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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** **Southern Nevada Trades High School – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap**  
**DATE:** March 7, 2025

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Southern Nevada Trades High School (SNTHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to reduce its 2024-25 enrollment cap and the remainder of the charter term.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page 2 of this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

SNTHS is located at the 1580 Bledsoe Lane Las Vegas 89110. SNTHS is currently in its second year of operation and serves grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> and will add 12<sup>th</sup> grade next school year. As of Validation Day 2024, SNTHS had 182 students enrolled.

The mission of SNTHS is, “To promote excellence in academic and career and technical education, preparing students for post-secondary education and careers in construction-related professions.” According to the application, SNTHS is requesting to decrease its enrollment cap for the 2024-25 school year to 186 students from the originally planned 300 and to increase the cap in the remaining years of the charter term. SNTHS noted in its amendment application that enrollment increased over 100 students from its initial year of operation into its second year, and they believe this growth will continue as the school adds 12<sup>th</sup> grade next school year.

Additionally, the school has continued to engage with an outreach coordinator as well as social media marketers through a program offered by Opportunity 180. The engagement’s main focus is on building relationships with key individuals at feeder schools and SNTHS has found success in

establishing those and reaching potential families. SNTHS is also engaging current families and students as ambassadors to bring families to events and on tours.

SNTHS continues to fundraise in order to close gaps that have occurred due to lower than expected enrollment. According to the amendment application, SNTHS plans to fundraise significant funds in 2025 totaling \$1 million which the school expects to collect in the second half of the year. Additionally, the school received money for three statewide programs: State Special Education funding, Construction Commission Grant, and Charter School Transportation Grant which it is also using to ensure adequate funding

SNTHS does not expect any staffing changes due to the lower than projected enrollment. The school continues to contract with a bus company to provide pick-up/drop-off services to select students which SNTHS expects to further improve enrollment in future school years.

If approved, SNTHS enrollment cap for the remainder of its charter term would be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	9 – 11	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	186	325	400	400	400

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

### Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application for Request For Amendment eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. SNTHS is in its second year of operation and has not been rated academically or financially but will be rated on the Financial Framework for its performance during the 2023-24 school year. The school received 96 points (out of 100) on the Organizational Performance Framework for the 2023-24 school year and met standards.

SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request of SNTHS to reduce its enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year and the remainder of the charter term.

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<sup>1</sup> NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Southern Nevada Trades High School's request to reduce its approved enrollment cap as detailed in the recommendation memo.**

If approved, Southern Nevada Trade High School's enrollment cap for its charter term will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	9 – 11	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	186	325	400	400	400

The current approved Southern Nevada Trades High School's enrollment cap for its charter is:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	9 – 11	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	300	400	450	500	550

**School Demographics since 2023 – SNTHS**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
23-24	83	0.0%	25.3%	22.8%	49.3%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	19.2%	12.0%	61.4%
24-25	182	0.5%	27.4%	8.2%	59.8%	0.0%	3.2%	0.5%	15.3%	16.4%	>95%

- 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

**Organizational Performance**

<b>2023 -2024</b>	<b>Meets the Standard</b>
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**Financial Performance – Not Rated**