

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Melissa Mackedon
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

3427 Goni Rd, Suite 103
Carson City, Nevada 89706
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9060

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

ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV, SPCSA
SUBJECT: Nevada Rise– Charter Amendment Request to Relocate to a New Facility
DATE: December 12, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Nevada Rise has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to relocate to a new facility.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion, along with a condition, can be found on page 3 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

Nevada Rise has submitted an amendment request to relocate to a new campus beginning in the 2026 – 27 school year. The school serves grades K – 5 and had 362 students enrolled as of the 2025 Validation Day. According to the amendment application, Nevada Rise has spent the past eight years operating out of a leased facility on an active church campus. The current facility has constraints that have limited the school including not being large enough for the school to fully enroll up to its cap and inadequate classroom space to fully implement the academic model.

Nevada Rise is requesting to move to a permanent facility located at 2101 East Owens Avenue in the 89030 zip code. The proposed facility used to house a different charter school which will help expedite the move. According to the amendment application, the new location is five miles north of the current campus and will continue to serve in a high-need area of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas with significant populations of English Language Learners, FRL-eligible students, and students with IEPs. Nevada Rise also proposes purchasing the new facility and operating at the location long-term.

Nevada Rise will also be utilizing the Nevada Facility Fund to assist in the financing and funding of the purchase of the new facility. According to the amendment application, Nevada Rise anticipates

implementing the proposed relocation in a strategic manner to allow for a smooth transition for all affected stakeholders. The timeline narrative below highlights major anticipated events.

- January 2026: Close on the property in partnership with the Nevada Facilities Fund. Launch community outreach efforts, targeted enrollment initiatives, and partnership-building with local organizations and neighboring entities.
- February 2026: Begin coordinated site-preparation activities with the building owner, contractors, and facilities team. Prepare and submit all required occupancy, safety, and licensure documentation to local authorities and the SPCSA as they become available.
- Spring 2026: Host open-house events, family preview nights, and guided tours of the new campus to support a smooth transition for students and families. Begin phased transition of materials and equipment to the new facility.
- Summer 2026: Fully relocate all school operations from Paradise Church to the new Nevada Rise campus. Complete installation of classroom technology, furniture, and instructional resources. Hire any remaining staff and launch summer onboarding and training.

Nevada Rise explained in the amendment application that to avoid disruption and prevent sharing information before details are finalized, Nevada Rise has not yet formally communicated the potential relocation to students and families. As part of our financing due diligence, we have held broad, exploratory conversations to gauge family interest and understand preferred relocation directions. The response from families has been overwhelmingly supportive as many shared that they would move with the school, especially if transportation continues to be provided. Full, transparent communication about the relocation will be released once the amendment is approved and all closing requirements are complete. Nevada Rise did note that current school staff have been informed, and they have toured the new facility and are excited to move into a more adequate space.

According to the amendment application, the relocation will not affect the approved enrollment cap, and the school will still be able to add students in 2026 – 27 due to the current location not having the capacity to enroll enough students to meet the current cap.

Nevada Rise did note in the amendment application that there will be impacts to the school's budget during the relocation. Nevada Rise explained that they will use cash reserves, financing from Nevada Facility Fund, and the ability to apply for portion of the Charter School Program Grant to ensure financial stability. Additionally, Nevada Rise expects the relocation will strengthen the long-term financial position of the school due to more consistent facility payments since the lease they are currently in can be unpredictable year-over-year, and a steady increase in enrollment due to the additional space the new facility will offer.

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 – 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.¹

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application for RFA eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. In the case of Nevada Rise, SPCSA staff finds the school to be meeting academic, financial and organizational performance expectations under the SPCSA's Performance Frameworks. The school was rated as 2-star under the NSPF but was found to Meet Standards under the SPCSA's Academic Performance Framework.

