

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Jen Bauer  
Interim Executive  
Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543  
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164  
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

---

---

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III  
**SUBJECT:** **Doral Academy of Northern Nevada – Charter Amendment Request to adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority in accordance with an affiliation agreement**  
**DATE:** October 13, 2023

---

**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the school to adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority in accordance with an affiliation agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno’s (UNR) Early Head Start Program.

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 3 this memo.

**Background and Analysis**

DANN is located at 3725 Butch Cassidy Dr, Reno, NV 89511 and serves 956 students in grades K – 8 as of the 2022 Validation Day. According to the amendment application, the UNR Head Start Program provides center-based early childhood education services for income-eligible pregnant women and families with children aged zero to three, including children with disabilities. DANN and UNR’s affiliation agreement will allow any child who is currently enrolled in the UNR Head Start Program or has been enrolled in the program at any time in the past, to receive priority enrollment at DANN.

Furthermore, DANN notes the goals of this amendment request are to continue to provide

a high-quality education, promote greater collaboration in enhancing the family experience transitioning between elementary and middle school, and promote greater proficiency and mastery of academic content for students matriculating from the UNR Head Start Program in their enrollment at DANN.

DANN also noted in the amendment application that this request does not represent a change in academic model or target community of DANN but instead adds an additional priority to the already-approved priority list for students prior to be placed in a lottery. DANN intends to effectively leave in place the same enrollment priorities as prior years for the remainder of the charter contract. Finally, DANN explained that the change will be communicated with DANN families beginning in Fall 2023, pending final approval by the SPCSA board.

### **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. DANN has consistently performed at, or above, standards on all SPCSA framework metrics. As of the 2018-19 NSPF ratings, DANN’s elementary and middle schools were rated as 5-stars. Moreover, DANN’s elementary school received 82.6 points on the 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and was rated as Exceeds Standards; the middle school received 88.9 points and was rated as Exceeds Standard.

DANN earned 94 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.’ DANN has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework, which was approved at the July 28, 2023, SPCSA board meeting.

SPCSA staff is supportive of DANN’s request to modify its enrollment priority to include students who are, and have been, enrolled in UNR’s Head Start Program. As previously noted in the memo, the Head Start Program provides center-based early childhood education services for income-eligible pregnant women and families with children aged zero to three, including children with disabilities, and providing priority enrollment aligns with the SPCSA’s Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. Additionally, DANN also intends to leave in place all other approved enrollment priorities as prior years for the remainder of the charter contract.

SPCSA staff also notes this request does not affect the school’s approved enrollment

cap nor will it have the school’s academics or operations. SPCSA recommends the Authority approve DANN’s amendment request.

**Proposed Motion:**

**Grant Doral Academy of Northern Nevada a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority to include any child who is currently enrolled in the UNR Head Start Program or has been enrolled in the program at any time in the past.**

The approved enrollment cap for DANN is:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950

**Historical Performance and Demographic Information – DANN**

**School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	161	4.9%	0.0%	72.0%	16.1%	0.0%	6.2%	0.6%	6.2%	*	*
18-19	626	5.1%	0.6%	74.2%	12.9%	0.3%	6.0%	0.6%	9.2%	*	6.5%
19-20	814	5.0%	0.2%	73.2%	13.1%	0.3%	7.8%	0.1%	10.8%	*	*
20-21	899	4.8%	0.6%	70.1%	14.0%	0.2%	9.8%	0.1%	11.1%	*	8.3%
21-22	925	4.8%	0.3%	71.0%	14.9%	0.1%	8.6%	0.1%	10.8%	*	6.4%
22-23	956	4.6%	0.3%	70.8%	15.2%	0.2%	8.7%	0.0%	11.6%	*	6.2%

- 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

**DANN Charter School Financial Performance**

Year	Rating
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard

## DANN Charter School Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard

## DANN Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2021 - 2022 <sup>1</sup>	- Elementary: 86.1 - Middle: 93.3
2020 – 2021 <sup>2</sup>	- Elementary: 5 – stars - Middle: 5 – stars
2019 – 2020 <sup>3</sup>	- Elementary: 5 – stars - Middle: 5 – stars
2018 – 2019	- Elementary: 5 – stars - Middle: 5 – stars
2017 – 2018	- Elementary: 5 – stars - Middle: N/A

<sup>1</sup> According to the NSPF technical guide released by the Nevada Department of Education, star ratings were not calculated for the 2021 – 2022 school year in accordance with flexibility offered in the U.S. Department of Education’s addendum to Nevada’s consolidated state plan due to COVID-19. Star ratings will resume in 2023

<sup>2</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>3</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.

## DANN 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results<sup>4</sup>

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating</b>
DANN ES	82.6	EXCEEDS STANDARD
DANN MS	88.9	EXCEEDS STANDARD

---

<sup>4</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>