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To: [SPCSA Public Comment](#)
Subject: Mater Academy of Northern Nevada
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To whom this may concern,

My name is Lauren Duran-Berti and I am writing in support of Mater Academy High School in North Valleys. I have two boys who attend Mater Academy of Northern Nevada. Our eldest son has attended since 2nd grade and is now in 8th grade, unfortunately the last year he can attend Mater until being sent off to high school next year. Our youngest has attended Mater since his schooling started and is currently in 2nd grade. Our oldest struggled tremendously in the Washoe county public school that he attended until 1st grade. We would constantly receive calls about behaviors not knowing he has undiagnosed ADHD. When we moved him to Mater Academy of Northern Nevada, it was the best decision we have ever made. He received testing, diagnosis, support and had an IEP plan in place. He did not feel excluded or differed that other student from being in this program and it has made him excel tremendously with the support of this wonderful school.

We commute daily from Lemmon Valley where we have lived over 13 years. This is just for their education at Mater Academy. Apart from the amazing support we receive from Mater, the communication is beyond incredible since day one. Our children have been provided with the tools they need to succeed. We get dojo communications constantly, we can see progress through the day, and even get calls regarding good behavior. This is surreal as a parent to receive a call from school about positivity, not just negativity. The culture at Mater is so diverse and we as a family feel safe and welcome and our boys have been provided with the best education we could have ever hoped for.

We travel daily into town which can be a struggle at times especially with the increased traffic, population, and lack of infrastructure on our freeways that cause major delays. Our commute in the morning takes minimal 1 hour up to 3+ with weather and or accidents. This caused a strain on our children as we wake up super early just to get ready for the day. It is worth it for our children to attend Mater Academy. We have been to other charter schools and have colleges with children in other schools and they cannot relate to the amount of support and education our children receive at Mater Academy.

With that being said, it is very difficult for us to know send our 8th grader out into our Washoe County school system, especially since charter high schools are limited and difficult to get accepted in our community. Even touring Charter high schools recently, I still do not

feel supported, get the sense of cultural diversity, and weary of education plans with these other options. I support Mater Academy High School and feel it would help our community. Our youth deserve a safe environment where they can learn, grow, and excel. Daily at drop off my son continues to say how much is going to miss Mater Academy and the staff. It terrifies me that he had voiced that he is scared of going to another school with new teachers, but mainly safety and bullying. As a parent hearing this from our child my heart dropped, my stomach feels upset and I wish we had other options available. Our children deserve to feel safe at school and Mater Academy is always on top of it!

I am hopeful that Mater High School will be built in our community so that our youngest can attend. This will take the strain off us parents living in the North valleys and commuting to drop off. We drive through treacherous weather for hours at times, daily. This is all for our children's education. The children in our community deserve exceptional education. Mater Academy of Northern Nevada has exceeded our expectations. We 100% support them and I stand with tons of families who agree.

Thank you for your time,

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Lauren Duran-Berti

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