



Solicitation of Input – 2024 New Charter Application Submission

County: Elko
Proposal: Nevada Classical Academy Elko
Proposed Location: 1031 Railroad Street Elko, NV 89801
Proposed Zip Codes to be served: 89801, 89815

School District Input:

Please provide any data as to overcrowding in the zip code where the school is proposing to locate.

The following numbers and commentary are based on data from a 3rd party facility report, which determined the programmatic capacity of each of our school sites, as well as enrollment data from the most recent school year.

Three of the ECSD schools in Elko and Spring Creek currently experience a student enrollment that is higher than their determined capacity. Those three schools are Elko High School, Flag View Intermediate and Spring Creek Middle School. None of those schools have students in the grade levels that would be immediately enrolling in the proposed school. Flag View Intermediate has grade levels that would be eligible starting the third year of the proposed school and Spring Creek Middle the fourth year. Elko High School does not have students in grade levels proposed during the first 6 years of establishment.

Does the School District’s Capital Improvement Plan include any plans to add new schools or add additional capacity to existing schools within the community in which the applicant proposes to locate?

The district’s recent CIP iterations did include plans for either a new elementary school and/or a build to add capacity to an intermediate/junior high school in Elko. However, a severe lack of capital funding from the county has made this a very difficult effort to realize in the near future.

As you know, the SPCSA approved the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment on July 26, 2019 and approved an updated version on January 22, 2021, January 28, 2022, November 18, 2022, and subsequently on December 8, 2023. A copy of the current version can be found [here](#). Our staff and board will be evaluating the degree to which the applicant aligns with the identified needs. Please provide any input as to how this applicant does or does not meet identified needs in the community.

The applicant has indicated their intent is to target students from (1) identified 1-star and 2-star schools, (2) students eligible for the ELL program, and (3) students whose needs aren’t being met by existing school options. According to the needs assessment criteria set forth by the SPCSA and completed by the NCEA, the applicant does meet identified needs for some of our community. We support school choice for parents and families and recognize the need for all students to have equitable access to a quality education. In an effort to provide additional context and information, we believe the following data to be relevant for consideration for both the SPCSA and the applicant, in their efforts to best serve the parents and students of our community:

Target audience (1) - identified 1-star and 2-star schools

- Sage Elementary – historically underperforming
- Liberty Peak Elementary – newly established school in 2019-2020. All initial data was collected during COVID years and we’re just now establishing ratings and data.
- Spring Creek Elementary – prior to COVID, SCE was a 3-star school with a 78.3 total index score. Coming out of COVID, that dropped down to a 37.2. The next year they moved up to a 48.8, just below qualifying as a 3-star. We look forward to seeing them continue to progress to where they were pre-COVID.
- Southside Elementary – prior to COVID, SSE was a 4-star school with a 71.5 total index score. Coming out of COVID, that dropped down to a 20.5. The next year they moved up to a 48.5, just below qualifying as a 3-star. We look forward to seeing them continue to progress to where they were pre-COVID.

In a look at our enrollment data from last school year, 41 students indicated during withdrawal from their current school that they were transferring to a charter school. Of those 41 students, only 2 transferred from the four schools mentioned above.

Target audience (2) - students eligible for the ELL program

In a look at our enrollment data from last school year, 41 students indicated during withdrawal from their current school that they were transferring to a charter school. Of those 41 students, only 3 were identified as students in our English Language Learner program.

Target audience (3) - students whose needs aren’t being met by existing school options

Based on the wording of this statement, as well as the survey data provided in the application, we determine this to mean families whose students likely aren’t attending ECSD schools already, with the majority coming from families and students who are currently homeschooling. According to the survey, 29% of interested respondents (31 people) indicated they currently participate in public school.

If district staff or Board of Trustees has had prior communications with this applicant, please provide any relevant information or details from that communication that might be useful to the SPCSA in making an informed decision regarding the application.

The current representatives from the NCAE have been very communicative during the last year. Since last fall, representatives have had multiple conversations with the ECSD Superintendent, individual conversations with ECSD Board Trustees, and been present to speak multiple times at ECSD Board Meetings, including a presentation to the board about the goals of the school. Their communications have been very helpful in explaining how they’ve improved and updated their application from its previous iteration. It is evident they have put a lot of thought and work into the progress they’ve made. Everything in their application accurately reflects the information they have communicated with us individually and collectively.

Are there currently any schools providing a similar educational model in the community in which the applicant proposes to locate? If yes, please provide any relevant information on the current school(s) with similar educational models that are available to students in the community.

No. While there is already one charter school in our community, the model of this proposed charter school is completely unique.

Is there any other additional information you wish to provide?

As a public school district, we welcome and accept all students. We believe that any institution that offers, or self-identifies as offering, a public education should be committed to doing the same. We applaud the intent of the applicant to have their enrollment reflect the enrollment of the Elko County School District in regards to racial demographics. We encourage the applicant to seek to do the same in other enrollment categories such as SPED, ELL, FRL, Homelessness, etc.

Additionally, an important element to ensuring equity is access to opportunity. With 3 of 4 targeted schools in the attendance zones coming from Spring Creek, and the 1 other remaining school being our most economically disadvantaged school in either zip code, the absence of provided transportation could certainly be a significant barrier of access for many of those students who have the greatest need. We encourage the committee and applicant to consider this as a very important factor.