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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT: Nevada Virtual Charter School – Charter Amendment Request to:
 • Reduce Enrollment Cap
 • Change Enrollment Policy
DATE: January 24, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Nevada Virtual Charter School (NVCS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) approve a reduction in the school's approved enrollment cap beginning in the 2024-25 school year and to change its enrollment policy to limit enrollment to only students who reside in Clark County beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority approve the request. A proposed motion can be found on page 4 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

NVCS is a full-time, virtual charter school serving students statewide. As of Validation Day 2024, NVCS had 1625 students enrolled in grades 6 – 12.

At the April 14, 2023 SPCSA Board meeting, the school was approved to terminate its existing EMO contract with Stride and enter into a contract with Accel for curriculum, platform, instructional support services, student computers and technology assistance services, and school support services. In addition to plans to contract with Accel, the school plans to contract with the Charter School Management Company (CSMC) for back-office support.

Additionally, according to the amendment application, the change in name and withdrawal

notification by K12 caused the school to lose about 500 students that had indicated they would be returning for the 2023-24 school year and some newly enrolled students due most likely due to confusion. Despite NVCS communications of the upcoming name change towards the end of the 2022-23 school year and numerous communications over the summer informing families to ignore withdrawal notifications from K12, Stride, NVCS was unable to begin the new school year with enrollment numbers that were within 10% of the approved enrollment cap.

According to the amendment application, and after careful consideration and review of its current student population, NVCS is requesting to lower its enrollment cap and to limit enrollment of students to those who reside in Clark County beginning in the 2025-26 school year. NVCS seeks to increase focus on students within Clark County in order to better address the needs of students with closer proximity to the physical campus and to provide face to face teacher and staff support when needed. The school explained in the amendment application that with the 2-star middle school rating, NVCS would like to be able to focus on a reduced number of students within 50 miles of its Clark County campus, so the school is able to better serve students who are in need of additional support by attending the Blended program on campus. Currently, NVCS has 292 students who live outside of Clark County who would be grandfathered in until they graduate or withdraw, and 1,262 students who live in Clark County, not counting 264 Seniors slated to graduate this year.

Regarding the financial aspect of the reduction, NVCS noted that staffing levels and costs have been projected on a conservative basis while adjusting to the new normal enrollment numbers after leaving their previous EMO. For staffing NVCS have operated at a level consistent with the lowered enrollment numbers and is the same with other costs. The staffing is budgeted around the requested lowered enrollment cap, and NVCS does not foresee a drop in staffing levels. Additionally, NVCS explained that the school operates at a conservative level in expenses which has been shown in positive net income. The 5-year projections continue to show positive end fund balance even when considering the lower enrollment cap in future years.

If approved, NVCS’s enrollment cap will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Total Enrollment	1700	1650	1600	1600	1600

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, NVCS was most recently rated 2-star for the middle school and the high school was rated as 3-stars. The NVCS middle school received 31.4 points, which did not meet standards but was an improvement from the 2022-23 rating, and the high school received 52.7 points, which met the standard, on the 2023-2024 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

According to the most recent organizational data, NVCS earned 100 points (out of 100) on the 2023 – 24 Organizational Framework which was approved at the October 4, 2024 SPCSA Board meeting. NVCS was also rated as Meets the Standard on the SPCSA Financial Framework which was approved at the March 3, 2023 SPCSA board meeting. Given the recent academic, organizational, and financial performance under SPCSA Performance Frameworks, SPCSA staff finds that overall, NVCS is meeting performance expectations.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NVCS. SPCSA staff also commends NVCS for deciding on a more intentional approach, especially with middle school students, that will allow for more time and attention by teachers for those students who are not meeting standard. NVCS had communicated this proposal to SPCSA staff over the summer of 2024 and explained they would be thorough in its process before coming to the decision to limit future enrollment to only students that reside in Clark County. Based on the overall enrollment of the school, the vast majority of students live in Clark County, and being to focus solely on those students should improve outcomes in future school years. Additionally, NVCS provided a reasonable plan regarding the transition and will still allow students who currently are enrolled, but do not live in Clark County, to continue their education with NVCS which will prevent disruption for those students.

Understanding that this proposal contemplates a reduction to the enrollment cap down to 1600 students, NVCS provided an updated budget which showed financial viability through the end of the charter term. SPCSA staff would also note that NVCS has shown strong results when measured under the SPCSA's Financial Performance Framework with enrollment that is similar to what the cap will eventually become. NVCS received a Meets Standard rating on the 2023 Financial Performance Framework and met standard in all 7 indicators as well. SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve NVCS's request to reduce its enrollment cap for the 2024-25 school year as well as subsequent years and change the enrollment policy to limit future enrollment to students who reside in Clark County.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request of Nevada Virtual Charter School and approve the school’s request to reduce the enrollment cap and change the enrollment policy as detailed in the amendment recommendation memo.

If approved the enrollment cap for NVCS will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Total Enrollment	1700	1650	1600	1600	1600

The currently approved enrollment cap for NVCS:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12
Total Enrollment	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100

Historical Performance and Demographic Information – NVCS

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2017

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	2097	5.5%	17.2%	48.7%	24.2%	1.5%	0.0%	2.7%	11.6%	<5%	46.9%
18-19	1840	5.1%	16.6%	45.7%	28.2%	1.1%	0.0%	3.0%	11.1%	<5%	51.4%
19-20	1461	5.0%	15.0%	44.4%	31.9%	1.0%	0.0%	2.3%	11.7%	<5%	53.4%
20-21	2187	4.7%	18.9%	43.1%	28.7%	0.7%	1.3%	2.3%	11.1%	<5%	62.5%
21-22	2027	5.4%	21.5%	37.2%	31.9%	1.1%	0.0%	2.6%	11.4%	<5%	56.7%
22-23	2153	5.0%	22.8%	32.6%	35.1%	0.8%	0.2%	3.2%	12.3%	<5%	57.3%
23-24	1717	6.1%	21.4%	32.1%	35.4%	1.0%	0.5%	3.2%	12.7%	<5%	58.1%
24-25	1625	5.5%	21.0%	30.0%	37.3%	1.5%	1.3%	3.1%	13.3%	5.6%	57.5%

- 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

Nevada Virtual Charter School Financial Performance

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

2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
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Nevada Virtual Charter School 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

Nevada Virtual Charter School Academic Performance

Year	Rating
2023 – 2024	MS: 2 Stars HS: 3 stars
2022 – 2023	MS: 2 stars HS: 3 stars
2021 – 2022 Index Scores	MS: 42.0 HS: 53.5
2020 - 2021²	MS: 3 stars HS: 3 stars
2019 – 2020³	MS: 3 stars HS: 3 stars
2018 – 2019	MS: 3 stars HS: 3 stars
2017 – 2018	MS: 2 stars HS: 3 stars

Nevada Virtual Charter School 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Nevada Virtual MS	31.4	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
Nevada Virtual HS	52.7	MEETS STANDARD

Nevada Virtual Charter School 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Nevada Virtual MS	30.8	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
Nevada Virtual HS	54.6	MEETS STANDARD

Nevada Virtual Charter School 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Nevada Virtual MS	37.2	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
Nevada Virtual HS	44.1	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD