memorandum of Understanding between Equipo Academy and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.**

The current, approved, enrollment cap for Equipo Academy is as follows:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Total Enrollment	756	756	756	756	756

School Demographic Change since 2017 – Equipo Academy

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	759	0.5%	1.9%	2.6%	93.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	6.3%	16.3%	>95%
18-19	753	0.6%	1.0%	2.2%	95.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	5.0%	23.2%	>95%
19-20	761	0.6%	1.4%	2.1%	95.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	6.5%	34.6%	>95%
20-21	797	0.6%	1.6%	1.8%	95.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	5.5%	35.2%	>95%
21-22	832	0.4%	1.0%	1.6%	96.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	7.8%	30.2%	>95%
22-23	798	0.3%	0.7%	1.1%	97.1%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0	6.1%	23.8%	>95%

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

* - Suppressed data due to n-count

Equipo Academy Charter School Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard

Equipo Academy Charter School Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard

Equipo Academy Academic Performance

Year	Ratings
2021 ¹	Middle School: 5-star High School: 4-star
2020 ²	Middle School: 5-star High School: 4-star
2019	Middle School: 5-star High School: 4-star
2018	Middle School: 3-star High School: Not Rated

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020 – 21 school year waiver from the US 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 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.

Equipo Academy 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Results³

	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle	79.1	Meets Standard
High School	75.7	Meets Standard

³ The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>