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## STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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### ACTION MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** Silver Sands Montessori Charter School– Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap  
**DATE:** April 18, 2025

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#### Summary of Request and Recommendation

Silver Sands Montessori Charter School (SSMCS) has submitted an application to amend its charter contract to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2024 – 25 school year and for the remainder of the current charter term.

SPCSA staff have reviewed the application and recommend the Authority approve the request. A proposed motion can be found on page 2 of this memo.

#### Background and Overview of the Amendment

SSMCS is a charter school in Clark County providing education in a Montessori environment. Its mission is to provide quality Montessori education in an environment that encourages a child's love of learning and respect for self, others, community, and the world. As of the 2024 Validation Day, SSMCS had 226 students enrolled in grades K – 8<sup>th</sup>.

According to the amendment application due to a drop in enrollment since the fiscal year 2020 – 21, SSMCS is requesting a charter contract amendment to modify its enrollment cap in order to maintain the 10% threshold for the 2024 – 25 school year and demonstrate financial viability. This amendment request for Silver Sands also includes adjustments to future enrollment caps. SSMCS explained in the application that it has been able to adjust its budget to account for less revenue. SSMCS reduced its lower elementary classroom by one class beginning in FY 2020 – 21 and continues to set aside contingency funds each budget cycle to ensure the school remains financially viable. SSMCS's staffing has also remained unchanged over the previous three years, and the school does not propose any staffing changes based on the enrollment for the 2024 – 25 school year.

If approved, the SSMCS enrollment cap would be:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	230	235	245

### **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, SSMCS’s elementary school received a 1-star rating and 25.3 points on the 2023 – 24 NSPF and 2023 – 24 SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework which did not meet standards. The elementary school was issued a Notice of Breach at the Authority’s November 15, 2024 board meeting. The SSMC middle school received 3-stars and 62.3 points on the 2023 – 24 NSPF and 2023 – 24 SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework which met standards.

According to the most recent organizational data, SSMCS earned 81.7 points (out of 100) on the 2023 – 24 Organizational Framework which was approved at the October 4, 2024, SPCSA Board meeting. Additionally, SSMCS received a Meets Standards on SPCSA’s Financial Performance Framework that were approved at the Authority’s March 1, 2024, meeting.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by SSMCS. As previously stated in this memo, SSMCS has been operating at its current enrollment levels for the past four school years and has still met standard on the SPCSA’s financial framework, which shows the school has been able to adjust to its current enrollment. SSMCS has been in operation for 16 years and built a strong relationship in the community in which it operates. SSMCS also noted it would increase marketing and outreach efforts to recruit families who may be newer to the area, and SSMCS believes these efforts will result in SSMCS meeting its enrollment targets through the remainder of the charter term.

**Proposed Motion: Approve Silver Sands Montessori Charter School’s request to reduce its enrollment cap for the 2024 – 25 school year and for the remainder of the charter term as detailed in the recommendation memo.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for SSMCS will be:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	230	235	245

The current, approved, enrollment cap for SSMCS is:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	275	275	280

**Historical Performance and Demographic Information – SSMCS**

**School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2019**

**Silver Sands**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>IEP</b>	<b>ELL</b>	<b>FRL</b>
19-20	303	6.9%	5.6%	38.6%	34.0%	1.0%	13.2%	0.7%	9.9%	6.9%	25.7%
20-21	266	6.7%	5.6%	34.2%	38.7%	0.7%	13.5%	0.3%	10.1%	6.3%	33.8%
21-22	259	6.5%	4.6%	32.0%	43.2%	0.7%	12.3%	0.3%	11.5%	5.7%	37.8%
22-23	243	6.5%	5.3%	24.6%	49.3%	0.8%	12.3%	0.8%	11.5%	<5%	35.3%
23-24	242	7.0%	6.1%	18.1%	53.7%	2.0%	12.8%	0.0%	15.2%	10.7%	38.8%
24-25	226	6.6%	5.3%	16.8%	55.7%	0.8%	13.7%	0.8%	14.6%	12.8%	38.0%

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

\* n size too low

**SSMCS School Financial Performance**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard

## SSMCS 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

## Silver Sands Montessori Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2023 – 2024	Elementary: 1 star Middle: 3 stars
2022 – 2023	Elementary: 1 star Middle: 3 stars
2021 – 2022	Elementary Index Score: 53.0 Middle Index School: 56.1
2020 – 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Elementary: 3 stars Middle: 5 stars
2019 – 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Elementary: 3 stars Middle: 5 stars
2018 – 2019	Elementary: 3 stars Middle: 5 stars

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<sup>1</sup> Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020-21 school year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020-21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate new Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020-21 school year.

<sup>2</sup> Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings

### Silver Sands Montessori 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results<sup>3</sup>

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Silver Sands ES	49.8	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
Silver Sands MS	61.6	MEETS STANDARD

### Silver Sands Montessori 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Silver Sands ES	13.2	BELOW STANDARD
Silver Sands MS	65.9	MEETS STANDARD

### Silver Sands Montessori 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Silver Sands ES	25.3	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD
Silver Sands MS	62.3	MEETS STANDARD

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<sup>3</sup> The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>