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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** **Beacon Academy of Nevada– Charter Amendment Request to Expand Enrollment in Existing Grade Levels and Facilities**  
**DATE:** May 19, 2023

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Beacon Academy of Nevada (BANV) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) approve a request to expand enrollment in existing grade levels and facilities beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

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

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

BANV is an alternative high school that serves a large percentage of students who have previously dropped out of school, have a history of poor attendance, and are credit deficient. BANV operates two campuses in Clark County. The West campus is located at 7360 West Flamingo Road and the East campus is located at 1800 East Sahara Avenue. As of the 2022 Validation Day, Beacon had 552 students enrolled in total across the two campuses. The Authority approved the addition of the East campus at its June 26, 2020 board meeting. The East campus officially began operations in January 2022.

According to the amendment application, BANV’s enrollment is limited to students who qualify for alternative education as defined by NRS 385A.740. BANV blended school model requires students to physically attend school a minimum of two-days per week or more frequently for more intense academic interventions and wraparound support. The amendment application states that BANV is seeking to expand enrollment in existing grade levels and facilities for several reasons:

1. There has been an increase in the number of applicants meeting the alternative education

qualifying factors, most commonly because of a gap in enrollment stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Alternative education students in Clark County have limited school options for earning a high school diploma.
3. BANV is one of the few alternative education schools specialized to meet the needs of credit deficient students. Other Clark County alternative education schools serve special education students exclusively, serve suspended or expelled students who demonstrate behavior challenges, or award an Adult Standard Diploma through adult education options.
4. BANV is a successful alternative education charter school, consistently meeting standards on the Organizational, Financial, and Alternative Performance Frameworks. The team has proven that it has the capacity to expand and grow to accommodate more students to better meet the demands of this highly at-risk student population.

As stated previously, and according to BANV, the school has seen an increase in students wishing to attend its unique model due to the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. According to the amendment application, 55% of all students in the 2022-2023 school year enrolled in BANV following a gap in their educational experience. The students with a gap in their enrollment were previously withdrawn for not attending school or were not enrolled in school to earn credit for at least one quarter of the school year and BANV notes in their amendment application that these statistics show the significant impact COVID had on students in Clark County. Additionally, according to the amendment application, approximately 70.3% of students lacked at least one high school year of credits upon enrollment and a significant portion (24.6%) of students enrolled at least two full years behind in high school credits. BANV noted that the majority (70%) of students are enrolled in the 12th grade, which includes cohorts 2023, 2022, 2021, or earlier, 22.6% are in the 11th grade, and less than 6% are enrolled in the 9th or 10th grade. BANV stated in their amendment application that the severity of the at-risk nature of their student population requires a highly personalized innovative program designed specifically for older high school students, which is the focus of BANV.

According to the amendment application, BANV is requesting an increase in its enrollment cap at both campuses, but the newer East campus will see the larger growth in the coming years if approved. BANV expects the West campus growth to level off by the 2025-26 school year, and the East campus to continue to grow incrementally over the next five years. If approved, the BANV enrollment cap for each campus will be<sup>1</sup>:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>
<b>East Campus</b>						
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	315	350	377	415	456	501
<b>West Campus</b>						
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	468	475	500	500	500	500
Total Enrollment	780	820	877	915	956	1,001

<sup>1</sup> Charter renewal will be considered by the Authority in the Fall of 2026

## 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, BANV is rated under both the Alternative Performance Framework ([NRS 385A.740](#)) as approved by the Nevada State Board of Education and the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework. Additionally, BANV has an additional, school-specific framework, that is embedded within their current contract. This academic performance framework is designed to track the performance outcomes expected of a high-quality school serving a population that is exclusively made up of students eligible for alternative education. The framework includes measures such as achievement status, growth, college and career readiness measures, and student engagement.

The Nevada Alternative Performance Framework measure ratings of Declining, Maintaining, and Improving—which require two years of data—were first available for BANV in the 2021-22 school year. The data shown are a percent of measures with Maintaining or Improving status and BANV scored 75% on the 2021-22 ratings<sup>2</sup>. The first year of BANV’s SPCSA Academic Performance results for the 2018-19 school year were not released publicly. Due to COVID-19 and the lack of NSPF star ratings, overall SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings could not be calculated in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. BANV was found to be Below Standard on the SPCSA’s 2021-22 Academic Performance Framework<sup>3</sup>.

