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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: Nevada State High School - Flagship – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap
DATE: January 26, 2024

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 2023 Validation Day, NSHS had 910 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 2023-2024 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	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
Enrollment	40	63	66	69	72	72
Henderson						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	229	269	282	296	311	311
Henderson Downtown						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	118	131	138	145	152	152
Northwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	122	134	141	148	155	155
Southwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	138	151	159	167	175	175
Summerlin						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	131	161	169	177	186	186
Sunrise						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	51	88	92	97	102	102
North Las Vegas						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	80	111	117	123	129	129
Total Enrollment	909	1108	1164	1222	1282	1282

According to the amendment application, NSHS is seeking to make the requested changes to align to the current, and projected enrollment counts, for this year and beyond. NSHS listed several efforts to increase enrollment in the coming years. According to the amendment application, those efforts include:

- In August 2023, it was identified that year-over-year applications were down 30% and enrollment was down 10% year-over year, resulting in a change in personnel in the marketing department.
- In September 2023, NSHS created the role of Data and Registration and Director, focused on ensuring quality in the enrollment process.
- In October 2023, NSHS developed a 2024-2025 marketing and recruitment plan focused on brand awareness, digital marketing, grassroots events, and actively sharing information with families regarding the school.

- In November 2023, NSHS hired a new Marketing and Engagement Director whose primary focuses are on promoting brand awareness and increasing student enrollment.
- Through targeted community and grassroots events and enhancements to the current advertising strategies, NSHS anticipates a minimum of 10% YOY growth in student recruitment.
- In addition to the marketing efforts, NSHS continues to show signs of strength in application conversions. NSHS successfully met a target from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023, and retained nearly 98% of its student population. 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. In the case of NSHS Flagship, SPCSA staff finds the school 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. All eligible campuses earned a 5-star rating according to the most recent NSPF ratings. The NSHS Flagship campuses were also found to be exceeding standards on the 2022-2023 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, and staff does not note any Organizational issues on the 2022 – 23 Organizational Performance Framework. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ NSHS has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework and preliminary results under the 2023 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 2023-2024 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	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
Enrollment	40	63	66	69	72	72
Henderson						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	229	269	282	296	311	311
Henderson Downtown						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	118	131	138	145	152	152
Northwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	122	134	141	148	155	155
Southwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	138	151	159	167	175	175
Summerlin						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	131	161	169	177	186	186
Sunrise						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	51	88	92	97	102	102
North Las Vegas						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	80	111	117	123	129	129
Total Enrollment	909	1108	1164	1222	1282	1282

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

School Year	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
Enrollment	85	94	103	113	124	136
Henderson						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	295	310	310	310	310	310
Henderson Downtown						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	144	158	174	190	190	190
Northwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	156	166	166	166	166	166
Southwest						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	157	173	188	188	188	188
Summerlin						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	188	207	228	255	255	255
Sunrise						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	96	106	117	129	130	130
North Las Vegas						
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	110	121	133	146	161	170
Total Enrollment	1231	1335	1419	1497	1524	1545

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%
23-24	40	2.5%	12.5%	5.0%	80.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	*	62.5%

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%
23-24	118	5.0%	1.6%	66.1%	17.7%	0.0%	8.4%	0.8%	*	0.0%	19.4%

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%
23-24	229	14.4%	6.9%	43.2%	24.8%	0.8%	7.4%	2.1%	1.3%	3.0%	21.8%

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%
23-24	80	6.2%	28.7%	11.2%	43.7%	1.2%	8.7%	0.0%	1.2%	5.0%	45.0%

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%
23-24	122	3.2%	9.0%	32.7%	31.1%	1.6%	19.6%	2.4%	0.8%	2.4%	23.7%

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%
23-24	139	23.0%	20.1%	22.3%	23.7%	0.0%	10.0%	0.7%	0.7%	3.5%	35.2%

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%
23-24	131	10.6%	16.0%	22.1%	31.2%	0.0%	18.3%	1.5%	0.7%	1.5%	36.6%

Nevada State High School Sunrise

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
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%
23-24	51	1.9%	11.7%	5.8%	68.6%	0.0%	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%	7.8%	66.6%

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

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

Nevada State High School Organizational Performance

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

Nevada State High School Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023 Star Ratings	Downtown: 5-stars Summerlin: 5-stars Henderson: 5-stars Sunrise: 5-stars Southwest: 5-stars Downtown Henderson: 5-stars Northwest: 5-stars North Las Vegas: Not Rated
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 ¹	Downtown: 5-stars Henderson: 5-stars Southwest: Not Rated Summerlin: 5-stars Sunrise: Not Rated
2019 – 2020 ²	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 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NSHS Downtown HS	89	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Downtown Henderson HS	92	EXCEEDS STANDARD

¹ 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.

² 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

NSHS Henderson HS	89	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Northwest HS	88.7	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Southwest HS	89.7	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Summerlin HS	90	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS Sunrise HS	90	EXCEEDS STANDARD
NSHS North Las Vegas HS	N/A	NOT RATED

Nevada State High School 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results³

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

³ 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>