

STATE OF NEVADA

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Request for Amendment 2025 – 2026

Executive Summary

1. Identification of the school, its location(s), enrollment(s)(most recent ADE quarter), brief history, brief description of its board members and key leadership team members

Rooted School Las Vegas: Overview

Rooted School Clark County, dba Rooted School Las Vegas, is a public charter school located at 2401 E. Tonopah Ave, North Las Vegas, NV 89030 that will open its doors in August 2025. At full capacity, the school will serve approximately 360 students in grades 9-12.

Rooted School Las Vegas is part of the Rooted School Network, which was founded in 2017 with the opening of Rooted School New Orleans. Since then, the network has expanded to include: Rooted School New Orleans (2017) – Serving grades 9-12, Rooted School Indianapolis (2020) – Serving grades 7-12 and Rooted School Vancouver, WA (2023) – Serving grades 9-10.

In 2024, Rooted School Foundation was awarded a Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant for Charter Management Organization (CMO) Expansion through the U.S. Department of Education. This five-year grant will support the launch of two additional Rooted School campuses: Rooted School Columbia (Opening Fall 2026) – Launching with grades 6 and 9, expanding to serve grades 6-12 and Rooted School Cleveland (Opening Fall 2027) – Launching with grades 6 and 9, expanding to serve grades 6-12.

Rooted School Las Vegas is governed by a committed Board of Directors, chaired by John Etzell, Executive Director of Boys Town Las Vegas. Additional board members include Jim Dre Westbrook and Greer Perkins. The school also benefits from the strategic support of Rooted School Foundation, led by Jonathan Johnson, CEO and Founder, and Talia Livneh, Senior Director of Programs.

2. Statement and overview of the mission and vision

Mission and Vision

Rooted School Las Vegas is committed to empowering students by providing them with the tools, skills, and mindsets that prepare them for financial independence. **The school's mission is**

to directly support students in discovering their own personal pathways to financial freedom.

Rooted School Las Vegas will strive for every student to graduate with a college acceptance in one hand and a full-time job offer in the other. This vision is grounded in the belief that young people represent an underutilized source of talent in their communities. With the right training, high expectations, and a deep sense of possibility, we believe that high school graduates can play a pivotal role in meeting the evolving demands of the U.S. workforce.

Rooted School Las Vegas will launch its inaugural class in the 2025-26 school year, bringing this vision to life for its founding students.

3. Specific statement of the request

Rooted School Las Vegas is requesting an amendment to its charter to adjust the grade levels served in the 2025-26 school year. Specifically, the school seeks approval to expand from serving grades 9 and 10 to serving grades 9, 10, and 11.

As part of this adjustment, Rooted School Las Vegas proposes the following revised enrollment targets:

- **9th Grade:** 75 students
- **10th Grade:** 45 students
- **11th Grade:** 30 students

This change is essential for ensuring the school's financial viability in its first year of operation. The initial enrollment targets were based on a planned co-location with Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence (DBAE) at the E. Tonopah building. However, DBAE has since decided to secure a different facility, necessitating an increase in Rooted School Las Vegas's enrollment numbers to maintain financial sustainability.

Expanding to include 11th grade aligns with Rooted School Las Vegas's commitment to small class sizes and personalized learning. By making this adjustment, the school can meet necessary enrollment targets while staying true to its mission of supporting students in discovering their own pathways to financial freedom.

Attached to this request are the relevant documents, including meeting minutes confirming approval of the amendment request.

4. Description of proposed target model and target communities

The proposed amendment to adjust the founding grades will not alter Rooted School Las Vegas's educational model or the communities it aims to serve. The school will continue to implement its mission-driven approach, emphasizing financial independence and workforce readiness through small class sizes and personalized learning.

Rooted School Las Vegas will focus its recruitment efforts on students and families residing in North Las Vegas, specifically within the following zip codes: 89115, 89110, 89156, and 89101. An analysis conducted in partnership with Mariposa Consulting Group identified over 1,500 eligible students per grade within these target zip codes, demonstrating a strong demand for high-quality educational opportunities in the region.

5. Statement of outcomes you expect to achieve across the network of campuses

Rooted School Las Vegas remains committed to achieving the same ambitious outcomes outlined in its original, approved charter application. The school's long-term goals focus on academic excellence, workforce readiness, and financial sustainability.

Long-Term Goals (6 Years):

- Academic Performance:
 - Rooted School Las Vegas will consistently be rated a 4-star high school.
- Postsecondary Success:
 - At least 25% of graduates will be accepted into the Green Balloon Fellowship annually.
 - 100% of students aspiring to attend a four-year college will receive an acceptance.
- High School Completion & Credentialing:
 - 90% of students will be on track to graduate within four years.
 - At least 80% of students will earn one or more Industry-Based Credentials before graduation.
 - Students will, on average, outperform district averages in ELA and Math assessments.
- Staff Retention & Sustainability:
 - 90% of top-performing teachers will be retained each year, ensuring continuity in instruction and school culture.
 - Rooted School Las Vegas will achieve financial sustainability without reliance on philanthropy by Year 4 or Year 5.
- Economic Mobility:
 - 80-90% of graduates will secure living-wage jobs by age 22, as defined by MIT's Living Wage Calculator—positioning Rooted School Las Vegas as one of the fastest pathways to upward economic mobility in Southern Nevada.

