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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Jennifer Bauer, Finance and Operations Manager
Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Transportation Plan: Do And Be Arts Academy of Excellence
DATE: May 17, 2024

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.”

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

Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence is requesting \$43,290.00 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.

“At Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence (DBAE), our proposed transportation plan aims to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient travel for a targeted set of our K-8 students, directly supporting their academic success and well-being. Recognizing the crucial role of accessible transportation in educational equity, our plan focuses on outsourced transportation to an experienced bus operator, American Transportation, subcontracted by an experienced tech-enabled transportation manager, 4MATIV Technologies. 4MATIV will 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. Grant dollars from another source will support 4MATIV's management fees while this funding request will be used to cover the pass-through costs of a single daily bus route with American Transportation. The route will be designed to maximize efficiency and the number of students served with a minimum number of daily miles and with routes tiered with another school will minimize the cost to the school.

This strategic use of funds will enable DBAE to offer a transportation system that not only facilitates access to our unique arts-integrated education but also reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being. By removing transportation barriers, we're expanding educational opportunities to more students, fostering a more inclusive, diverse,

and thriving school community.

Analysis and Recommendation

Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence is approved as a Title I school that will commence operation in the 24-25 school year, serving students in the 89030, 89031, 89032, and 89081 zip codes. In addition, Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence is not currently approved to provide transportation. The school is requesting, by this document, 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, Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence will be able to address safety concerns and economic barriers currently faced by families trying to transport their children to the school. This tailored transportation solution will ensure equitable access to education for all students. The plan will also increase attendance.
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. Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence's approved enrollment is 280 students in its first year of operation. This plan contemplates funding transportation for 70-80 students. Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence 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 Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence is \$43,290.00, 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 Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence Transportation Plan, along with eligible funding to implement the plan.

Proposed Motion:

1. Approve the Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence 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:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Grade Levels	K-3	K-5	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11
Total Enrollment	280	420	560	630	630	630