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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **Young Women’s Leadership Academy– Charter Amendment Request to reduce enrollment cap**
DATE: March 7, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Young Women’s Leadership Academy (YWLA) 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.

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 4 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

YWLA is located at 3415 S. Mojave Rd. in Las Vegas, Nevada 89121 in Clark County. YWLA is affiliated with the Young Women Leadership Schools network of all-girls college prep schools all driven by the same mission and vision: to nurture the intellectual curiosity and creativity of young women. Young Women’s Leadership Schools accomplish this by supporting the “whole girl” and seek to maximize the academic achievement, social emotional well-being, and post-secondary success of each student. As of the 2024 Validation Day, YWLA had 111 students enrolled in grades 6 – 9. YWLA was approved in July 2024 to eliminate grades 10th and 11th for the 2024-25 school year in order to refocus efforts on building enrollment in grades 6 – 9.

According to the amendment application, YWLA aims to align its student population with the school’s operational capacity and fiscal resources, ensuring a stable and enriching academic environment. YWLA believes that this adjustment reflects a commitment to delivering a high-quality education

tailored to the needs of existing students while positioning the school for long-term sustainability. YWLA also noted that due to the ongoing challenges of increasing enrollment in grade 9, the new school leaders have determined that focusing resources on strengthening middle school enrollment is the best strategy to build a stronger high school population in the future. The projected enrollment in the middle school grades is expected to support stronger student enrollment for 2025-26 and beyond when the school plans to begin adding grades 10th – 12th.

Additionally, according to the amendment application, to retain current students and reassure families, YWLA will actively reinforce the advantages of our educational model, such as small class sizes that enable increased teacher-student interaction and our ongoing efforts to improve academic outcomes. In addition to student retention, YWLA has also taken steps to increase marketing for new students, continues to work with community partners to increase awareness of YWLA, and has implemented a transportation program to increase access to school for families.

Finally, YWLA presented a fiscally conservative budget and YWLA noted that as student enrollment is lower than expected, some budgeted expenses decreased as a result; these include EMO/CMO Fees, student supplies, IT fees, etc. According to the amendment application, YWLA will look to apply for grants deemed beneficial to the school to further support the planning and implementation of the charter. YWLA will continue to pursue funding for schools available under Titles I, II, III, and/or IVA.

If approved, the enrollment cap for YWLA will remain at:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	6-9	6-10	6-11	6-12
Enrollment Cap	111	150	165	180

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.¹

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application for RFA eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Regarding YWLA’s academic performance, the middle school was rated as 1-star and received 29.2 points on the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework, which did not meet standards. The high school was not rated. YWLA received 96 points (out of 100) on the SPCSA’s Organizational Performance Framework, which Met Standard. YWLA did not receive a rating under the 2022 – 23 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276

SPCSA staff is in support of YWLA to change its enrollment cap for the 2024 – 25 school year. SPCSA staff does have ongoing concerns regarding the continued under enrollment of the school over the first three years of its operation but is recommending approval of this amendment to bring the school’s enrollment cap in the charter contract into alignment with the enrollment of the school.

Proposed Motion: Grant YWLA’s Good Cause Exemption request and approve YWLA’s request to reduce the enrollment cap for the 2024 – 25 school year.

If approved, the enrollment cap for YWLA will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	6-9	6-10	6-11	6-12
Enrollment Cap	111	150	165	180

The current enrollment cap for YWLA is:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	6-9	6-10	6-11	6-12
Enrollment Cap	135	150	165	180

Historical Performance and Demographic Information – YWLA

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2022

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
22-23	62	1.6%	40.3%	8.0%	45.1%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0	*	*	70.9%
23-24	141	0.7%	30.4%	6.3%	52.4%	0.0%	8.5%	1.4%	12.0%	19.1%	>95%
24-25	111	0.0%	30.6%	9.0%	56.7%	0.0%	2.7%	.9%	*	18.9%	>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

YWLA School Financial Performance – Not Rated

YWLA Organizational Performance

2023 – 2024	Meets Standard
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YWLA Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2023 – 2024 Star Rating	Middle School: 1-star High School: Not Rated
2022 – 2023 Star Rating	Middle School: 2-stars High School: Not Rated

YWLA 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle School	29.2	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
High School	Not Rated	N/A

YWLA 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle School	38.6	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
High School	Not Rated	N/A