These outcomes reflect Rooted School Las Vegas's commitment to ensuring that students graduate with the skills, credentials, and opportunities necessary for long-term success.

6. Key components of your educational model for the expanded school

The requested amendment will not alter the fundamental components of Rooted School Las Vegas's educational model. The school will continue to implement the innovative framework outlined in its original, approved charter application, designed to reduce income and wealth gaps for the students it serves.

Rooted School Las Vegas’s model is built upon the following core elements:

1. Self-Directed Learning:

- a. Students will follow personalized learning plans and pathways, aligning their education with personal passions and hands-on projects.
- b. The curriculum will allow students to progress at their own pace through core content from 9th-12th grade, maximizing their individual potential.

2. Industry-Based Credentials (IBCs) and Internships:

- a. Students will complete coursework in industry-aligned learning blocks, earning credentials that enhance their career readiness.
- b. Each student is expected to earn at least four IBCs before graduation, with certifications such as CompTIA, Autodesk Inventor, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, and Salesforce Administrator.
- c. Credentials also serve as a pathway for students to qualify for Registered Apprenticeship Programs, which connects graduates to high-growth, high-wage careers immediately after high school.

3. Project-Based Learning:

- a. Rooted School Las Vegas will integrate Deeper Learning strategies, enabling students to apply knowledge to real-world challenges.
- b. Projects will be designed in collaboration with technology industry partners, ensuring alignment with workforce demands.
- c. A successful example of this approach comes from Rooted School New Orleans, where students used 3D modeling software to design monuments that better reflect the values of their city.

Through these components, Rooted School Las Vegas will continue to equip students with the skills, credentials, and experiences needed to achieve financial freedom and long-term success.

7. Describe the charter school’s plan to ensure enrollment diversity and equity, commensurate with the neighborhood and zip codes it serves. Include plans to close any proficiency gaps among diverse student groups (ex. race/ethnicity, FRL, EL, IEP) as well as family and community engagement strategies.

Rooted School Las Vegas is committed to providing a high-quality educational program that serves the diverse student population of North Las Vegas. The school’s enrollment and instructional model are intentionally designed to meet the needs of students in historically underserved zip codes 89115, 89110, 89156, and 89101, where data from Opportunity 180’s Priority Footprint map and the 2020 Census indicate a significant shortage of high-quality school seats.

Meeting Community Needs & Ensuring Equity

- North Las Vegas is experiencing rapid population growth, with the area near Nevada Prep Charter School seeing a 12% increase since 2000 and an expected 5.4% growth between 2020 and 2025. This surge in population is further straining neighborhood schools, reinforcing the need for more high-quality, accessible educational options.

- In partnership with Mariposa Consulting Group, Rooted School Las Vegas has identified over 1,500 students in grades 9, 10, and 11 who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) in the targeted zip codes.
- Rooted School Las Vegas will become a unique Career & Technical Education (CTE) leader in the region by offering 10+ STEM-focused Industry-Based Credentials (IBCs)—a feature currently unavailable in other high schools in the targeted zip codes. These credentials will provide students with specialized training that increases access to higher-paying entry-level jobs, creating direct economic benefits for students and their families.

Closing Proficiency Gaps Among Diverse Student Groups

Rooted School Las Vegas is purposefully designed to ensure success for all students, including those who are behind academically, have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), are English Language Learners (ELLs), or face other barriers to achievement. The school’s model includes:

- **Small School & Small Class Sizes:** Rooted School Las Vegas intentionally maintains low student-to-teacher ratios to ensure personalized academic support for every student.
- **Advisory Program & Restorative Practices:** Rooted School Las Vegas integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) and social justice mindsets into its advisory program to support student well-being, engagement, and community.
- **Individualized Support Plans:** Every student receives tailored academic interventions to ensure they are on track for high school graduation, post-secondary success, and career readiness.

Through these strategies, Rooted School Las Vegas will ensure that all students, regardless of background or learning needs, receive the support necessary to graduate prepared for both college and high-wage careers.

Meeting the Need – Targeted Plan

1. Identify the community you wish to serve as a result of the expansion or RFA and describe your interest in serving this specific community.

Rooted School Las Vegas is deeply committed to serving the community of North Las Vegas, with a specific focus on the zip codes 89115, 89110, 89156, and 89101. This amendment request will not change the community we aim to serve, but it will allow us to increase our enrollment capacity and begin serving more students sooner than originally planned.

Since the initial charter submission, Rooted School Las Vegas has been dedicated to serving the students of Clark County and North Las Vegas due to both the immense challenges and the promising opportunities present in the region.

