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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon
SUBJECT: Approval of the AMS Nevada Prep Restart Plan
DATE: January 23, 2026

The purpose of this memorandum is to document staff's recommendation that Academies of Math and Science (AMS) should be approved as the restart provider for Nevada Preparatory Charter School ("Nevada Prep"), pursuant to NRS 388A.300 and NAC 388A.347, based on AMS's school-specific Restart Plan submitted on January 12, 2026.

This approval follows the SPCSA Board's prior action, on December 12, 2025, approving AMS as a proven provider through the statewide Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and reflects staff's review of AMS's readiness to assume operations of Nevada Prep under a new charter contract.

BACKGROUND

Nevada Preparatory Charter School's charter renewal application was denied, pursuant to SPCSA authority under NAC 388A.415(11) at the December 12, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting. The determination was based on the school's documented academic, financial, and organizational performance. Consistent with statute and regulation, the SPCSA seeks to restart the school under

a new operator to preserve educational continuity for enrolled students and improve academic outcomes.

AMS was previously approved by the SPCSA Board on December 12, 2025, as a qualified, proven provider with demonstrated turnaround experience. Following that approval, AMS submitted a Restart Plan Proposal specific to Nevada Prep, proposing to reopen the school as the Academy of Math and Science Nellis.

SUMMARY OF THE RESTART PLAN

SPCSA staff reviewed the Restart Plan in accordance with NAC 388A.347, focusing on academic, operational, governance, financial, and community engagement readiness.

Academic Program and Performance Expectations

The plan presents a clear, phased academic turnaround strategy designed to achieve at least a 3-star NSPF rating by the end of Year 3 (pp. 4–6). Key elements include:

- A three-phase model (Stabilize/Reset/Rebuild; Execute & Align; Sustain & Excel) aligned to NSPF indicators.
- Specific, measurable three-year improvement targets, including:
 - Year 1 proficiency growth of +10% ELA and +13% Math;
 - Continued annual growth leading to state-average proficiency by Year 3;
 - Explicit goals for English Learners, students with disabilities, attendance, and retention (pp. 5–6).
- Full implementation of MTSS, PBIS, and quarterly data cycles supported by a centralized accountability dashboard.

Staff finds that the academic plan is responsive to Nevada Prep's historical deficiencies and is aligned with Nevada standards and accountability expectations.

Operational Transition and Staffing

The restart plan outlines a detailed and transparent transition process from closure to restart (pp. 6–9), including:

- A structured process for re-interviewing existing staff, with clear performance expectations and compliance with Nevada employment law.
- A comprehensive staffing timeline beginning immediately after approval and extending through the first day of school.
- Recruitment of a turnaround-focused founding principal, supported by AMS National’s established leadership pipelines.

Staff determined that the operational plan minimizes disruption, supports continuity for students and families, and demonstrates strong execution capacity.

Governance and Legal Structure

AMS proposes to:

- Seat a locally based governing board compliant with NRS 388A.240, supported by a structured board orientation focused on restart oversight, fiduciary duties, and NSPF monitoring (pp. 9–10). AMS has already identified four of the five required members and submitted the appropriate disclosure forms for each.
- Execute a management contract with AMS Schools – National, Inc., subject to SPCSA review and approval.

This governance structure is consistent with SPCSA policy and Nevada law and provides appropriate separation between governance and management.

Community Engagement and Enrollment Continuity

The plan includes a robust, multi-phase community engagement strategy (pp. 10–12) that:

- Prioritizes clear, multilingual communication with existing Nevada Prep families.
- Commits to town halls, listening sessions, and advisory structures.
- Complies with NAC 388A.347(3) by prioritizing enrollment for students previously enrolled at Nevada Prep.

Staff finds that the engagement strategy supports enrollment stability and community trust during the restart.

Financial Readiness

AMS proposes a conservative, enrollment-driven financial plan anchored at 660 students with a requested cap of 700 (pp. 12–13). This represents an increase from Nevada Preps' current enrollment of 470 students. The plan includes:

- Multi-year budgeting with internal controls managed by AMS National.
- Alignment with Nevada funding formulas and SPCSA financial templates.
- Early identification of facility and capital needs to support program quality.

Staff finds the financial plan sufficient to support restart operations and compliant with state and federal requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the review of the Restart Plan Proposal for Nevada Preparatory Charter School, SPCSA staff determines that:

1. AMS has demonstrated the capacity, experience, and readiness to restart Nevada Prep.
2. The plan satisfies the requirements of NRS 388A.300 and NAC 388A.347.
3. The proposed restart provides a reasonable likelihood of improved academic outcomes as well as operational and financial stability for students currently enrolled at Nevada Prep.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve Academies of Math and Science as the restart provider for Nevada Preparatory Charter School, subject to the execution of a new charter contract and completion of all pre-opening requirements and conditions. Unique conditions include:

1. By April 1, 2026, establish a board in full compliance with the requirements of NRS 388A.320.
2. By May 1, 2026, provide evidence that a school leader has been identified, and hired at a public meeting compliant with Nevada Open Meeting Law NRS 241.
3. By June 1, 2026, provide evidence that the board has approved a CMO contract that outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of all parties during the incubation period and through the original terms of the contract. This contract must be in compliance with all relevant Nevada laws and regulations.
4. By June 1, 2026, submit a fully executed lease or purchase agreement for the facility.
5. By June 8, 2026, submit a board-approved Final Budget that includes revenue based on the fully enrolled student count at the time of the board approval and accurately incorporates expenses, including the facility costs.

6. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2026, provide evidence that AMS Nellis has at least 400 students enrolled for the 2026 – 2027 school year.
7. Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools, which includes meeting document submission deadlines as required by SPCSA staff, participating in required trainings, and attending monthly meetings.