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## STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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### ACTION MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** **Amplus Academy – Charter Amendment Request to Operate in a Temporary Facility which will not affect the enrollment cap**  
**DATE:** June 21, 2024

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#### Summary of Request and Recommendation

Amplus 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 operate in a temporary facility for 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

Amplus Academy currently operates two campuses. The Durango campus offers instruction at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, grades K-12. The Rainbow campus offers instruction at the elementary level, grades K-5. According to the amendment application, Amplus is seeking to operate in a temporary facility for some students at the Durango campus for the 2024-25 school year. Amplus noted that it is currently in the process of expanding on the 5 acre parcel on the east side of the school which was purchased back in 2017. This expansion will add an athletic field as well as additional classrooms and an operations building. Until the construction has been completed, the current facility lacks the adequate space for all the classrooms required for the secondary students. The temporary facility will be located at the UNLV Blackfire building, .4 miles south and within the UNLV Research and Technology Park.

Additionally, according to the amendment application, the only real impact on the students will be the location the parents will be dropping off. The students will then transition and walk back to Amplus. To mitigate this impact, Amplus will ensure that a staff member will be present

during student drop off as well as the transition back to Amplus Academy. The temporary facility will be used as a classroom space for students enrollment in the Amplus EMT program and will total about 40 students.

Amplus also notes that occupying the temporary facility will have a minimum affect on the budget and the temporary facility is only projected to create an expense of less than \$10,000 for the fiscal year and will not affect the previously approved budget. Finally, this request will not change the approved enrollment caps for either of the Amplus campuses.

### **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. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

### **Analysis and Staff Recommendation**

When reviewing an amendment application for RFA eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. The Durango elementary a 4-star rating for the 2022-23 school year, The Durango middle school received a 3-star rating for the 2022-23 school year, and the Durango high school received a 5-star rating for the 2022-23 school year. The Rainbow elementary school received a 5-star rating for the 2022-23 school year. Additionally, all campuses either received a Meets or Exceeds standards on the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework for the 2022-23 school year.

Amplus received 100 points on the SPCSA’s Organizational Performance Framework, approved at the January 26, 2024 SPCSA Board meeting, which Met Standard. Amplus 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 by Amplus to operate in a tempary facility for the 2024-25 school year for students who attend the school’s EMT program. The school has provided a reasonable plan to ensure students are able to transition between the two facilities as needed and Amplus has provided a draft rental agreement with UNLV that shows costs reflected in the amendment application.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Amplus Academy’s request to operate at a temporary facility located at 8400 W. Sunset Road Suite 400, Las Vegas, NV 89113 for the 2024-25 school year with the following conditions:**

- **That Amplus Academy provide a fully executed rental agreement no less than 30 days prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year;**

- **That Amplus Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 8400 W. Sunset Road Suite 400 facility.**

The current, approved, Amplus Academy enrollment cap is:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Durango Campus</b>	
Grade Levels	K – 12
Enrollment	1616
<b>Rainbow Campus</b>	
Grade Levels	K – 5
Enrollment	640
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2256</b>

**School Demographics since 2019 – Amplus Academy**

**Durango Campus:**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
2019-20	1637	17.2	14.5	39.8	19.4	0.1	6.1	2.6	19.3	<5.0	<5.0
2020-21	1476	18.9	17.5	33.9	19.9	0	6.5	3.0	23.1	5.2	<5.0
2021-22	1570	19.8	17.3	33.8	18.8	0.1	6.8	3.1	31.7	5.4	5.1
2022-23	1662	21.0	18.4	30.2	20.2	0	6.7	3.1	30.3	6.4	5.6
2023-24	1690	22.0	19.4	27.8	20.6	0	7.2	2.7	30.2	6.7	6.3

**Rainbow Campus:**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
2019-20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020-21	773	20.5	19.9	32.6	16.0	0.2	8.6	1.9	27.1	<5.0	7.2
2021-22	673	24.6	32.0	20.2	13.8	0.4	7.7	1.0	41.6	<5.0	17.9
2022-23	626	25.2	29.3	20.9	14.8	0.4	7.9	1.1	41.6	<5.0	15.8
2023-24	628	25.4	20.8	23.8	17.6	0.1	10.6	1.2	40.4	6.3	12.2

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

Year	Rating
2023	Meets the Standard
2022	Meets the Standard
2021	Meets the Standard
2020	In Good Standing

### Organizational Performance – Not Rated

Year	Rating
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets Standard
2019 - 2020	Meets Standard

### Amplus Academy Academic Performance

#### Durango Campus

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023	Elementary School: 4-stars Middle School: 3-stars High School: 5-stars
2021 – 2022 <sup>1</sup> Index Score	Elementary School: 76.5 Middle School: 87.0 High School: 80.5
2020 – 2021 <sup>2</sup>	Elementary School: 2-stars Middle School: 5-stars High School: 2-stars

#### Rainbow Campus

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023	Elementary School: 5-stars
2021 – 2022 <sup>3</sup> Index Score	Elementary School: 82.0

<sup>1</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>2</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>3</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](#)

2020 – 2021 <sup>4</sup>	Elementary School: Not Rated
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**Amplus Academy 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score</b>	<b>2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating</b>
Durango ES	82.1	EXCEEDS STANDARD
Durango MS	70.7	MEETS STANDARD
Durango HS	89.8	EXCEEDS STANDARD
Rainbow MS	85.8	EXCEEDS STANDARD

**Amplus Academy 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating</b>
Durango ES	77.9	MEETS STANDARD
Durango MS	86.2	EXCEEDS STANDARD
Durango HS	79.3	MEETS STANDARD
Rainbow MS	84.2	EXCEEDS STANDARD

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<sup>4</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.