Clark County is grappling with significant income and wealth disparities, particularly among African American and Latino residents. According to Opportunity Atlas, by the age of 35, African American and Latino individuals in Clark County will earn only 70% of the average salary of their White counterparts—\$31,000 versus \$44,000 annually. Additionally, Clark

County ranks 5th in poverty within Nevada. The targeted zip codes served by Rooted School Las Vegas—89115, 89110, 89156, and 89101—currently have limited access to high-quality educational options. These areas are served by three 2-star high schools, one 3-star high school, and two 4-star high schools, with no other open-enrollment schools offering significantly better alternatives.

This lack of access to high-quality education presents a critical challenge for students in these communities. However, it also represents an opportunity. Nevada is experiencing significant growth in family-sustaining jobs in industries such as IT, healthcare, trade, and transportation. Many of these positions do not require a four-year college degree, and Rooted School Las Vegas aims to provide its students with the career-connected learning and industry-based credentials needed to access these opportunities earlier in their careers. These credentials will enable students to secure high-wage jobs, lifting their families out of poverty and contributing to the economic revitalization of the region.

Rooted School Las Vegas is dedicated to aligning its educational model with regional workforce needs, preparing students from underserved communities to thrive in the rapidly evolving job market and to succeed after high school, whether that path leads to college, career, or both.

2. Explain how your expansion model or RFA, and the commitment to serve this population, including the grade levels you have chosen, would meet the district and community needs and align with the mission of the SPCSA.

Through this Request for Amendment, Rooted School Las Vegas will expand its capacity to provide more high-quality educational seats to students in North Las Vegas. This change is not a deviation from the school's original growth plan but rather an acceleration of our commitment to serving the community. Rooted School Las Vegas has always intended to serve students in grades 9-12, and this request allows us to reach more students sooner, fulfilling the needs of the community more rapidly.

Rooted School Las Vegas is dedicated to meeting the needs of the community in three specific ways:

1. **Creating More High-Quality High School Seats:** At full capacity, Rooted School Las Vegas will serve 360 students in grades 9-12, providing additional high-quality educational options in an area that currently lacks them.
2. **Creating a Bridge to Family-Sustaining Jobs and Careers:** Our model ensures that students have access to industry-based credentials and career-connected learning, which will enable them to pursue family-sustaining careers immediately after graduation.
3. **Increasing Career and Technical Education (CTE) Opportunities:** Rooted School Las Vegas will become the premier leader in CTE education in Clark County, providing unique pathways that are not available in other high schools in the region.

The mission of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) aligns closely with Rooted School Las Vegas's mission to ensure that more students in Nevada have access to high-quality educational options. The SPCSA aims to foster the growth of innovative, high-quality charter

schools, and Rooted School Las Vegas is committed to contributing to this vision by creating a robust, accessible, and innovative educational model that serves the needs of the community.

Meeting the Need – Growth Rate and Rationale

1. Specifically identify the key risks associated with this growth plan and describe the steps the school is taking to mitigate these risks. Respondents should demonstrate a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the challenges of replication in general and as they relate specifically to their school growth plans based on current and historic experience of charter school management organizations and similar types of multi-site social enterprises and non-profit and for-profit organizations. The response should detail specific risks and explain how the school will minimize the impact of each of these risks, and ideally provide contingency plans for them.

1. Recruitment of Students

The biggest risk Rooted School Las Vegas faces is the increased need to recruit students to fill seats as we expand. With the shift in grade levels and the goal of adding more students, we must ensure that we effectively reach families and increase engagement in a highly competitive environment.

To mitigate this risk, Rooted School Las Vegas has started a partnership with Mariposa Consulting Group to help increase our reach, cultivate new leads, and support our strategies for growing enrollment. We are also hosting a series of in-person events, such as hard hat tours, to increase visibility, engage prospective families, and ultimately drive recruitment. Additionally, the Rooted School Foundation is ramping up its work in Las Vegas by conducting daily follow-ups with parents to ensure strong communication and support.

Even if we do not fill all 150 seats, Rooted School Las Vegas will remain financially viable, and we will adjust recruitment efforts as needed to ensure sustainability. We have contingency plans in place to adjust enrollment targets in response to market conditions, and we are actively working to ensure that our school model and programs resonate with families in the community.

2. Recruitment of Staff

Staff recruitment is another significant risk, particularly given the specialized nature of our model and the small, high-support team structure we rely on. The need to hire a full team of qualified educators and staff members for an expanded school requires significant planning and recruitment efforts.

To mitigate this risk, Rooted School Foundation is providing robust support for hiring staff. We are recruiting candidates through various channels, including in-person referrals, online postings, and collaborations with organizations like Opportunity 180 (O180) and Teach For America (TFA). Additionally, Rooted School Foundation is leading staff training, making curriculum

decisions, and managing all pre-opening conditions to ensure the founding team is fully prepared and equipped to start strong on day one.

In the event of staff shortages, we have contingency plans in place to adjust the number of enrolled students temporarily, focus on hiring critical roles first, and leverage training and development resources to quickly onboard new team members.

Rooted School Las Vegas recognizes the complexities of managing growth and expansion and is proactively addressing these risks through thoughtful recruitment strategies, strategic partnerships, and contingency planning to ensure that we maintain a high-quality, sustainable operation.

