

Solicitation of Input – 2025 New Charter Application Submission

County: Washoe County School District

Proposal: Northern Nevada Wildflower Montessori

Proposed Location: TBD

Proposed Zip Codes to be served: 89502;89503;89506;89512;89519;89501;89431;89433

School District Input:

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

The above-mentioned eight zip codes account for approximately 193 square miles with varying levels of residential or development density within the Reno/Sparks community. For the purposes of this questionnaire the Washoe County School District (WCSD) is segmenting those eight zip codes into three regional Zones 1, 2 & 3 to organize the response here-in. 42 combined elementary and middle schools total, 35 elementary and seven middle schools, lie within the above zip codes.

Zone 1 comprising the 89502 and 89519 zip codes, encompassing approximately 46 square miles, consists of 12 elementary and middle schools total, 10 elementary and two middle. The district is experiencing no overcrowding at any of the schools within these two zip codes.

Zone 2 comprising the 89431, 89501, 89503 and 89512 zip codes, encompassing approximately 23 square miles, consists of 20 elementary schools and middle schools, 16 elementary and four middle. The district is experiencing no overcrowding at any of the schools within these two zip codes.

Zone 3 comprising the 89433 and 89506 zip codes, encompassing approximately 123 square miles, consists of a combined 10 elementary and middle schools, 9 elementary and one middle. Two elementary schools within Zone 3 are approaching 100% of capacity utilization, Lemmon Valley Elementary School (255 W Patrician Dr. Reno, NV 89506) and Silver Lake Elementary School (8719 Red Baron Blvd. Reno, NV 89506).

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) is expecting Mater Academy of Northern Nevada, Golden Valley (MANNGV), a 1,500+ capacity K-12 public charter school opening, by our best approximation, in the Fall 2026. Should MANNGV realize its projected enrollments, WCSD anticipates significant losses to student enrollments, most specifically to schools within the 89506 zip code or North Valleys area of the region, where it is planned for construction. Without considerations to MANNGV, enrollment averages over the next ten years are at the higher edges of capacity for three elementary schools. Those schools include Alice Smith at 88%, Lemmon Valley at 99% and Silver Lake at 90%. With our factoring of MANNGV, capacities for those schools are respectively projected at 74%, 89% and 83%, 10-year averages.

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?

The Washoe County School District's Facilities Modernization Plan articulates the anticipated reconstruction of a total of 10 currently operating facilities within the impacted zip codes by 2039. One reconstruction (Vaughn Middle School) is currently underway, set to open in the Fall of 2026. All reconstructions are expected to add capacity relative to their original (currently) existing counterpart, however in several cases, neighboring schools to the reconstructed schools will be rezoned into the newly reconstructed schools, setting the vacated schools to be repurposed into other to-be-determined functions. It is not determined at this time as to whether the reconstructions and consolidations will result in a net loss or gain of facility space within the impacted zip codes. Table 1 below outlines all expected future facility reconstructions in the impacted zip codes and includes details as to the schools they may impact.

Table 1. School Reconstructions Within Impacted Zip Codes

School	School Type	Address	Approx. Year Opening	General Impacts	Zone
E Otis Vaughn*	MS	1200 Bresson Ave, Reno, NV89502	2026	Catalyzes the repurposing of Pine Middle School	1
Echo Loder	ES	600 Apple St, Reno, NV89502	2028	Repurposes Corbett ES	1
Edward LPine	MS	4800 Neil Rd, Reno, NV89502	2029	Changing from MS to ES campus, repurposes Smithridge ES & Dodson ES	1
Sparks	MS	2275 18th St, Sparks, NV89431	2030	Repurposes either Traner MS or Dilworth MS	2
Fred Traner	MS	1700 Carville Dr, Reno, NV89512	2033	Changing from MS to ES campus, repurposes Lemelson ES & Duncan ES	2
Earl Wooster	HS	1331 E Plumb Ln, Reno, NV89502	2034	1-for-1, possible rezoning	1
Sun Valley	ES	5490 Leon Dr, Reno, NV89433	2035	1-for-1, possible rezoning	3
Mamie Towles	ES	2800 Kings Row, Reno, NV89503	2035	Repurposing of neighboring schools TBD	2
Lemmon Valley	ES	255 W Patrician Dr, Reno, NV89506	2036	1-for-1, possible rezoning	3
Libby Booth	ES	1450 Stewart St, Reno, NV89502	2039	Repurposes Veterans ES	1

*Currently under construction

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.

Schools in the identified zip codes serve a wide range of demographic and academic needs – from low to higher need student populations. Elementary schools in this area are both Title and non-Title, and have an average NSPF index score of 31.7 (equivalent to 2 stars) but range in scores from 10 to 85, showing the wide spread of academic need in this area. At the middle school level, the schools in the area served are all Title I schools and have more of an academic need, but there is still a wide range. The average index score is 20.1 (equivalent to 1 star) but ranges from 14 (1 star) to 35 (2 stars). Because of the large range of academic need in the identified area, it is unclear if Wildflower would meet the needs of the community and the schools it plans to serve.

Further, the majority of the WCSD elementary and middle schools in this area are operating under capacity and nearly all can accommodate a higher number of students. There are only two elementary schools identified (Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake) that are over 90% capacity (91% and 93%, respectively), and there are no middle schools over 90% capacity.

