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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **Amplus Academy– Charter Amendment Request to Increase Enrollment Cap**
DATE: January 24, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Amplus Academy (Amplus) has submitted an application to amend its charter contract to increase its approved enrollment cap at the Durango campus beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

SPCSA staff have reviewed the application and recommend the Authority approve the request. A proposed motion, along with conditions, can be found on page 3 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. The Durango campus had 1761 students enrolled and the Rainbow campus had 628 students enrolled as of the 2024 Validation Day.

According to the amendment application, in 2017, the SPCSA board approved an expansion amendment that included the purchase of the 5-acre lot adjacent to the Durango campus. The purpose of the expansion was to include additional parking as well as an athletic field. Due to the complexities of building/permitting, the school was not able to initiate or complete the expansion project. Amplus completed their separation from their EMO in June of 2022. Once the separation was complete, the school was able to acquire the Charter Facility Support Foundation, LLC (CFSF) which is the owner/landlord to both campus buildings and the 5-acre parcel at the Durango campus. Completing the 5-acre expansion became top priority once the transfer of ownership was complete, as was revising the expansion plans to include additional auxiliary buildings. The school notes that these buildings will be a critical addition to its secondary program allowing for additional classroom space for both CTE and

regular classes. The athletic field is scheduled for completion in fall of 2025 and the remaining buildings to be completed by 2026.

Additionally, according to the amendment application, the original Amplus charter application and expansion amendment projected a lower student retention rate for grades 9-12 than has been demonstrated over the past 3 years. With the implementation of CTE and dual credit options, more high school students are staying until graduation. Due to the number of students that are continuing with Amplus through high school, Amplus is requesting an increase in their enrollment cap to retain the students that are already currently enrolled at the school in lower grade levels. By increasing the enrollment cap for those students as they matriculate through the school, Amplus does not foresee new enrollment of students not currently attending the school and instead the increase in the cap will be used to retain existing students. The enrollment increase for the next two school years will allow for current student retention. Class cohorts in grades 6-9 are currently 210 students, while grades 10-12 are 130-180 students.

The school also noted in the amendment application that this request will have no impact on the academic mission and model of the school. Amplus does plan to add staffing as necessary in response to the increase in enrollment over the next few years. Additionally, the request to increase the enrollment cap will only affect the Durango campus and no changes are contemplated at the Rainbow campus.

Regarding the facility expansion at the Durango campus, Amplus explained that the school is currently completing interior renovations which, when finished, will provide five new classrooms, an expanded entryway/check-in area, a larger staff break room, five more staff bathrooms, and additional space and offices for the Student Support Department. Over the past two years, Amplus has also been working on the expansion for the five-acre lot adjacent to the Durango campus. This expansion will include an athletic field, weight room, outside restrooms, small theater, operations building and additional classrooms. This additional facility space will allow for the increase in high school enrollment as the cohort numbers increase over the next three to five years. Amplus expects the facility expansion to be completed by the end of the 2025-26 school year.

If approved, the Amplus enrollment cap would be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Durango Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12
Enrollment Cap	1767	1847	1898	1914	1914	1914	1914	1914
Rainbow Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5
Enrollment Cap	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640
Total Enrollment	2407	2487	2538	2554	2554	2554	2554	2554

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. When 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, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Academically, Durango elementary school received a 4-star NSPF rating for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years. Additionally, on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework, the elementary school was rated as Meets Standard in the 2021 – 2022 and 2023 – 2024 school years. The school was rated as Exceeds Standard in 2022 – 2023. The Durango middle school received 3-star NSPF ratings for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Additionally, on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework, the middle school was rated as Exceeds Standard in 2021 – 2022 and Meets Standard in 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024. The Durango high school received a 5-star NSPF rating for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years and the high school was rated as Meets Standard in 2021 – 2022 and Exceeds Standard in 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. The Rainbow elementary school received a 5-star NSPF rating for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school year. Additionally, on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework, the elementary campus was rated as Exceeds Standard in 2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023, and 2023 – 2024.

According to the most recent organizational data, Amplus earned 100 points (out of 100) on the 2023 – 24 Organizational Framework which was approved at the October 4, 2024, SPCSA Board meeting. Additionally, Amplus received a Meets Standards on SPCSA’s Financial Performance Framework that were approved at the Authority’s March 1, 2024, meeting.

SPCSA is supportive of the request by Amplus to increase its enrollment cap at the Durango campus. As previously noted, the school is requesting this increase in order to be able to accommodate the lower grade students that are matriculating through the school. Amplus also provided a reasonable plan with regard to the facility expansion and that expansion will allow the school to add.

Ultimately, because the academic performance of Amplus has been consistently at or above expected performance levels throughout their charter term, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority approve the request to increase the Amplus enrollment cap for the Durango campus beginning in the 2025-26 school year with condition.

Proposed Motion: Approve Amplus Academy’s request to increase its enrollment cap beginning in the 2025-26 school year with the following condition:

- **That Amplus Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the expansion of the Durango campus.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for Amplus will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Durango Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12
Enrollment Cap	1767	1847	1898	1914	1914	1914	1914	1914
Rainbow Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5
Enrollment Cap	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640
Total Enrollment	2407	2487	2538	2554	2554	2554	2554	2554

The current, approved, enrollment cap for Amplus is:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Durango Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12
Enrollment Cap	1616	1616	1616	1616	1616	1616	1616	1616
Rainbow Campus								
Grade Levels	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5	K – 5
Enrollment Cap	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640
Total Enrollment	2256	2256	2256	2256	2256	2256	2256	2256

Historical Performance and Demographic Information – Amplus Academy

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2019

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
2024-25	1761	22.1	20.2	26.9	20.3	0	7.2	2.9	28.2	6.8	6.7

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
2024-25	628	26.9	18.1	22.2	20.8	0	10.6	1.1	31.0	6.8	8.9

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

* n size too low

Amplus Academy School Financial Performance

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

Amplus Academy Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard

Amplus Academy Academic Performance – Durango campus

2021–22 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 77.9 / Meets Standard Middle: 86.2 / Exceeds Standard High: 79.3 / Meets Standard
2021–22 NSPF Index Score	Elementary: 76.5 Middle: 87.0 High: 80.5
2022–23 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 82.1 / Exceeds Standard Middle: 70.7 / Meets Standard High: 89.8 / Exceeds Standard
2022–23 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 83.5 / 4-star Middle: 64.5 / 3-star High: 93.0 / 5-star
2023–24 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 79.9 / Meets Standard Middle: 69.7 / Meets Standard High: 84.9 / Exceeds Standard
2023–24 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 76.5 / 4-star Middle: 69.5 / 3-star High: 86.5 / 5-star

Amplus Academy Academic Performance – Rainbow campus

2021–22 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 84.2 / Exceeds Standard
2021–22 NSPF Index Score	Elementary: 82.0
2022–23 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 85.8 / Exceeds Standard
2022–23 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 88.0 / 5-star
2023–24 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 83.9 / Exceeds Standard
2023–24 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 86.5 / 5-star