Meeting the Need – Community Involvement

1. Describe the role to date of any parents, neighborhood, and/or community members involved in the proposed expansion of the school.

Before Rooted School Las Vegas (RSLV) initially sought authorization, the team conducted over five online forums starting in December 2020. These forums were designed to solicit feedback from more than 100 prospective families and parents. During these sessions, interview questions were used to gather insights into what students and families were looking for in a new school option. This feedback has been invaluable in shaping RSLV's approach to meeting community needs.

RSLV has also worked to build strong relationships with a range of local partners and organizations that continue to play an active role in informing school programming, outreach, and community engagement. These partnerships include: Nevada Partners, Ed.extraordinary, City of North Las Vegas, City of Las Vegas, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation, Clark County Black Caucus, NAACP, UNLV, Vegas Chamber, Latin Chamber, CASA Las Vegas, Communities in Schools of Southern Nevada, BoysTown Nevada.

These organizations continue to provide ongoing support in engaging the local community and ensuring that RSLV is aligned with regional workforce needs and community values.

RSLV is currently in the process of recruiting for the role of Founding Office and Community Engagement Manager. This position will be responsible for planning and executing community engagement events within North Las Vegas, as well as facilitating the involvement of founding families. Starting in June, RSLV will launch a bi-weekly newsletter to keep registered families informed. The newsletter will not only provide important updates but will also create opportunities for families to get involved and share feedback on their experiences with the school.

This deep involvement of parents, neighborhood members, and community partners is critical to ensuring that RSLV remains responsive to local needs and fosters a strong sense of ownership and engagement within the community.

2. Describe how you will engage parents, neighborhood, and community members from the time that the application is approved through expansion of enrollment and/or grade levels. What specific strategies will be implemented to establish buy-in and to learn parent priorities and concerns during the transition process and post opening?

Rooted School Las Vegas (RSLV) will prioritize increasing parent and community involvement through hosting in-person events. The goal is to create a community of founding families who are inspired and excited to support the school's launch. These families will play an essential role in shaping the school's culture and ensuring its success in the early stages.

In the spring, Rooted School Foundation (RSF) will host hard hat tours for interested families. These tours will allow families to see the school's progress and provide an opportunity for them to share referrals with others who may be interested in enrolling their children. This will help increase visibility and engagement with potential students and families.

In the summer, RSLV leadership will begin hosting founding family events. These events will serve as both community-building opportunities and additional recruitment efforts. The founding Executive Director (ED) and the Founding Office and Community Engagement Manager will play a significant role in planning and facilitating these events, ensuring they reflect the values and mission of Rooted School while fostering a sense of belonging and excitement among founding families.

The Founding Executive Director will work closely to build relationships with both families and students. By fostering a culture of radical transparency, open-mindedness, trust, and collaboration, RSLV will establish a strong foundation for a positive school culture. This will ensure that families feel heard and valued throughout the transition process and that their priorities and concerns are addressed moving forward.

Through these strategies, RSLV will create a supportive community of families and neighbors who are not only excited about the school's launch but are also actively involved in its development and success. This engagement will be key to maintaining ongoing support and ensuring that the school remains responsive to community needs as it grows.

3. Identify any organizations, agencies, or consultants that are partners in planning and expanding the school, along with a brief description of their current and planned role and any resources they have contributed or plan to contribute to the school's development. If the school is new to this county, describe how your previous work has prepared you to establish relationships and supports in this new community.

Mariposa Consulting Group: Mariposa is providing crucial support with recruitment efforts. They assist with outreach strategies, cultivating leads, and engaging the community to ensure the school attracts a diverse and engaged student body. Their expertise in local demographics and enrollment strategies will be integral to increasing visibility and engagement in North Las Vegas.

Opportunity180: Opportunity180 is both a funding and strategic partner. They have committed financial resources to support the expansion of Rooted School Las Vegas and have provided

valuable guidance on operational best practices. Their support will ensure the school can meet its growth targets and maintain a high-quality educational experience.

Rooted School Foundation: The Rooted School Foundation (RSF) team at the CMO level is playing a critical role in supporting the operational needs of Rooted School Las Vegas. RSF will contribute significantly to curriculum planning, staff recruitment, professional development, and ongoing operational support to ensure the school's success. Their experience in opening and managing schools in other regions has been invaluable in preparing for the Las Vegas expansion.

Academic Plan – School Calendar and Schedule

1. Discuss the annual academic schedule for the school, including the calendar for the proposed new grades. Explain how the calendar reflects the needs of the student population and the educational model.

An updated calendar for the 2025-2026 school year is attached as an additional appendix. This calendar includes the key academic dates for the proposed new grades and is designed to meet the needs of our student population. The school's daily schedule is also included, reflecting the structure of a typical school day. This schedule ensures that students have the necessary time to complete their coursework while also allowing for flexibility in how content is delivered.

