

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 Classical Academy Elko– Charter Amendment Request to Reduce its Enrollment Cap**
DATE: March 13, 2026

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Nevada Classical Academy Elko (NCAE) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to reduce its enrollment cap.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page 2 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

NCAE was approved by the Authority at the August 23, 2024, board meeting. NCAE opened during the 2025 – 26 school year and serve grades K – 3, eventually growing to K – 8. The school is approved to operate at 1031 Railroad St, Suite 107 Elko, NV 89801. The school had 83 students enrolled as of the 2025 Validation Day.

According to NVCA, despite community outreach, expansive marketing, and community support initial enrollment did not match projections in Year 1. In August 2025, NCAE opened at 73% enrollment. Due to normal attrition events enrollment dipped to 78 enrollment students in December. Since school returning in session after winter break, enrollment has increased by 7 students who enrolled in January and early February 2026.

NCAE noted in its amendment application that the school had updated enrollment projections to allow its budget and budget projections to be based on accurate student enrollment data. Additionally, NCAE will plan for smaller school growth which it expects will allow for more realistic choices in how students can be served well. NCAE also explained this slower growth means they can remain in the

current facility for a longer period of time which will create consistency for families.

Finally, according to the amendment application, the largest anticipated cost associated with the proposed amendment is the reduction in per pupil revenue for the next several years. This will require updated budget projection with necessary staffing changes, as well. NCAE noted that, with the smaller growth, NCAE’s personnel expenses will not increase as fast and will better align with responsible staffing with regard to class sizes.

The proposed enrollment cap for NCAE will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	K-3	K-4	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8
Enrollment Cap	85	112	139	166	193	220

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. NCAE is in its first year of operation and therefore does not have performance results to analyze. However, SPCSA staff do not have concern regarding NCAE’s performance during its initial year of operation.

Regarding the amendment request, SPCSA staff is recommending approval. As has been seen with most charter openings in recent years, NCAE was unable to meet the 90% threshold for year 1 enrollment. SPCSA staff notes the school did enroll close to 75% of the approved cap which is a stronger showing than other schools in its first year. As noted above, the school has amended its budget to include the lower enrollment numbers and continues to make adjustments where necessary.

Proposed Motion: Grant Nevada Classical Academy Elko’s Good Cause Exemption request and approve NCAE’s request to reduce its enrollment cap as detailed in the recommendation memo:

If approved, the enrollment cap for NCAE will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	K-3	K-4	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8
Enrollment Cap	85	112	139	166	193	220

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276

The current enrollment cap for NCAE is:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	K-3	K-4	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8
Enrollment Cap	113	160	207	257	307	357

NCAE Demographic and Enrollment Information

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
25-26	83	1.2%	0.0%	71.0%	24.0%	1.2%	2.4%	0.0%	*	0.0%	24.0%

**Historical Performance, Academic, Financial, and Organizational Performance –
Not Applicable**