According to the most recent organizational data, BANV earned 100 points (out of 100) on the 2021 – 22 Organizational Framework which was approved at the December 16, 2022 SPCSA Board meeting. Additionally, BANV received a Meets Standards on SPCSA’s Financial Performance Framework that were approved at the Authority’s March 3, 2023 meeting.

SPCSA staff recognizes that BANV is a unique school, and is in fact, the only SPCSA-sponsored charter schools that qualifies, and is rated, under Nevada Alternative Performance Framework. BANV is an important option for students and families in Clark County, and as the school explained in their application, there has been an increased need for schools like BANV in the wake of the COVID pandemic. SPCSA staff would also note this request to increase enrollment aligns with the SPCSA’s [Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#). Specifically, one of the needs the SPCSA has identified is serving students at risk of dropping out. As the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment notes, “despite a rapidly improving graduation rate, nearly one in five students does not graduate from high school in four years, with certain student groups persistently graduating at lower rates than their peers<sup>4</sup>.” BANV’s request aligns with this need the SPCSA has identified.

SPCSA staff is supportive of BANV’s request to expand its enrollment to provide an option for students in CCSD that otherwise may have no other avenue to complete their high school education. Additionally, as

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<sup>2</sup> [Full BANV Nevada Alternative Framework Results](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Full BANV SPCSA Academic Report Card](#)

<sup>4</sup> SPCSA 2023 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment - 2b. Academic Need: Students at risk of dropping out of school

BANV explained in their amendment application, BANV is one of the few alternative education schools specialized to meet the needs of credit deficient students and staff finds this to be a compelling reason to allow for this increase in enrollment. Finally, BANV has shown continued strong organizational and financial performance and has achieved perfect ratings under the last three Organizational Performance Framework ratings, and near-perfect ratings under the previous three Financial Performance Framework ratings. Thus, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve BANV’s request to expand enrollment in its existing grades and facilities.

**Proposed Motion: Approve Beacon Academy of Nevada’s request to increase enrollment at both the East and West Campus as detailed in the recommendation memo.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for BANV will be<sup>5</sup>:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
East Campus						
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	315	350	377	415	456	501
West Campus						
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	468	475	500	500	500	500
Total Enrollment	780	820	877	915	956	1,001

The current, approved, enrollment cap for BANV is:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
East Campus			
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	315	350	350
West Campus			
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	419	419	419
Total Enrollment	734	769	769

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<sup>5</sup> Charter renewal will be considered by the Authority in the Fall of 2026

**Historical Performance and Demographic Information – Beacon Academy**

**School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017<sup>6</sup>**

<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	384	2.0%	17.9%	33.5%	37.5%	1.0%	4.6%	3.1%	18.2%	9.8%	57.2%
18-19	405	3.7%	15.3%	28.1%	43.5%	1.0%	5.7%	2.7%	19.8%	13.1%	65.7%
19-20	380	3.9%	13.9%	24.5%	47.9%	1.3%	6.6%	1.8%	25.0%	13.4%	66.1%
20-21	324	3.7%	18.8%	26.2%	44.7%	0.9%	4.9%	0.6%	29.3%	12.6%	65.1%
21-22	355	3.0%	25.9%	19.1%	43.9%	0.2%	6.7%	0.8%	24.7%	14.6%	67.0%
22-23	552	1.0%	27.8%	12.3%	47.4%	0.3%	8.5%	2.3%	21.0%	14.6%	77.3%

- 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

**Beacon Academy School Financial Performance**

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

**Beacon Academy Organizational Performance**

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

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<sup>6</sup> Beginning in 2022, Beacon opened the East Campus. Due to the hybrid model Beacon implements, demographic data is still reported as a single total and not broken out between campuses.