The calendar and school day are designed to meet the minimum education requirements set forth by the state of Nevada. Additionally, built-in professional development time for teachers ensures that Rooted School Las Vegas's (RSLV) founding team can continually assess and adapt the educational model to best meet student needs. The daily schedule includes seven blocks, which provide students with ample time to access all the classes required for graduation, including electives, core academic subjects, and industry-based credential courses. This structure allows for a personalized learning experience while maintaining rigorous academic expectations. The daily schedule also includes dedicated time for teacher planning, ensuring educators have sufficient time to prepare for lessons, review student progress, and collaborate with colleagues. This time is essential for maintaining high-quality instruction across all grade levels.

The addition of grade 11 in the founding year does not impact the overall school calendar or daily schedule. The schedule has been designed to scale and accommodate the addition of new grades without disruption. Rooted School Foundation will work closely with the founding Executive Director (ED) to ensure teaching schedules are aligned with the academic calendar, allowing for a smooth transition as the school expands its grade levels and continues to meet the educational needs of its growing student body.

2. Describe the structure of the school day and week for both the proposed new grades and for existing grades. Include the number of instructional minutes/hours in a day for core subjects such as language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Note the length

of the school day, including start and dismissal times. Explain why the school's daily and weekly schedule will be optimal for the school model and for student learning. Provide the minimum number of hours/minutes per day and week that the school will devote to academic instruction in each grade.

The daily schedule at Rooted School Las Vegas runs from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, providing ample time for students to engage in learning, with built-in breaks. The school day includes breakfast, advisory time, seven classes, and lunch. This structure allows for a well-rounded academic and social experience for students.

Each class period is 50 minutes, allowing for focused learning sessions without significant downtime. Students will be engaged in academic instruction for a total of 375 minutes per day, which exceeds the state-required 330 minutes. This ensures that students are receiving more than the minimum required instructional time, providing additional opportunities for deep learning and engagement in all subjects.

The 50-minute class periods have been shown to be the optimal time for rigorous instruction and student engagement, based on our experience with other Rooted campuses. This length is sufficient for students to absorb new material while keeping the pace of learning steady. It also ensures that students have enough time to access all the courses required to graduate on time, including core subjects such as language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The school calendar includes both full-day and half-day professional development (PD) sessions. Rooted School Las Vegas is committed to maintaining high academic standards, and PD will be a key component in achieving this. It will ensure that teachers have the support they need to deliver high-quality instruction, as well as allowing school leaders and teachers to regularly analyze student data to ensure student needs are being met. In the first year, Rooted School Foundation will collaborate with the leadership team to plan and execute professional development sessions.

Additionally, there is a multi-week summer professional development schedule. This summer professional development will onboard new teachers to the learning platform, Gradient Learning, and provide extensive training on the Rooted Model for both leaders and teachers. This ensures a consistent and high-quality instructional approach from the start of the school year.

Rooted School Las Vegas will allocate a minimum of 5 hours per day and 25 hours per week to academic instruction in each grade. This commitment ensures that students are receiving the time and attention necessary to thrive academically while maintaining a balance between rigorous instruction, social-emotional learning, and restorative practices.

Academic Plan – Special Education

1. How will the school adjust the staffing plan to ensure that all eligible students are receiving a broad continuum of instructional options, behavioral supports, and interventions for students with a range of disabilities? What additional staff will be added to appropriately serve a larger student population?

The staffing plan at Rooted School Las Vegas will ensure that we have core content teachers, CTE (Career and Technical Education) teachers, and special education teachers, which are critical to our model of offering all students equitable access to rigorous instruction. With the increase of an additional grade, we will add 3 additional core subject teachers and one additional Special Education Teacher to support the growing student population. During the hiring process, we will prioritize Special Education Teacher candidates with experience teaching English Language Learners to better serve the predicted number of students who will need English language support.

That said, ensuring equal access to education is a collective responsibility, not just limited to the Special Education Department. As part of our ongoing commitment, both teachers and leaders will engage in professional development during the summer and throughout the school year, focusing on strategies for supporting all students. This will include regular data dives to analyze progress and needs across various student subgroups (students with IEPs, EL students, etc).

Rooted School Las Vegas and Rooted School Foundation are prepared to identify and partner with external service providers to support the school team. These partnerships may include professional development, one-on-one coaching, access to specialized tools, or technical assistance to ensure compliance with IEPs and other student needs.

2. Enrollment: Describe the school's strategy and plan to recruit, enroll, and retain students with disabilities. How will the school proactively address parent and community perceptions around the availability and appropriateness of the charter school to the needs of students with disabilities?

Rooted School Las Vegas' strategy to recruit, enroll, and retain students with disabilities is grounded in creating a welcoming environment for all students and families. The school is committed to ensuring that the community is well-informed about Rooted's open enrollment process and its dedication to serving all students, including those with disabilities.

RSLV recognizes that parents of students with disabilities or those requiring additional support may need more specific information about school programming. To address this, Rooted School Foundation leaders and RSLV staff will proactively make themselves available to answer any questions or concerns these families may have.

During the spring and early summer, Rooted leaders will personally engage with each family through phone calls. These calls will serve to introduce school leadership, while also ensuring that families' concerns are heard and addressed before the school year begins.