Finally, beginning in 2023-24, WCSD has offered open enrollment (school of choice) opportunities to all students in the district, with 94.5% of families receiving one of their top two choices. WCSD offers two opportunities for families to attend a non-zone school of their choosing. In the fall, families can apply to attend any school in the district, so long as their preferred school is under 90% capacity. In the spring, any student can also apply to any other school in the district so long as the placement would not trigger an additional allocation. Open enrollment opportunities were further solidified throughout Nevada districts through passage of AB 533 during the 2025 legislative session, meaning WCSD families will continue to have this opportunity for the foreseeable future.

Elementary School (K-5)	23-24 Index Score	Enrollment Total	% Capacity	% Minority	% FRL	% IEP	% EL
Allen	23.5	478	85%	83.5%	100.0%	18.2%	37.2%
Bennett	16.5	524	78%	79.8%	99.8%	24.1%	34.7%
Booth	10	321	67%	77.6%	100.0%	24.3%	26.2%
Cannan	28.5	405	77%	87.4%	100.0%	23.5%	31.4%
Caughlin Ranch	82.7	465	78%	29.9%	6.9%	14.0%	1.5%
Corbett	40.5	323	79%	90.7%	100.0%	18.0%	42.1%
Desert Heights	16	474	72%	73.0%	100.0%	24.1%	24.1%
Dodson	43	232	55%	69.4%	100.0%	28.5%	18.5%
Donner Springs	18.5	414	65%	73.7%	100.0%	22.2%	21.0%
Drake	57.5	254	62%	67.3%	100.0%	25.2%	21.3%
Duncan	20	340	73%	93.2%	100.0%	23.2%	35.0%
Elmcrest	35.5	287	71%	61.0%	100.0%	23.7%	11.5%
Gomm	85	407	76%	28.8%	15.7%	14.5%	3.2%
Greenbrae	19	323	83%	87.0%	100.0%	15.8%	35.6%
Hidden Valley	44	218	50%	60.1%	100.0%	23.9%	15.1%
Juniper	40.5	372	81%	62.4%	100.0%	21.0%	17.7%
Lemelson	37.5	249	65%	85.5%	100.0%	19.7%	32.9%
Lemmon Valley	19	635	91%	72.6%	100.0%	17.6%	20.5%

Elementary School (K-5)	23-24 Index Score	Enrollment Total	% Capacity	% Minority	% FRL	% IEP	% EL
Lincoln Park	13	438	85%	83.1%	100.0%	23.5%	30.8%
Loder	13	325	66%	90.2%	100.0%	20.9%	47.4%
Mathews	39.5	398	70%	91.7%	100.0%	25.9%	40.0%
Maxwell	39	366	86%	83.1%	100.0%	23.0%	26.0%
Mitchell	25	336	85%	83.9%	100.0%	20.2%	44.1%
Palmer	36	413	85%	79.7%	100.0%	21.1%	34.9%
Peavine	58.5	345	81%	57.4%	100.0%	15.7%	8.1%
Risley	26	363	70%	94.5%	100.0%	11.0%	47.7%
Silver Lake	52	491	93%	63.5%	100.0%	16.9%	19.6%
Alice Smith	11.5	497	78%	72.2%	100.0%	25.6%	21.7%
Kate Smith	30	186	66%	86.0%	100.0%	12.4%	40.9%
Smithridge	22.5	494	82%	90.3%	100.0%	17.2%	53.0%
Stead	13.5	647	89%	77.7%	100.0%	15.5%	21.6%
Sun Valley	27.5	520	86%	87.9%	100.0%	13.7%	41.4%
Towles	35.5	298	68%	46.0%	100.0%	23.2%	6.7%
Veterans	11.5	236	56%	85.6%	100.0%	12.7%	34.8%
Warner	17	369	77%	66.1%	100.0%	20.6%	12.5%
TOTAL	31.7	13443	75%	74.8%	94.2%	19.8%	27.4%

Middle School (Grades 6-8)	23-24 Index Score	Enrollment Total	% Capacity	% Minority	% FRL	% IEP	% EL
Clayton	35	667	71%	61.0%	100%	14.2%	9.5%
Dilworth	16	613	80%	82.4%	100%	16.8%	22.4%
O'Brien	14	1067	84%	74.3%	100%	14.9%	18.7%
Pine	16.5	740	67%	84.6%	100%	12.3%	33.4%
Sparks	26.5	622	72%	89.6%	100%	10.3%	41.2%
Traner	14	530	68%	88.3%	100%	19.8%	25.1%
Vaughn	19	553	67%	86.8%	100%	15.6%	32.6%
TOTAL	20.1	4792	73%	80.1%	100.0%	14.7%	25.4%

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.

N/A

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.

Yes, WCSD’s district-sponsored charter school Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School (SNACS; 5600 Fox Ave Reno, NV 89506) and High Desert Montessori School (101 Fantastic Drive, Reno, NV 89512) are both within the targeted area and offer a Montessori approach like the proposed Wildflower school.

WCSD Charter School (Grades K-8)	23-24 Index Score	Enrollment Total	% Capacity	% Minority	% FRL	% IEP	% EL
High Desert Montessori	Elem: 23 Middle: 35.5	442	100%	44.6%	26.7%	17.0%	5.4%
Sierra Nevada Academy Charter	Elem: 18 Middle: 38.8	251	98%*	55.8%	100.0%	17.5%	10.8%

*As indicated by a 12/6/2024 Charter renewal request to WCSD

Is there any other additional information you wish to provide? N/A