## Beacon Academy School Academy Performance - SPCSA Report Card

Growth (30 percent) - MAP				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score*	Assigned Rating	Assigned Score
Ave Percentile: Reading (15%)	NWEA	53.8%	Adequate	62.5
Ave Percentile: Math (15%)	NWEA	61.4%	Exceeds	85
Add the Growth Assigned Scores and divide by the number of scores to determine the average. % meeting established norm standards				73.75
Multiply the average by 30% to obtain the weighted score.				22.13
Status (20 percent) - ACT, 2 or higher				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score*	Assigned Rating	Assigned Score
Math Pooled Average (10%)	APF/ACT	22.5%	Approaches	37.5
ELA Pooled Average (10%)	APF/ACT	45.5%	Adequate	62.5
Add the Status Assigned Scores and divide by the number of scores to determine the average.				50
Multiply the average by 20% to obtain the weighted score.				10
College and Career Readiness (40 percent)				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score*	Assigned Rating	Assigned Score
Credit Earning Rate (20%)	APF/IC	80.9%	Exceeds	85
Transition Success (15%)	IC/Momentum	88.7%	Exceeds	85
Graduation Attainment (5%)	APF/IC	4.5	Adequate	62.5
Add (Credit Earning Rate Score x 0.2) + (Transition Success Assigned Score x 0.15) + (Graduation Attainment Rate Assigned Score x 0.1) to obtain the weighted score				32.88
5-Year ACGR	IC	34%		
Student Engagement (10 percent)				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score*	Assigned Rating	Assigned Score
Chronic Absenteeism (5%)	NSPF/IC	44.5%	Critical	2.5
Retention Rate (5%)	IC/Momentum	70.40%	Exceeds	85
Add the Student Engagement scores and divide by the number of scores to determine the average.				43.75
Multiply the average by 10% to obtain the weighted score.				4.38
<b>Total Score</b>				69.38
<b>Designation</b>				<b>Adequate</b>

# Alternative Performance Framework

## Beacon Academy of Nevada

School Type: SPCSA  
Grade Level: 09-12  
School Designation: CSI

District: State Public Charter School Authority  
Website: [www.BANV.org](http://www.BANV.org)  
7360 W. Flamingo Road --  
Las Vegas, NV 89147  
Phone: (702)726-8600

### School Mission

BANV will continue to use tools for formal monitoring of the school wide literacy program, including MAP testing 3 times per year, quarterly core credit attainment data and attendance data, while analyzing and discussing data quarterly with the instructional staff and administration and implementing data based decisions to improve teaching and learning. The instructional staff will continue to attend literacy professional learning throughout the year, and will give frequent formative assessments with summative data being used to inform instruction.

### Academic Achievement

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
Math Pooled Average	0	0	<b>Maintaining</b>
ELA Pooled Average	5.7	8.5	<b>Maintaining</b>
Science Pooled Average	-	7.6	To Be Determined

BANV enrolls students that qualify for alternative education. Students are typically 2 years behind their peers. Utilizing NWEA MAP for reading and mathematics baseline scores, students make progress towards their annual projected growth scores and demonstrate proficiency by earning a C or higher in their classes .

### Attendance

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
Attendance Rate	80.5	85.4	<b>Improving</b>
Chronic Absenteeism	N/A	44.5	To Be Determined

BANV's attendance practices align with state distance education requirements. Students are enrolled in 3 online classes every quarter and 1 face-to-face class. Weekly progress is tracked and interventions are provided based upon this data. Chronic absenteeism is calculated by how many truanancies a student received during their enrollment.

### Academic Progress

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
Credit Earning Rate	53.1	75.1	<b>Improving</b>
Academic IEP Math Goals	N/A	N/A	NA
Academic IEP ELA Goals	N/A	N/A	NA

Students complete 4 or more semester courses every quarter. Scheduling addresses the students' core credit deficiency and MAP diagnostic testing results. Elective courses provide skill building opportunities to supplement core subject areas. Every classroom has a 15:1 student to teacher ratio or lower.

## Graduation

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
4-Year ACGR	20	13.9	<b>Declining</b>
5-Year ACGR	51.8	34	<b>Declining</b>
Graduation Attainment	3.9	4.4	<b>Maintaining</b>

The majority of students enroll credit deficient. They require extensive academic interventions and social/emotional support to earn a diploma. Our unique scheduling format, wrap-around services, and student-centered courses are designed to support students while they make progress towards graduation.

## Student Engagement

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
Transferred to Traditional School	100	97.5	<b>Declining</b>
Persisted at Traditional School	81.9	86.6	<b>Maintaining</b>
Transferred to or Stayed at Alternative School	0	2.4	<b>Improving</b>
Persisted at Alternative School	-	-	<b>Maintaining</b>
Student Participation	N/A	N/A	NA

## Planning for Success

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Continuum of Performance
Data Driven Literacy Instruction	Level 4: Expanded Level of Implementation	Level 4: Expanded Level of Implementation	To Be Determined
Academic Learning Plans	100	100	<b>Maintaining</b>
Life Skills IEP Goals	N/A	N/A	NA

BANV's support system, including instructional and Student Support Services staff, helps students work through and overcome barriers to achieving academic success, including social and emotional wellbeing. School Social Workers, Counselors, our Career Pathways Facilitator, and teachers work together with each student to provide academic, and social/emotional support, in addition to the skills necessary to transition from high school to college and/or career. In addition, NWEA MAP is administered three times per year to determine baseline and growth data towards individual student goals .



