

Solicitation of Input – 2025 New Charter Application Submission

County: Carson

Proposal: Somerset Academy Carson City

Proposed Location: TBD

Proposed Zip Codes to be served: 89701, 89703, 89706

School District Input:

Please provide any data as to overcrowding in the zip code where the school is proposing to locate.

There is no overcrowding. We are a declining enrollment area due to escalating property values and smaller family sizes.

Does the School District's Capital Improvement Plan include any plans to add new schools or add additional capacity to existing schools within the community in which the applicant proposes to locate?

There are no plans to add schools or capacity. Again, declining enrollment.

As you know, the SPCSA approved the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment on July 26, 2019 and approved an updated version on January 22, 2021, January 28, 2022, November 18, 2022, December 8, 2023, and December 13, 2024. A copy of the current version can be found [here](#). Our staff and board will be evaluating the degree to which the applicant aligns with the identified needs. Please provide any input as to how this applicant does or does not meet identified needs in the community.

The definition of "consistently underperforming schools" seems to be predicated on two-years of historical data and NSPF ratings, which neither meets the definition of "consistent" given the limitations of a 2-year look back (especially after COVID) or "underperforming" given the weakness of NSPF as a tool for measuring excellence. Take a 5-10 year look back and look at items that our community values (which a CMO would not know). Needs are already being addressed. The number of students considered at-risk of dropping out of school by the state definition is falling. Graduation rates are increasing. Chronic Absenteeism rates are falling. Families inter-district variance their special education students to Carson because our programming is so well regarded. Over 60% of our certified staff have ELAD endorsements and it continues to grow. We have the most inclusive and largest GATE program in the state (as % of enrollment) that serves students well beyond those meeting the state standards for designation. We have a state-recognized MTSS program. We have small class sizes.

If district staff or Board of Trustees has had prior communications with this applicant, please provide any relevant information or details from that communication that might be useful to the SPCSA in making an informed decision regarding the application.

No Communication.

Are there currently any schools providing a similar educational model in the community in which the applicant proposes to locate? If yes, please provide any relevant information on the current school(s) with similar educational models that are available to students in the community.

There is nothing special about the model being proposed and therefore is not a “credible plan to meet needs” as the Demographic Needs Assessment SPSCA has developed requires. Every elementary school we have has a similar mission, goal set and work being done. I would argue that most elementary schools in America do. What school doesn't "push and pull", have high academic and behavioral standards, encourage self-direction and try to build leadership, support metacognition and reflection, and desire to build lifelong learners?

Is there any other additional information you wish to provide?

No.