At the start of the school year, the Director of Special Education will meet with each student and their parents who have an IEP. These meetings will focus on discussing individual goals, addressing any concerns, and answering any remaining questions to ensure a smooth transition and effective support for students with disabilities.

3. General Education Collaboration/Access: How will special education and related service personnel collaborate with general education teachers (e.g., team teaching, team

planning, etc.) to ensure that all students are able to access a rigorous general academic curriculum?

At Rooted School Las Vegas, all teachers are responsible for ensuring that students have access to a rigorous education. The school follows a full inclusion model (barring extenuating circumstances) where students with disabilities learn alongside their peers in general education settings.

RSLV staffing will include a Director of Special Education and Special Education teachers who will work collaboratively with general education teachers to provide in-class interventions and targeted small group interventions to support students with disabilities in accessing the curriculum.

RSLV leadership, including the Executive Director and the Director of Special Education, along with Rooted School Foundation staff, will ensure that teachers receive the necessary training and professional development to design and facilitate learning experiences that meet the needs of all students. This includes strategies for differentiating instruction, utilizing specific programs, and coaching on how to adapt classroom materials and activities to accommodate students' IEPs.

Regularly scheduled professional development and bi-weekly instructional coaching cycles will serve as the primary mechanisms for supporting teachers in their ability to implement these strategies and ensure all students, including those with disabilities, can access and succeed in a rigorous general academic curriculum.

Financial Plan

1. Present a budget narrative including a detailed description of assumptions and revenue estimates, including but not limited to the basis for revenue projections, staffing levels, and costs. The narrative should specifically address the degree to which the school budget will rely on variable income (e.g., grants, donations, fundraising, etc.). There is no page limit for the budget narrative. Include the following: A detailed discussion of Per-Pupil Revenue: Use the figures provided in developing your budget assumptions.

Rooted School Las Vegas' budget for the 2025-2026 school year (Year 1) is built on an enrollment assumption of 150 students across grades 9-11. The projected total revenue for Year 1 is \$1,856,282, with an increase to \$3,111,294 in Year 2 as enrollment grows to 270 students. Our revenue assumptions include:

- \$67,673.29 in remaining Charter School Program (CSP) funds through Opportunity 180's SEA grant
- \$120,000 in pledged support from Rooted School Foundation to ensure a strong launch

Our student demographic projections include:

- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL): 85% (128 students in Year 1)
- English Language Learners (ELL): 13% (20 students in Year 1)
- Special Education: 13% (20 students in Year 1)

Per-pupil revenue is projected at \$12,375 in Year 1, decreasing slightly to \$11,523 in Year 2 as the program scales. This funding will primarily support staffing, facilities, and operational expenses.

Facilities expenses are budgeted at \$400,000, representing 25% of total expenditures. The remaining operating budget of \$333,215 is allocated across essential categories, including instructional materials, professional development, contracted services (such as special education consulting), operational supplies, transportation, field trips, and food services.

2. Anticipated Expenditures: Detail the personnel and operating costs assumptions that support the financial plan, including references to quotes received and the source of any data provided by existing charter school operators in Nevada or other states.

Rooted School Las Vegas's budget details the following key expenditure categories based on the SPCSA workbook:

Staffing: 11 FTE in Year 1, growing to 23 FTE in Year 2

- 3 FTE Administrators (both Year 1 and 2)
- Office staff increases from 0 to 1 FTE by Year 2
- 1 FTE SPED Teachers in Year 1, increasing to 3 FTE in Year 2
- 1 FTE ELL Teachers in Year 1, increasing to 2 FTE in Year 2
- 7 FTE Grade Level Teachers in Year 1, increasing to 14 FTE in Year 2

General Operating Expenses: \$333,215 in Year 1, increasing to \$561,064 in Year 2, including:

- Instructional supplies: \$146,225 in Year 1, \$257,483 in Year 2
- Contracted services: \$27,785 in Year 1, \$27,785 in Year 2
- Food program: \$115,920 in Year 1, \$208,656 in Year 2
- Transportation costs: \$43,285 in Year 1, \$67,140 in Year 2

Key operational costs include:

- Professional development: \$5,000 in Year 1, \$10,000 in Year 2
- Staff recruitment: \$2,000 (consistent across years)
- Special Ed/Psychology consulting: \$5,000 (consistent across years)
- Office supplies: \$4,200 in Year 1, \$7,560 in Year 2
- Student supplies: \$41,925 in Year 1, \$51,873 in Year 2
- Contracted SPED services: \$0 in Year 1, \$70,200 in Year 2
- Accounting services: \$75,000 in Year 1, \$85,000 in Year 2

3. Discuss in detail the school's contingency plan to meet financial needs if anticipated revenues are not received or are lower than estimated.

If anticipated revenues are lower than projected, we will implement the following measures:

- Adjust staffing patterns while maintaining student-teacher ratios
- Reduce non-essential operating expenses
- Phase implementation of certain programs
- Utilize our modest Year 1 surplus (\$889 projected in the budget)
- Leverage additional support from Rooted School Foundation

Our budget projects a net surplus of \$889 in Year 1, growing to \$163,300 in Year 2, demonstrating increasing financial stability as we scale.