# School Performance: Cognia Accreditation

“The school completely commits to the institution’s original mission and vision with fidelity and integrity that is focused on meeting the individual learning needs of students in an alternative educational setting”

*Accreditation Report, 2/22*

- **Insufficient: 0**
- **Initiating: 1 Standard- Area for growth**
  - Represents areas to enhance and extend current improvement efforts
- **Improving: 23 Standards It is everywhere**
  - Pinpoints quality practices that are improving and meet the standards
- **Impacting: 10 Standards Over the top!**
  - Demonstrates noteworthy practices producing clear results that positively impact the institution

Overall Index Education Quality: 328.53 (Avg. range 272-283)



# School Performance: Student Survey

"I would recommend Beacon to any of my friends, **especially if they were struggling in a traditional school like I was previously**. As for the days I can make it to campus, I always give it my all and try to complete as many assignments as I can." ~ **Projected Grad Date: March, 2023**

"Each time I come to campus I try to do as much work as possible and as correctly as possible because I **am surrounded by teachers if needed and have a designated area that is quiet to work**." ~ **Projected Grad Date: May, 2024**

"Well, I like it here so much at Beacon that **I recommended it to my friend** and now she is also a student here as well."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: December, 2022**

"I think this school is very good and especially for people with some missing credits. **This school cares about everyone and helps out a lot**."  
~ **Projected Grad Date March, 2025**

"I try to get as much work done as possible during my Academic Seminar so I don't put it off when I'm at home and **push myself toward getting an A or at least a B on every assignment I submit**."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: December, 2023**

"When I'm at school my mind doesn't feel so clouded like it does at home. **Having multiple teachers in each class** that are there to help me make being in class enjoyable which **makes me look forward to going to school**. **I love my teachers because they check in on me and all of them are kind**. They don't get upset with me even if I'm a little behind and always offer a helping hand when I'm doing assignments."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: May, 2024**

"**My experience being here is really different from being in regular school** where there's a lot of students in one place squished together. There are less distractions here and **I am able to work at my pace without being stressed out**. There are teachers that will actually help you when you are struggling and go through the assignments with you."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: May, 2023**

"Beacon Academy is the best high school and **the staff really cares about helping the students get their diploma**."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: March, 2023**

"**I feel like this is how regular school should be**."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: December, 2024**

"Being at Beacon Academy, has **made school less stressful** because it is **very flexible** and if I were to get stuck on something my teachers would help me without having to ask them."  
~ **Projected Grad Date: December, 2022**

# School Performance: Growth

Growth (30 percent)- MAP				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score	Assigned Rating	Included Students
<b>Ave Percentile: Reading (15%) NWEA</b>	NWEA	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>ADEQUATE</b>	Includes any student enrolled 91+ days with a pre and post test available.
<b>Ave Percentile: Math (15%) NWEA</b>	NWEA	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>EXCEEDS</b>	

**22.1 out of 30 points**



# School Performance: Status

Status (20 percent)- ACT, 2 or higher				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score	Assigned Rating	Included Students
Math Pooled Average (10%)	APF/ ACT	22.5%	APPROACHES	Includes any students enrolled 30+ days, which varies from the NSPF range of 90+ days.
ELA Pooled Average (10%)	APF/ ACT	45.4%	ADEQUATE	

10 out of 20 points



# School Performance: College & Career Readiness

## College and Career Readiness (40 percent)

Data Element	Source	Actual Score	Assigned Rating	Included Students
<b>Credit Earning Rate (20%)</b>	APF/ IC	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>EXCEEDS</b>	Credit earning rate includes all students.
<b>Transition Success (15%)</b>	IC/ Momentum	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>EXCEEDS</b>	Transition success includes students enrolled 91+ days.
<b>Graduation Attainment (5%)</b>	APF/ IC	<b>4.5 (out of 10)</b>	<b>ADEQUATE</b>	Graduation attainment includes all students with non-neutral ending status codes.

**32.9 out of 40  
points**



# School Performance: Student Engagement

Student Engagement (10 percent)				
Data Element	Source	Actual Score	Assigned Rating	Included Students
<b>Chronic Absenteeism (5%)</b>	NSPF/IC	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>CRITICAL</b>	Chronic absenteeism includes all students..
<b>Retention Rate (5%)</b>	IC/Momentum	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>EXCEEDS</b>	Retention includes students enrolled on the last day of school.

**4.4 out of 10 points**

