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**STATE OF NEVADA**

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*Executive Director*



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Jennifer Bauer, Finance and Operations Manager  
Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Transportation Plan: Vegas Vista  
**DATE:** April 12, 2024

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**Background**

[Assembly Bill 400 \(2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature\)](#) appropriated \$7 million to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for each year of the upcoming biennium (the 2023-24 fiscal year and the 2024-25 fiscal year) to award to charter schools, including SPCSA-sponsored and district-sponsored charter schools, to fund student transportation. To receive funding, a charter school must submit a Transportation Plan to the SPCSA, and the SPCSA may approve the Transportation Plan and award funding to the charter school if the plan meets the following criteria:

1. “The transportation plan is comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented;
2. The transportation plan will materially improve access to education in the region served by the transportation plan;
3. The transportation plan demonstrates that the charter school will be able to comply with statutory and regulatory transportation requirements, including, without limitation, the certification of bus drivers and vehicle safety;
4. The transportation plan is financially viable;
5. The transportation plan would not cost more, on a per pupil basis, than the average cost for transportation for other public schools operating in the school district in which the charter school is located; and

6. The academic, financial and organizational performance of the charter school indicate that the transportation plan is in the interest of pupils who will be served by the transportation plan.”<sup>1</sup>

It is important to note that pursuant to NAC 388A.330(4), a charter school is only permitted to provide transportation to pupils if the school has approval from its sponsor. Therefore, charter schools that have not already been approved to provide student transportation must submit to their sponsor a contract amendment request to implement the Transportation Plan. For those schools sponsored by the SPCSA, the amendment request to provide student transportation was incorporated into the application process, and the SPCSA Board will consider approval of the amendment request in conjunction with the Transportation Plan.

Applications for the 2023-24 school year will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis from July 7, 2023, until all funds are expended. While the SPCSA hopes to fund all applicants who submit a compliant transportation plan because there is only \$7 million available each school year, the SPCSA may prioritize funding Title I charter schools.

The SPCSA's website provides additional details and a form associated with the Transportation Plan and Funding Application.

### **Transportation Plan Overview**

Vegas Vista is requesting \$57,720.00 to implement the school’s Transportation Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Below is an overview of the proposed Plan, as provided in the application.

“Vegas Vista Academy will use some of the requested funding to provide transportation to and from school for families that live over 2 miles away from our Águilas location. A central part of Vegas Vista Academy’s mission is to break down barriers and facilitate equity and access to world class education. One big barrier for our families is transportation. VVA families are able to get their children to many of our community partner locations, including several Acelero preschools and the Heinrich YMCA. Because families are able to get their children to these locations but not to our school site, we plan on using our community partner locations (Aceleros, YMCA, etc) for bus stops. VVA will also use a portion of the funds to manage our transportation program, including hiring an experienced tech-enabled transportation manager, 4MATIV Technologies, to subcontract and manage our bus vendor (and any other vendors we might need in the future), manage routing, oversee the operation by way of their GPS tracking system, and operate a customer call center for our parents and has a hub for all communications between schools staff, any and all vendors and families. 4MATIV’s technology also helps manage route change requests and the school’s daily dismissal plan. Lastly, if we succeed in Q1 of SY24-25 and achieve at least 200 enrollment, we plan to amend our grant request to purchase a smaller van (10 passenger) and insurance for staff and school use.”

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<sup>1</sup> Section 28.5 of Assembly Bill 400 (2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature)

Vegas Vista was approved to open with 200 students in its first year of operation and 300 in its second year of operation. Based on the current enrollment of 80 students, as of April 3, 2024, SPCSA staff feels comfortable awarding the requested amount.

### **Analysis and Recommendation**

Vegas Vista is approved to be a Title I school that will commence operation in the 24-25 school year. Vegas Vista's is requesting approval of its Transportation Plan and funding to implement the plan. In addition, because Vegas Vista is not currently approved to provide transportation, the school is requesting, by this document also to amend its charter contract to provide transportation.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the Transportation Plan and found that it meets the requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 400.

1. The Transportation Plan is comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented.
2. The school's narrative explains that if the transportation plan is approved and funded, Vegas Vista will be able to serve a more significant geographical area, improving chronic absenteeism and equitable access to the school. This demonstrates that the Transportation Plan will materially improve access to education in the region.
3. The Transportation Plan includes details regarding how the charter school will ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory transportation requirements.
4. The budget provided within the Transportation Plan demonstrates that the Transportation Plan is financially viable.
5. Vegas Vista's approved enrollment is 200 students in its first year of operation. This plan contemplates funding transportation for 120 students. Vegas Vista is in Clark County, where the four-year average (per pupil) in transportation funding for the **2023-24** school year is \$481.00. The total funding request for Vegas Vista is \$57,720.00, which is less than or equal to the average cost per pupil for transportation within the Clark County School District.
6. The charter school application indicates that the transportation plan is in the interest of pupils who will be served by the transportation plan. Specifically, the Transportation Plan indicates that transportation will expand access and help ensure attendance.

Therefore, SPCSA staff recommend approval of the Vegas Vista Transportation Plan, along with eligible funding to implement the plan.

### **Proposed Motion:**

1. Approve the Vegas Vista Transportation Plan, along with eligible funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school complies with applicable laws and regulations before beginning to transport students.

If approved, the enrollment for the remainder of the contract term will remain unchanged:

<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>
Grade Levels	K-3	K-5	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11
Total Enrollment	200	300	450	500	550	600