4. Submit a completed financial budget for the school with the additional grade levels as an Attachment (the format of this is left to the applicant's discretion but must be clear and sufficiently detailed to permit Authority staff, external reviewers, and the general public to review of all elements of the school's business plan and gauge alignment and consistency with the academic program, operating plan, and budget narrative).

The complete SPCSA financial budget workbook will be submitted as a separate attachment, providing detailed information on our financial projections through Year 6 (2029-30).

5. Provide a six-year development plan that addresses the annual and cumulative fundraising need at the network and school levels including a description of the staff devoted to development. The plan should include a history of the school's fundraising outcomes and identify funds that have already been committed toward fundraising goals. The plan should also identify the role of the members of the board, particularly as relates to give/get requirements, and should demonstrate alignment with the expectations for board members discussed elsewhere in the amendment request. If funds are raised at a partner organization level, describe the methodology to be used in allocating funds to the school and the proposed campuses. If the school has not raised any funds to support its programming to date and the budget does not include any fundraising activity, please explain that this question is not applicable to your school.

Our development plan includes several secured funding sources that will support Rooted School Las Vegas through its critical startup years:

1. **Secured CSP Grant Funding:** We have already secured \$67,673.29 in remaining Charter School Program (CSP) funds through Opportunity 180's SEA grant for our Year 1 startup costs.
2. **Rooted School Foundation Pledge:** We have a secured pledge of \$120,000 from Rooted School Foundation to ensure a strong launch and support operations during our growth phase.
3. **Future CSP Funding:** Rooted School Las Vegas will be included in Opportunity 180's next CSP grant if their waiver request is approved, which would provide an additional \$365,175 in funding support.

Our financial model shows decreasing reliance on variable funding sources over time. By Year 3 (2027-28), our per-student net surplus grows to \$627, increasing to \$1,780 by Year 4, demonstrating our path to financial sustainability through per-pupil funding.

Our transportation strategy includes utilizing 2 buses in Year 1 with 85% of students transported, with associated costs of \$43,285. This increases to \$67,140 in Year 2 as we grow to serve more students.

Operations Plan

1. Explain the plan for student recruitment and marketing for the new grade levels that will provide equal access to interested students and families. Specifically, describe the plan for outreach to: families in poverty; academically low-achieving students; students with disabilities; and other youth at risk of academic failure.

Rooted School Las Vegas will recruit students for the new grade levels through a variety of outreach strategies to ensure equal access to interested students and families. This includes targeted digital ads, outreach to local middle school leaders, and distributing flyers at community spaces like libraries, recreation centers, and local businesses in North Las Vegas.

All recruitment materials will be made available in both Spanish and English, ensuring accessibility for families in the community. These bilingual materials will help us reach a wider range of families, particularly those who may speak Spanish as their primary language.

When a family expresses interest in Rooted School Las Vegas, regardless of their background, academic history, or any challenges they may face, we will follow up with them to answer questions, provide additional information, and guide them through the enrollment process. We aim to create a welcoming environment for all families, especially those from underserved communities, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend Rooted School Las Vegas.

2. Please complete the enrollment chart. Please add additional charts if the school operates more than one campus

Grade Level	Number of Students				
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
K					
1					
2					
3					

4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9	75	90	90	90	90
10	50	90	90	90	90
11	25	45	90	90	90
12		45	45	90	90
Total	150	270	315	360	360

1. What enrollment targets will you set and who will be responsible for monitoring progress towards these targets? What is your target re-enrollment rate for each year?

Rooted School Foundation, in collaboration with Mariposa Consulting Group, will monitor progress towards enrollment targets. Mariposa is primarily responsible for lead cultivation and will work with Rooted School Las Vegas to track enrollment progress through shared systems, ensuring alignment and transparency in the process.

The enrollment target for Rooted School Las Vegas will be set 10% higher than necessary for financial sustainability. This approach accounts for potential attrition over the summer and no-shows on the first day of school, ensuring that the school can still operate at full capacity even if some students do not attend after initial registration.

Rooted School Las Vegas has set a target re-enrollment rate of 80% or greater for each academic year. This is an internal goal for the school and for Rooted School Foundation as a whole, reflecting the importance of maintaining a strong and engaged student body over time. Regular monitoring and follow-ups with families will help achieve this target and ensure that students and families remain committed to the school.

2. Provide narrative or evidence illustrating the staffing model, performance metrics, and the school's plan for supporting all operational needs of the school

Rooted School Las Vegas' staffing model has been intentionally designed to align with the school's mission and student success. Leadership will be anchored by the Executive Director and Director of Operations, who together will oversee instruction, teaching, and all operational functions. The Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) will lead the development of high-quality, career-connected learning experiences, build employer partnerships, and coordinate internship and apprenticeship pathways that are central to the school's model.

The Director of Special Education will ensure that all students, including those with IEPs and English Language Learners, receive appropriate support and services. As the school grows over

its first three years, team capacity will be added through the addition of a Front Office and Community Engagement Manager, who will be critical to operational success and will report to the Director of Operations, and a Director of School Environment, who will support school culture and climate.

