



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: **PilotEd – Cactus Park Amendment Request to**
1) Offer student transportation to temporary school site for the start of the
2022 – 23 school year
DATE: August 29, 2022

Summary of Requests and Recommendation

PilotEd – Cactus Park is requesting that the State Public Charter School (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the school to offer student transportation services to the school’s temporary site at 1780 Betty Lane until the school opens the permanent facility located at 3115 Las Vegas Boulevard N.

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 request submitted in the amendment.

Background and Analysis

PilotEd – Cactus Park was conditionally approved by the SPCSA to open its doors to students for the 2022 – 23 school year on November 5, 2021. The school has opened with students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade earlier this month with plans to expand to serve 5th grade in the 2023 – 2024 school year, representing the school’s approved, final grade configuration. At full-scale, the school anticipates serving 486 students in grades K – 5. The school is currently co-locating with Nevada Prep at 1780 Betty Lane, and anticipates transitioning to their facility at 3115 Las Vegas Boulevard N., Las Vegas, NV 89115 this fall, which is their permanent facility and was identified in the approved charter application. The school anticipates primarily serving students and families residing in the 89030, 89115, 89110 and 89101 zip codes.

According to the amendment application, the delayed delivery of the school’s permanent facility has caused the school to lose the registration of over 100 families for the 2022 – 2023 school year. The amendment application goes on to note that many of these families lived within a three-mile radius of the school’s permanent site.

The submitted amendment application states that approval of this amendment will allow the school to continue providing bussing to students and families residing close to the permanent location as the route will pick-up and drop-off students at that location.

Included in the amendment submission is a signed MOU between pilotED – Cactus Park and Nevada Prep detailing the services to be provided. The cost to pilotED – Cactus Park is \$350/day, and the agreement runs until the school moves to its permanent location which is anticipated to occur later this fall.

It is SPCSA staff's understanding that Nevada Prep has already secured additional insurance coverage to transport pilotED – Cactus park students.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

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. 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 application¹.

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. pilotED – Cactus Park has just opened within the past month, so while limited information is available on the school, SPCSA staff finds the school eligible for this amendment request.

Analysis, Summary and Recommendation

SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority approve the request of pilotEd – Cactus Park to continue offering student transportation services in the short term so as to accommodate students and families that have been negatively impacted by the delayed delivery of the school's permanent site. The school has provided evidence of an agreement with Nevada Prep, which has operated school busses for multiple years. SPCSA staff believes that this short-term plan will best serve students and families until the new, permanent facility opens later this fall.

¹ There are limited exceptions to these eligibility requirements for those charter schools that have been approved by the State Board of Education and the SPCSA Board to be rated under Nevada's Alternative Performance Framework.

Proposed Motion:

Grant pilotED – Cactus Park a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school’s request to offer temporary transportation services through a MOU/contract with Nevada Prep until the permanent facility is ready for students.

If approved, pilotED Cactus Park would have the following enrollment caps for the upcoming charter term:

School Year	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26	2026 – 27	2027 - 28
Grade Levels	K – 4	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5
Total Enrollment	351	432	459	486	486	486

Historical Performance and Demographic Information

1. Academic ratings information expected after students complete the first year of school (SYE 23).
2. School Total Enrollment and Demographics expected after year one statistics become available (SYE 23).