



Solicitation of Input – 2021 Fall Amendment Cycle

County: Washoe
Proposal: Doral Academy of Northern Nevada
Proposed Location: 1315 Financial Boulevard Reno, NV 89502

School District Input:

Please provide any data as to overcrowding in the zip code where the school is proposing to locate.

The proposed additional campus for Doral Academy will be located in the 89502 ZIP code, which roughly corresponds to the “old Southeast Reno” area, including Hidden Valley. Doral’s application indicates that they also intend to target students in the 89431 ZIP code area as well; this corresponds to the northeast Reno and western Sparks area. The area covered by these ZIP codes includes sixteen WCSD elementary schools and five middle schools, as well as seven WCSD sponsored charter schools. Of these twenty-eight schools, as of October 1st 2021 none were operating over their rated maximum capacities; only two schools were operating at over 90% of capacity. This area also includes another State-sponsored Academica charter school – Mater Academy of Northern Nevada (MANN).

The proposed location for this campus is located in the middle of an industrial/office area northeast of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. There are limited transportation routes connecting this site to much of the area they are proposing to serve. The nearest residential areas, and which have the most direct roadway access, are the southeast of the site corresponding to the Pine Middle School zone, and which include the Hidden Valley and Donner Springs residential areas. It is assumed that the new campus will draw most heavily from these areas and the schools located therein.

Due to the effects of the COVID pandemic and demographic shifts, several schools within these areas are actually severely under-enrolled at the present time, including the two elementary schools located nearest to the proposed location of this campus (Hidden Valley and Dodson Elementary Schools). Previous Academica charters schools opening in Washoe County (Doral, Mater, Pinecrest) have drawn heavily from the nearby residential areas where they are located. If this pattern were to be repeated with the opening of this campus, these two schools in particular would likely be most heavily impacted. It is very possible that one or both schools could see their enrollments reduced into the low-to-mid 100’s; at that point, it could no longer be feasible to continue keeping either school open.

Does the School District’s Capital Improvement Plan include any plans to add new schools or add additional capacity to existing schools within the community in which the applicant proposes to locate?

No. Due to the relatively low capacity utilization currently seen at most of the schools in this area and the lack of current or projected overcrowding at any of these schools, no new schools or expansion of existing schools in this area is currently anticipated into the foreseeable future.

As you know, the SPCSA approved the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment on July 26, 2019 and approved an updated version on January 22, 2021. A copy of this version can be found [here](#). Our staff and board will be evaluating the degree to which the applicant aligns with the identified needs. Please provide any input as to how this applicant does or does not meet identified needs in the community.

The two schools closest to the proposed Charter application, Dodson ES and Hidden Valley ES, are both 3-star schools based on the most current Nevada School Performance Framework. Both schools are near the district average in ELA and math proficiency and have demonstrated consistent growth over the past 3 years. Chronic absenteeism was exemplary in 18-19 and consistent with district averages last school year. Both schools received strong feedback on the most current student climate surveys, particularly around: adult respect, adult support, safety, student engagement, and student respect. Family climate survey data demonstrated tremendous satisfaction with both schools, particularly around communication, overall quality of education, physical safety, positive student/family/student relationships, school leadership and the schools being very supportive places for both students and family. Given the demonstrated increases in student achievement over time, along with outstanding student and parent climate survey data, WCSD does not see a need for a new Charter School in this location.

If district staff or Board of Trustees has had prior communications with this applicant, please provide any relevant information or details from that communication that might be useful to the SPCSA in making an informed decision regarding the application.

WCSD staff has discussed this proposed expansion with current and former DANN and Academica on multiple occasions, primarily to confirm the information which is included in DANN’s application to SPCSA. No relevant information or details from those conversations would aid SPCCSA in making an informed decision regarding this application.

Are there currently any schools providing a similar educational model in the community in which the applicant proposes to locate? If yes, please provide any relevant information on the current school(s) with similar educational models that are available to students in the community.

Yes – the current Doral Academy K-8th charter school located off Mount Rose Highway in southwest Washoe County.

Is there any other additional information you wish to provide?

N/A