To ensure long-term sustainability, Rooted School Foundation will provide centralized college and career transition support to the Las Vegas campus, drawing on best practices from across the network. Rooted School Las Vegas will also contract a range of services to support its operations and special education needs. The Director of Operations will oversee the quality and compliance of all contracted services, including food service, transportation, facilities maintenance, school health and nursing, safety and security, and technology. All procurement and purchasing will comply with Nevada local government purchasing laws, pursuant to NRS 332.039-148. The scope and quality of services provided to students remain consistent with the school's original charter application and are unaffected by the addition of an initial founding grade.

Attachments:

1. [Updated Staffing](#) - Staffing Tab
2. Updated Financial Budget Workbook
3. Agenda and Board meeting minutes where the request was approved by the school's board.
4. [Good Cause Exemption Request Letter](#)
5. [Calendar and Daily Schedule](#)



Rooted School Las Vegas

Rooted School Las Vegas Special Board Meeting

Published on April 6, 2025 at 7:34 AM PDT
Amended on April 10, 2025 at 9:40 AM PDT

Date and Time

Thursday April 10, 2025 at 5:45 PM PDT

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:45 PM
A. Call the Meeting to Order	Vote	John Etzell	1 m
B. Record Attendance	Vote	John Etzell	1 m
Board Members:			
John Etzell, Board Chair			
Adrina Ramos-King –			
Greer Perkins –			
JimDreWestbrook -			
Sanje Sedera -			
Staff:			
N/A			
Guests:			
Jonathan Johnson, Rooted School Foundation			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
Brian Kale			
C. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	John Etzell	1 m

Board Chair or designee provides context before a motion to vote on the agenda and minutes from the July 19, 2024 meeting.

Proposed Motion: Approve this meeting's agenda and minutes from the July 19, 2024 meeting.

Approve minutes for Rooted School Las Vegas Special Board Meeting on July 19, 2024

D. Public Comment	Discuss	John Etzell	5 m
Board Secretary Must Read Before Public Comment			

Our Public Comment period is for members of the public to address the Board. Each member of the public may sign up to comment at the meeting and will be allotted three minutes. The board will listen, but may not directly respond to any comments. Please do not use specific student, teacher or administrator names in your comments as our meetings are open to the public and public record, and we must adhere to FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. As such, if your comment is about a private matter, please contact the Board via email, or speak to the Board Chair privately.

II. Mission and Vision **5:53 PM**

A. Rooted School Las Vegas Mission and Vision:	FYI	John Etzell	5 m
Mission: We exist to directly support our students in discovering their own personal pathways to financial freedom.			

Vision: We work collectively with the other Rooted School campuses to ensure our students are on a radically accelerated track to increase their upward mobility upon graduation.

III. Governance **5:58 PM**

Board Chair or designee introduces prospective board member(s) and reviews SPCSA compliance requirements.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Introduction of Prospective Board Member	Vote	John Etzell
B.	SPCSA Request for Amendment – Grade Change	Vote	Jonathan Johnson
			5 m
			15 m

IV. Public Comment

Board Secretary Must Read Before Public Comment

Our Public Comment period is for members of the public to address the Board. Each member of the public may sign up to comment at the meeting and will be allotted three minutes. The board will listen, but may not directly respond to any comments. Please do not use specific student, teacher or administrator names in your comments as our meetings are open to the public and public record, and we must adhere to FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. As such, if your comment is about a private matter, please contact the Board via email, or speak to the Board Chair privately.

V. Closing Items

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------|-------------|
| A. | Adjourn Meeting | Vote | John Etzell |
|-----------|-----------------|------|-------------|
- Board Chair and/or designee adjourns Board Meeting.



Rooted School Las Vegas

Minutes

Rooted School Las Vegas Special Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday April 10, 2025 at 5:45 PM

Directors Present

G. Perkins (remote), J. Etzell (remote), J. Westbrook (remote)

Directors Absent

A. Ramos-King, S. Sedera

Guests Present

Brian Kale (remote), J. Johnson (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Etzell called a meeting of the board of directors of Rooted School Las Vegas to order on Thursday Apr 10, 2025 at 5:48 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

J. Etzell made a motion to approve the minutes from Rooted School Las Vegas Special Board Meeting on 07-19-24.

G. Perkins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Mission and Vision

A. Rooted School Las Vegas Mission and Vision:

Board recited the school's mission and vision.

III. Governance

A. Introduction of Prospective Board Member

John Etzell introduced Brian Kale. Mr. Kale introduced himself, his relevant professional experiences, and expectations of being a board member.

J. Etzell made a motion to Add Brian Kale to the Founding Board of Directors.

G. Perkins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. SPCSA Request for Amendment – Grade Change

J. Etzell made a motion to Add 11th grade in our opening and submit the requisite documentation to SPCSA in time for consideration at their next board meeting.

G. Perkins seconded the motion.

Board members requested that Jonathan Johnson forward the email exchange with Brian Kale and John Etzell about Rooted School Las Vegas' pre-opening activities.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Etzell