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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **FuturEdge Charter Academy – Charter Amendment Request to Enter into an Articulation Agreement with Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy of Nevada**
DATE: March 7, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

FuturEdge Charter Academy has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school to enter into an Articulation agreement with Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy of Nevada (PTANN)

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 a condition can be found on page 3 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

FuturEdge originally opened as the 100 Academy of Engineering and Technology and assumed the current name in June 2024. FuturEdge began contracting with an Education Management Organization (EMO), Support Solutions Services (SSS), in 2020. The mission of the school is “FuturEdge is dedicated to reshaping education for the FuturEdge by blending Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) with a focus on essential digital skills for AI development.” FuturEdge’s mission centers on preparing students for success in high school, college, and careers, with a focus on critical thinking, innovation, and adaptability in fields like business, technology, and the arts. The school offers specialized programs in robotics, performing arts, Project Lead the Way, and the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

FuturEdge was approved to transfer sponsorship from Clark County School District to the SPCSA beginning in the 2025 – 26 school year. As of the 2024 Validation Day, FuturEdge had 259 students enrolled in grades K – 8th.

According to the amendment application, FuturEdge seeks approval to amend its charter to establish an Articulation agreement with PTAAN and adjust its lottery and enrollment policies accordingly. This amendment will allow for a transition for FuturEdge’s 8th-grade students into 9th grade at PTAAN, granting them priority enrollment without requiring them to participate in the general lottery for the subsequent two school years, which are 2025-2026 enrollment, as well as 2026-2027 enrollment.

According to the amendment application, to ensure successful implementation, FuturEdge will: Update official school materials (website, handbook, enrollment forms) to reflect this policy change, communicate directly with families through emails, mailings, parent meetings, and orientation sessions, provide staff training to ensure all stakeholders understand the new process, and align transition timelines with PTAA Nevada to guarantee seamless enrollment processing for eligible students.

Additionally, FuturEdge submitted an updated enrollment and lottery policy which can be found as an attachment along with the amendment application. Based upon review of the agreement, the enrollment preference aligns with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 388A.456, which allows Articulation agreements between charter schools to support student retention and educational continuity without additional enrollment barriers.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

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.¹

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. In the case of FuturEdge, the school has not been rated on any of the SPCSA Performance Frameworks since the school has been operating under sponsorship by CCSD. In a five-year site evaluation, CCSD found that FuturEdge had deficiencies in the academic, financial, and organizational components of the performance framework. Specific ratings issued by CCSD can be found at the end of this memo. SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by FuturEdge. This request is required to be approved by both PTAAN and FuturEdge and the Authority board. The academic model along with operations of the school will not change based upon this Articulation agreement and the agreement will allow for an additional option for 8th grade students matriculating out of FuturEdge.

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve FuturEdge’s request to enter into an Articulation Agreement with PTAAN for 8th grade students for the 2025 – 26 and 2026 – 27 school years with the following condition:

- **By May 1, 2025, FuturEdge provides evidence that PTAAN and FuturEdge Charter Academy have each hired their own school leader, and that each school leader is employed at the school they are identified to lead.**

The approved enrollment cap for the FuturEdge is

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Total Enrollment	325	325	325

School Demographics change since 2021 – Not Applicable

FuturEdge Financial Performance – As Rated by CCSD

Year	Rating
2018 – 2019	Falls Far Below Standard
2019 – 2020	Falls Far Below Standard
2020 – 2021	Falls Far Below Standard
2021 – 2022	Does Not Meet Standards
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standards
2023 – 2024	Does Not Meet Standards

FuturEdge Organizational Performance – As Rated by CCSD

Year	Rating
2018 – 2019	Does Not Meet Standards
2019 – 2020	Does Not Meet Standards
2020 – 2021	Does Not Meet Standards
2021 – 2022	Does Not Meet Standards
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standards
2023 – 2024	Falls Far Below Standard

FuturEdge Academic Performance – As Rated by CCSD

School Year	Elementary School Index Score and Rating	Middle School Index Score and Rating
2018 – 2019	28.5 / 2-star	45.0 / 2-star
2019 – 2020	N/A	N/A
2020 – 2021	N/A	N/A
2021 – 2022	8.8 / Not Rated	12.2 / Not Rated
2022 – 2023	27.5 / 2-star	39.4 / 2-star
2023 – 2024	19.0 / 1-star	30.0 / 2-star