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**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, SPCSA  
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** **Nevada State High School - Flagship – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap**  
**DATE:** March 3, 2023

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Nevada State High School Flagship (NSHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school reduce its enrollment cap across all campuses.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page of 4 this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

NSHS is a college-prep public charter school that serves students in grades 11-12 across eight campuses in Clark County. NSHS's mission is to support students in a college environment with personal, academic, and social skills. The core purpose of NSHS is to provide opportunities for students' success in a real college environment. As of the 2022 Validation Day, NSHS had 996 students across the eight campuses.

NSHS opened in the fall of 2004-2005 with 40 students. According to the amendment application, NSHS is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap all campuses for the 2022-2023 school year. NSHS requests additional reductions in subsequent years for campuses which are detailed in the table below. If approved, the enrollment caps for the NSHS campuses would be:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Las Vegas Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	65	85	94	103	113	124	136
Henderson							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	246	295	310	310	310	310	310
Henderson Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	120	144	158	174	190	190	190
Northwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	130	156	166	166	166	166	166
Southwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	131	157	173	188	188	188	188
Summerlin							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	157	188	207	228	255	255	255
Sunrise							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	80	96	106	117	129	130	130
North Las Vegas							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	67	110	121	133	146	161	170
Total Enrollment	996	1231	1335	1419	1497	1524	1545

According to the amendment application, NSHS is seeking to make the requested changes to align to the current, and projected enrollment counts, for FY23. NSHS listed a number of efforts to increase enrollment in the coming years. According to the amendment application, those efforts include:

- In 2022, hiring a Marketing Director whose primary focuses are on promoting brand awareness and increasing student enrollment. NSHS also hired a Career Technical Coordinator whose primary focus is building out programs specific to students who are more interested in Career Technical Academy programs rather than 4-year university.
- Through targeted community and grassroots events and enhancements to current advertising strategies, NSHS anticipates a minimum of 10% Year over Year (YOY) growth in student recruitment.
- A strong emphasis being placed on the FRL student population and underserved

communities.

Finally, according to the amendment application, NSHS continues to focus on its Proven Process, which shows signs of strength in student retention and student graduation. The application stated that from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023, NSHS retained nearly 98% of its student population and the graduation rate remains consistent at 98%.

NSHS explained in the application that the reduction in enrollment does not impact staffing because staffing is based on actual enrollment and not the approved enrollment caps.

### **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. 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. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPCSA staff has waived the requirement that schools maintain enrollment levels at or above 90% of their contractual cap due to the many extenuating circumstances impacting students and families. Staff believes schools are now better positioned to adhere to this requirement for the 2022 – 23 school year, necessitating this amendment. In the case of NSHS Flagship, SPCSA staff finds the schools to be meeting academic, financial and organizational performance expectations for all campuses. NSHS has maintained strong academic performance as evidenced by the NSPF ratings earned by multiple campuses. The Downtown, Henderson and Summerlin campuses each earned a 5-star rating according to the most recent NSPF ratings. The NSHS Flagship campuses were also found to be meeting, or exceeding, expectations on the 2021-2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Additionally, the NSHS earned 99 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2021 – 22 school year as approved by the Authority on December 16, 2022. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ NSHS has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2021 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework and preliminary results under the 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework appear to signal that the school is in a sound financial position.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NSHS. NSHS made necessary adjustments to its budget and shows no sign of financial trouble. NSHS has a strong track record and continues to operate successful schools in Clark County. Therefore, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve the request to reduce the enrollment cap for NSHS for the 2022-2023 school year and the remainder of the charter term.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve NSHS Flagship’s request to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the for the 2022-2023 school year and to reduce enrollment caps in the remainder of the charter term as detailed in this recommendation memo.**

If approved, the enrollment caps for each NSHS Flagship campus will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Las Vegas Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	65	85	94	103	113	124	136
Henderson							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	246	295	310	310	310	310	310
Henderson Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	120	144	158	174	190	190	190
Northwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	130	156	166	166	166	166	166
Southwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	131	157	173	188	188	188	188
Summerlin							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	157	188	207	228	255	255	255
Sunrise							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	80	96	106	117	129	130	130
North Las Vegas							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	67	110	121	133	146	161	170
Total Enrollment	996	1231	1335	1419	1497	1524	1545

The current, approved, enrollment caps for each NSHS Flagship campus are as follows:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Las Vegas Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	137	144	151	151	151	151	151
Henderson							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	295	305	310	310	310	310	310
Henderson Downtown							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	150	170	190	190	190	190	190
Northwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	150	158	166	166	166	166	166
Southwest							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	170	179	188	188	188	188	188
Summerlin							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	245	250	255	255	255	255	255
Sunrise							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
North Las Vegas							
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	100	115	133	145	160	170	170
Total Enrollment	1,377	1,451	1,523	1,535	1,550	1,560	1,560

**School Demographics change since 2017 – Nevada State High School**

**Nevada State High School Downtown**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	46	2.1%	6.5%	13.0%	76.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	63.0%
18-19	80	5.0%	18.7%	7.5%	66.2%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	*	*	71.2%
19-20	77	6.4%	25.9%	10.3%	50.6%	1.2%	3.8%	1.2%	*	*	62.3%
20-21	56	7.1%	17.8%	10.7%	57.1%	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	*	*	83.9%
21-22	54	7.4%	22.2%	5.5%	55.5%	0.0%	7.4%	1.8%	*	*	70.3%
22-23	65	6.1%	18.4%	4.6%	66.1%	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%	*	*	75.3%

**Nevada State High School Downtown Henderson**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-21	100	3.0%	2.0%	73.0%	13.0%	0.0%	8.0%	1.0%	*	0.0%	14.0%
21-22	106	4.7%	1.8%	66.9%	19.8%	0.0%	5.6%	0.9%	*	0.0%	13.2%
22-23	120	6.6%	3.3%	60.8%	22.5%	0.0%	6.6%	0.0%	*	0.0%	16.6%

**Nevada State High School Henderson**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	296	6.4%	3.3%	60.1%	20.9%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	*	*	20.9%
18-19	323	5.8%	4.9%	51.3%	27.8%	0.6%	8.6%	0.6%	*	*	32.1%
19-20	341	4.9%	3.2%	58.9%	22.5%	0.0%	9.6%	0.5%	*	*	17.3%
20-21	286	5.9%	3.4%	56.6%	21.6%	0.3%	10.8%	1.0%	*	*	18.1%
21-22	258	10.4%	3.1%	52.3%	25.1%	0.0%	7.7%	1.1%	*	*	23.2%
22-23	246	14.6%	6.5%	42.6%	26.0%	0.4%	7.3%	2.4%	*	*	25.2%

**Nevada State High School North Las Vegas**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21-22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22-23	67	2.9%	28.3%	16.4%	44.7%	1.4%	5.9%	0.0%	*	*	50.7%

**Nevada State High School Northwest**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-21	99	7.0%	17.1%	39.3%	22.2%	0.0%	11.1%	3.0%	*	*	37.3%
21-22	118	5.0%	15.2%	37.2%	29.6%	0.8%	10.1%	1.6%	*	*	26.2%
22-23	130	6.9%	10.0%	33.8%	32.3%	0.7%	14.6%	1.5%	*	*	27.6%

**Nevada State High School Southwest**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-20	99	17.1%	20.2%	25.2%	22.2%	0.0%	10.1%	5.0%	*	*	42.4%
20-21	135	13.3%	27.4%	25.9%	20.7%	0.0%	5.1%	7.4%	*	*	44.4%
21-22	121	11.5%	28.9%	23.9%	23.1%	0.0%	9.9%	2.4%	*	*	41.3%
22-23	131	18.3%	16.7%	25.9%	26.7%	0.7%	10.6%	0.7%	*	*	40.4%

**Nevada State High School Summerlin**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	17-18	150	15.3%	5.3%	31.3%	36.0%	0.0%	11.3%	0.6%	*	*
18-19	18-19	242	11.5%	8.2%	28.9%	35.5%	0.4%	13.2%	2.0%	*	<5.0%
19-20	19-20	218	9.1%	13.3%	30.7%	33.4%	0.0%	10.0%	3.2%	*	*
20-21	20-21	189	7.9%	13.7%	41.2%	26.9%	0.0%	9.5%	0.5%	0.0%	*
21-22	21-22	176	9.6%	14.2%	34.6%	35.2%	0.0%	5.6%	0.5%	*	*
22-23	157	8.9%	15.2%	28.6%	33.7%	0.0%	10.8%	2.5%	*	*	30.5%

### **Nevada State High School Sunrise**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>IEP</b>	<b>ELL</b>	<b>FRL</b>
17-18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
18-19	38	2.6%	26.3%	13.1%	57.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	*	71.0%
19-20	80	1.2%	25.0%	13.7%	53.7%	0.0%	5.0%	1.2%	*	*	57.5%
20-21	97	1.0%	20.6%	12.3%	54.6%	1.0%	9.2%	1.0%	0.0%	*	55.6%
21-22	80	2.5%	13.7%	10.0%	60.0%	2.5%	10.0%	1.2%	*	*	56.2%
22-23	80	5.0%	15.0%	5.0%	70.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	*	*	55.0%

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

### **Nevada State High School Financial Performance**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard

### **Nevada State High School Organizational Performance**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard

### **Nevada State High School Academic Performance**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>NSPF Rating</b>
2021 – 2022 Index Scores	Downtown: 75.3 Downtown Henderson: 89.0 Henderson: 90.0



	Northwest: 89.5 Southwest: 93.0 Summerlin: 86.3 Sunrise: 89.8
2020 – 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Downtown: 5-stars Henderson: 5-stars Southwest: Not Rated Summerlin: 5-stars Sunrise: Not Rated
2019 – 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Downtown: 5-stars Henderson: 5-stars Southwest: Not Rated Summerlin: 5-stars Sunrise: Not Rated
2018 – 2019	Downtown: 5-stars Henderson: 5-stars Summerlin: 5-stars Sunrise: Not Rated
2017 – 2018	Downtown: Not Rated Henderson: 5-stars Summerlin: 5-stars

### Nevada State High School 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results<sup>3</sup>

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NSHS Downtown HS	75.3	MEETS STANDARD
NSHS Downtown Henderson HS	89.0	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Henderson HS	90.0	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Northwest HS	89.5	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Southwest HS	93.0	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Summerlin HS	86.3	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Sunrise HS	89.8	EXCEEDS STANDARD

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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>