

May 6, 2022

Nevada State Public Charter School Authority
2080 East Flamingo Road, Ste. 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5164

***RE: Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada
Request for Good Cause Exemption Pursuant to NAC 388A.260(1)***

Dear SPCSA Staff and Board Members:

Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (“PTAAN”) hereby requests a good cause exemption to submit a charter application outside the normal application window.

As you are aware, recent revisions to NAC 388A.260 changed the deadlines for new charter applications and there is now only one time period each year in which charter applications can be submitted, opposed to the two prior application windows.¹ However, the administrative code also clearly states that “the State Public Charter School Authority may, upon request and for good cause shown, accept an application to form a charter school at any time.” NAC 388A.260(1). By and through this letter, PTAAN is hereby requesting the ability to submit written notice of intent to form a charter school (“Notice of Intent”) on or before May 31, 2022. Subsequent to being provided leave to do so, PTAAN intends to submit a charter application within 90 days of submitting the Notice of Intent.

Good cause exists for this request for a number of reasons. First, PTAAN has demonstrated a commitment to the community and opening a quality school in an underserved area of Clark County. Indeed, for two consecutive years, PTAAN has attempted to navigate the charter application process in good faith. Second, PTAAN has been diligent in its efforts to obtain a charter and did not ignore required deadlines. PTAAN was hopeful that it would be granted a charter at the recent April 29, 2022, the State Public Charter School Authority (“SPCSA”) Board meeting.² Although PTAAN did not receive charter approval at that time, SPCSA Board Members suggested during the hearing that PTAAN apply for a charter to open in 2023-2024 and indicated a request for good cause exemption would be considered. Third, PTAAN has tremendous support for a STEAM school and has submitted hundreds of intent to enroll forms from families eager to have such a program in their community. Fourth, absent an exemption, PTAAN would be unable to reapply for a charter until April of 2023 and would not be eligible to

¹ Changes to this regulation were filed on December 22, 2021. Previously, application forms could be submitted between January 1 and 15th and also between July 1 and July 15th. Now, the only application window is between April 15th and 30th.

² After its charter application was denied in January of 2022, PTAAN exercised its due process rights and a Clark County District Court Judge ordered a new notice of deficiencies be provided to PTAAN and a new hearing held by the by the SPCSA. The new hearing occurred on April 29, 2022, at which time PTAAN’s charter application was again denied.

open a school until the 2024-2025 school year. Fifth, under a “good cause” standard, an exemption should be freely granted and there is no statutory basis for denial of this good faith request.

Based on the foregoing, PTAAN respectfully requests an exemption pursuant to NAC 388A.260(1) to allow it to submit a Notice of Intent to apply for a charter forthwith and an opportunity to apply to open a school for the 2023-2024 school year.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudy Pamintuan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rudy Pamintuan,
PTAAN Board President