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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** **Alpine Academy – Charter Amendment Request to:**

- **Relocate Facility**
- **Increase Enrollment Cap**

**DATE:** June 21, 2024

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Alpine Academy has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to relocate its facility and increase its enrollment cap beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion along with conditions can be found on page 4 of this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

Alpine is a brick-and-mortar, single site public charter school that currently serves 157 students as of the 2023 Validation Day in 9th – 12th grades and operates out of one campus in Sparks. Alpine’s mission is to provide students with a comprehensive and quality education that equips them with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in an ever-changing world. According to the application, Alpine Academy is seeking approval for a relocation of the school and an increase in the enrollment cap. The school has been operating in a leased section of an industrial building that has been converted into a school setting. However, according to the school, this current location has become outdated and inadequate in terms of size and accommodation for a well-performing educational institution. The school has been actively seeking opportunities to relocate to a new location that better suits the school's needs. After an extensive search, Alpine Academy has identified an existing building located less than a quarter of a mile from the current location. This new building is well-suited to host a school as a tenant and will provide a more suitable environment for students to thrive.

The new location’s address is 1421 Pullman Drive, Sparks NV 89434. The facility previously operated as the Career College of Northern Nevada and thus is ready-made for a school to operate. According to the amendment application, the new facility will offer modern, spacious classrooms and advanced technological resources to support student learning. Additionally, the expanded space will allow for a broader range of educational programs, electives, and extracurricular activities, such as the successful archery program and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

With the proposed move to the new facility, Alpine does contemplate an expansion in enrollment over the coming years. Alpine notes in their amendment application that the new neighborhoods that will be much closer to the new location will allow the school to expand to students who may have been unable to commute to the office park the facility currently is located in. Additionally, the new location is more visible to passersby, which should allow the school to more effectively market the school as a quality alternative for students who wish to seek different options from their zoned high schools in the area.

Alpine noted there are some risks that it has considered regarding the relocation of its facility and has contingency and mitigation plans to ensure the school is successful at the new location. First and foremost, the school has communicated with current students and families and have found the relocation to be strongly encouraged by students and families. Those currently enrolled are excited to occupy a space and location that will be more conducive to a high school environment. Additionally, the school has worked with its financial advisors to ensure the school is able to meet the financial requirements of the new facility. The school will also actively engage the surrounding communities through school fairs, the creation of a Parent/Teacher Organization, mailers, flyers, and door-to-door outreach.

Alpine notes in the amendment application, that it has has yet to receive the final lease or Certificate of Occupancy and will provide those documents when the agreements are finalized. SPCSA staff will monitor this through conditions and the pre-opening process.

If approved, Alpine Academy’s enrollment cap would be<sup>1</sup>:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	240	300	325	350	375

According to the amendment application, Alpine has proactively built a conservative budget, considering recent changes in enrollment, and managed resources while maintaining the school's mission. The budget achieves a surplus each year. This surplus contributes to the growth of the fund balance, which serves as a financial safeguard against contingencies such as reduced funding levels, fluctuations in enrollment, or unforeseen events.

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<sup>1</sup> Italics denote years beyond the current charter term.

## **Legal Authority**

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. 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 (NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

## **Analysis and Staff Recommendation**

When reviewing an amendment application for Request for Amendment (RFA) eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Alpine Academy was rated as 3-stars on the 2022-23 NSPF and received 61 points on the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework, which met standards.

Alpine received 99.0 points on the SPCSA’s Organizational Performance Framework, approved at the January 26, 2024, SPCSA Board meeting, which Met Standard. Alpine was also found to have Met the Standard on the SPCSA’s 2023 Financial Performance Framework which was approved at the March 1, 2024, SPCSA Board meeting.

SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request of Alpine to relocate its facility to 1421 Pullman Drive, Sparks NV 89434. Alpine has been one of the SPCSA’s longest operating schools in its portfolio and has operated in an industrial office park for the entirety of its existence. While the school has had times where performance was not meeting expectation, it has rebounded in recent years and focused on mission and vision-oriented goals to better serve its students and families. Additionally, the new location will allow the school to grow some of its extracurricular activities along with improving core subject studies through the use of better educational space.

SPCSA staff would note that Alpine will need to continue to increase its focus on certain sub-populations, which include English Language Learners and Free and Reduced lunch students. Alpine notes in their amendment application that this will be a high priority and the school has already been approved to implement a weighted lottery. Additionally, SPCSA staff notes the school currently, and historically, has served a higher Special Education population than comparative schools in the district where it resides. SPCSA staff will continue to monitor the enrollment of the previously mentioned populations to ensure Alpine Academy is making gains in identified areas. Furthermore, SPCSA staff agree with Alpine’s assessment that the new location will lead to increased access for students who may have been unable to commute to the old location. The new facility is located in closer proximity to neighborhoods that are walkable and should increase interest for students based on that convenience. Finally, SPCSA staff also notes that Alpine Academy is the only SPCSA-sponsored operating high school in Washoe County and staff is pleased to recommend approval to allow more students in the region an

educational option that may better serve their needs. SPCSA staff recommends approval of the relocation of the Alpine facility to 1421 Pullman Drive, Sparks NV 89434 with conditions outlined in the motion below.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Alpine Academy’s request to relocate its facility to 1421 Pullman Drive, Sparks, NV 89434 and increase its enrollment cap through the remainder of its charter term, and through the 2028-29 school year contingent on the renewal of the charter contract with the following conditions:**

- **That Alpine Academy provide a fully executed lease no less than 30 days prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year;**
- **That Alpine Academy provides SPCSA staff with Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy demonstrating compliance with NRS 388A.360, which requires a school facility to be inspected at least 30 days prior to occupancy.**
- **That Alpine Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 1421 Pullman Drive facility.**

If approved, Alpine Academy’s enrollment cap for the remainder of the charter term and beyond if the charter contract is renewed will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	240	300	325	350	375

The current approved Alpine Academy’s enrollment cap for its charter is:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	160	160	160

**School Demographics since 2018 – Alpine Academy**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>IEP</b>	<b>ELL</b>	<b>FRL</b>
<b>18-19</b>	113	4.4%	0.9%	59.3%	29.2%	1.8%	3.5%	0.9%	31.0%	*	27.4%
<b>19-20</b>	103	2.9%	1.0%	63.1%	27.2%	1.9%	2.9%	1.0%	23.3%	*	8.7%
<b>20-21</b>	116	0%	1.7%	66.3%	28.4%	0.8%	1.7%	0.8%	16.3%	*	13.7%
<b>21-22</b>	135	0.7%	0.7%	60.7%	31.1%	2.9%	2.2%	1.4%	14.0%	*	8.1%
<b>22-23</b>	142	0.7%	2.8%	61.9%	26.0%	2.8%	5.6%	0.0%	16.1%	*	23.9%
<b>23-24</b>	157	0.6%	1.9%	61.7%	26.7%	1.2%	7.6%	0.0%	15.9%	*	25.4%

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

\* - Suppressed data due to n-count

**Financial Performance**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2023	Meets the Standard
2022	Meets the Standard
2021	Meets the Standard
2020	In Good Standing

**Organizational Performance – Not Rated**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets Standard
2019 - 2020	Meets Standard

### Alpine Academy Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023	3 Stars
2021 – 2022 <sup>2</sup> Index Score	63.89
2020 – 2021 <sup>3</sup>	3 stars
2019 – 2020 <sup>4</sup>	3 stars
2018 – 2019	3 stars

### Alpine Academy 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
High School	61.0	MEETS STANDARD

### Alpine Academy 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
High School	51.2	MEETS STANDARD

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<sup>2</sup> 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 [here](#)

<sup>3</sup> Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020 – 21 school year waiver from the US 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 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020 – 21 school year.

<sup>4</sup> 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.