



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing  
**SUBJECT:** **Rooted School – Clark County Update & Request to Defer Opening**  
**DATE:** June 23, 2023

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**Background**

Rooted School – Clark County was approved on resubmission by the SPCSA Board at the November 18, 2022 Board meeting to open in the fall of 2023.

Since that action by the Authority, the school has worked to enroll students and hire staff. According to the leadership team of Rooted School – Clark County, their team has run into three primary obstacles. First, the school currently has low enrollment which raises questions about their financial viability. Second, the school has encountered challenges in building community partnerships. Finally, the school was approved upon resubmission in November which resulted in a shorter planning year. These challenges resulted in the governing body of Rooted School – Clark County formally requesting to defer the school's opening to the 2024 – 25 school year.

**Summary and Recommendation**

SPCSA staff has been in close communication with leadership of Rooted School – Clark County over the past several months to monitor their enrollment progress. Information shared with staff in late-May indicated that enrollment was approximately 20 students, or about 20% of their original projected enrollment for Year 1 of operations. Given this reality, SPCSA staff feels that a deferred opening to the 2024 – 25 school year is the best option for the viability of the school. This will allow Rooted School – Clark County to more effectively recruit students, and complete the SPCSA Pre-Opening process prior to the start of school next August.

As a result, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority take action to defer the opening of Rooted School – Clark County to the 2024 – 25 school year.

**Proposed Motion**

**Approve the request of Rooted School – Clark County to defer the school’s opening to the 2024 – 25 school year, and that the school complete the pre-opening process and fulfill all outstanding, unique conditions attached to the school’s approval from November 2022.**

*Outstanding Unique Conditions to be Fulfilled:*

- Provide an updated list of partners and evidence of these relationships that includes deliverables and responsibilities of each party, such as Memorandums of Understanding.
- Provide evidence that:
  - o All Career and Technical Education courses comply with NDE requirements and that those course for which students will earn academic credit have been approved by the State Board of Education (see NAC 389.672), and
  - o The school has received approval from the State Board of Education to offer work-based learning, if it will be offered during the 2023-24 school year. (see NRS 389.167)
- Provide notification to SPCSA staff in the event that the Rooted School Foundation or an organization intending to contract with the Rooted School Foundation submits an application to open a charter school in any state, or if the Rooted School Foundation enters into a new contract to provide services to an existing charter school prior to the start of the 2025-26 school year.

If the deferral request is approved, the enrollment caps for Rooted School – Clark County are as follows:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2024 – 25</b>	<b>2025 – 26</b>	<b>2026 – 27</b>	<b>2027 – 28</b>	<b>2028 – 29</b>	<b>2029 – 30</b>
<b>Total Enrollment Cap</b>	180	270	360	360	360	360
<b>Grade Levels</b>	9 – 10	9 – 11	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12