

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**Melissa Mackedon**  
*Executive Director*



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

**3427 Goni Road, Suite 103**  
**Carson City, Nevada 89706-7972**  
**(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 684-8020**

**500 East Warm Springs Rd., Suite 116**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-4344**  
**(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543**

---

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

---

**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Jennifer Villanueva, Director of Finance and Operations  
Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Transportation Plan: CIVICA  
**DATE:** June 23, 2025

---

**Background**

Access to safe, reliable, and equitable student transportation remains a significant challenge for many charter schools across Nevada, particularly those serving historically underserved communities. Recognizing the critical role transportation plays in improving access to quality education, the Nevada Legislature has taken deliberate steps to support charter schools in overcoming this barrier.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the passage of [Assembly Bill 400](#) appropriated \$14 million to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for the 2023–2025 biennium to support student transportation efforts at both SPCSA-sponsored and district-sponsored charter schools. Building on that investment, the 2025 Legislature enacted [Senate Bill 468](#), appropriating an additional \$17 million to the SPCSA for the 2025–2027 biennium to further expand and enhance transportation access.

To be eligible for this funding, charter schools are required to submit a Transportation Plan to the SPCSA for review and approval. These plans must demonstrate not only a comprehensive and viable approach to student transportation, but also alignment with statutory and regulatory requirements, including driver and vehicle certifications, cost-effectiveness relative to local district averages, and the school's overall academic, financial, and organizational performance.

Plans must also clearly demonstrate how they will materially improve access to education in the region they serve.

In alignment with NAC 388A.330(4), schools that do not currently have authorization to provide transportation services must also submit a contract amendment request to their sponsor. For SPCSA-sponsored schools, the amendment request is embedded within the Transportation Plan application, and both components will be considered concurrently by the SPCSA Board.

For the 2025–26 school year, applications were due on June 5, 2025, and are being evaluated through a competitive review process. Priority for funding will be given in the following order:

1. Maintenance of existing transportation programs
2. Launch of new transportation services
3. Expansion of currently operating transportation programs

Of the \$17 million appropriated for the biennium, \$8.5 million will be awarded for the 2025–26 school year, with the remaining \$8.5 million allocated for the 2026–27 school year.

### **Transportation Plan Overview**

CIVICA Academy of Nevada is requesting \$519,480 to implement the school’s transportation plan. Below is an overview of the proposed Transportation Plan for CIVICA Academy of Nevada as provided in the application.

*CIVICA plans to provide reliable, efficient daily transportation through a combination of full-size school buses and smaller 10-passenger vans. The school will purchase these vehicles directly using the requested transportation grant funds, if the award is received. The buses will handle high-density routes, efficiently transporting up to 50 students per route. At the same time, the vans will offer more flexible support for lower-density areas and students with special circumstances, including McKinney-Vento eligible youth and those with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that mandate specialized transportation. Routes will be designed based on geo-coded enrollment data, family feedback, and the results of ongoing transportation needs assessments, ensuring maximum efficiency and accessibility for students with the greatest needs.*

*CIVICA anticipates serving approximately 140 students daily through its transportation program. This estimate includes 100 students transported via two full-size school buses (each with a capacity of 50 students) and 40 students transported via four 10-passenger vans. This initial capacity reflects current vehicle acquisition plans and student demand, though CIVICA is prepared to expand its transportation capacity if the State of Nevada increases charter school transportation funding in the future.*

### **Analysis and Recommendation**

CIVICA Academy of Nevada, a Title 1 school, is requesting approval of its transportation plan and funding to implement their proposed program.

SPCSA staff reviewed their Transportation Plan and find that the plan meets the requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 400.

1. The transportation plan is comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented.
2. The narrative provided by the school explains that “CIVICA’s proposed transportation plan will eliminate barriers for low-income and underserved students, reduce chronic absenteeism, and improve on-time attendance. These key factors have a direct impact on academic performance and student retention.” This demonstrates that the Transportation Plan will materially improve access to education in the region.
3. The transportation plan includes details regarding how the charter school will ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory transportation requirements.
4. The budget provided within the transportation plan demonstrates that the plan is financially viable.
5. The average daily enrollment for CIVICA Nevada during the fourth quarter of the 2024-25 school year was 1,079. CIVICA Nevada is located within Clark County where the four-year average (per pupil) transportation funding for the 2024-25 school year is \$481. The total proposed funding award for CIVICA Nevada is \$518,999 which is equal to the average cost per pupil for transportation within Clark County School District.
6. The academic, financial, and organizational performance of the charter school indicates that the transportation plan is in the interest of pupils who will be served by the transportation plan. Specifically, the transportation plan indicates that the transportation plan will not only improve student attendance and academic outcomes but will also reinforce the foundational commitment to equity that drives CIVICA’s educational mission, ensuring that all students can access the transformative opportunities provided by a high-quality public education.

Therefore, SPCSA staff recommend approval of the CIVICA Nevada Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the plan.

**Proposed Motion:**

1. Approve the CIVICA Nevada Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.