Additionally, Nevada Rise earned a Partially Compliant rating under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2024 – 25 school year as approved by the Authority on October 10, 2025. Nevada Rise has also been found to 'Meet the Standards' on the most recent 2024 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework.

Regarding the amendment request, SPCSA staff is recommending approval but does have some continued concerns regarding the overall financial viability of the plan if Nevada Rise is unable to meet its expected revenue that was included as part of the amendment application. For example, SPCSA staff have concerns with enrollment projections beyond Year 2 of the proposed budget for two reasons. The first is that recent trends across all charter schools in Clark County have been lower than expected which have negatively affected schools' finances. While Nevada Rise does have a modest waitlist, there is no guarantee the school will increase enrollment to levels that were included in the budget. The second concern regarding enrollment is that Nevada Rise projects enrollment that will be above the currently approved cap beginning in Year 3. Nevada Rise currently has a 2-star rating and will need to show sustained 3-star rating, or above, to qualify for an increase in enrollment. SPCSA staff also have some lingering concerns regarding projected revenue from special populations. The school predicts increases in the special education, at-risk, and English Language Learner funding that may be overly optimistic.

SPCSA staff met with Nevada Rise and discussed these concerns. Nevada Rise was able to provide some additional information that provided context around the proposed budget and rationale for some of the revenue assumptions. Overall, SPCSA staff finds the rationale for the relocation to be reasonable. Even with a tight budget, the current facility situation for Nevada Rise is untenable and this new facility is the best option for students, families, and staff at the school. Nevada Rise has been operating for several years and has built a strong community at its school and that community deserves a facility that will allow the school to fully implement its academic model and provide a permanent location where students can be allowed to thrive.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Nevada Rise's request to relocate to 2101 East Owens Avenue beginning in the 2026 – 27 school year with the following condition.

- **That the school complete the SPSCA pre-opening process for new schools and campuses for occupation of the new facility space**

The approved enrollment cap for the Nevada Rise is:

School Year	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Grade Levels	K - 5	K - 5	K - 5	K - 5
Enrollment Cap	420	448	448	448

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276

Nevada Rise School Demographics and Enrollment since 2020

Year	Total Enrolled	A %	B %	C %	H %	I %	M %	P %	ELL%	FRL %	IEP %
2020–2021	330	1.0	25.4	9.3	50.0	0.6	10.3	2.4	15.4	>95.0	6.0
2021–2022	369	2.4	26.0	6.2	53.6	0.5	10.0	1.0	11.3	>95.0	6.7
2022–2023	466	3.6	25.7	5.7	54.7	0.4	8.3	1.2	17.5	>95.0	<5.0
2023–2024	369	3.2	21.1	5.1	59.6	0.0	7.8	2.9	17.3	>95.0	7.3
2024–2025	367	3.8	19.3	4.6	61.3	0.0	7.3	3.5	12.2	>95.0	10.0
2025–2026	362	4.4	17.1	4.4	62.9	0.2	8.5	2.2	15.7	>95.0	11.8

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Two or more races

P – Pacific Islander

FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

IEP – Individualized Education Plan – A student with a disability/special education student

ELL – English Language Learner

* Indicates data are suppressed to protect student privacy as the group size is less than 10

Nevada Rise Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard

Nevada Rise Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard
2024 – 2025	Partially Compliant

Nevada Rise Academic Performance

2021–2022 NSPF Index Score	Elementary: 20.0
2021–2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 22.0 / Does Not Meet Standard
2022–2023 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 15.0 / 1-star
2022–2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 20.0 / Does Not Meet Standard
2023–2024 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 54.0 / 3-star

2023–2024 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 65.4 / Meets Standard
2024–2025 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 48.0 / 2-star
2024–2025 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating²	Elementary: 61.5 / Meets Standard
CSI, ATSI, or TSI Identification	Elementary: ATSI (2023 identification for Black/African American group)
Four-Year Graduation Rate	N/A

² Preliminary until SPCSA board action on November 14, 2025.