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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **Silver Sands Montessori Charter School Academy– Charter Amendment**
Request to reduce enrollment cap
DATE: March 13, 2026

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Silver Sands Montessori Charter School (SSMCS) 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

SSMCS is located at 1841 Whitney Mesa Dr. Henderson, NV 89014. SSMCS is requesting the SPCSA approve a reduction in its enrollment cap for the remainder of the charter term. As of the 2025 Validation Day, SSMCS had 188 students enrolled in grades K – 8.

According to the amendment application, SSMCS is requesting an amendment to reduce its approved enrollment cap to return to compliance with the charter contract enrollment requirements. By decreasing the enrollment cap it will ensure SSMC’s responsible fiscal and operational planning. The school noted that this decline in student enrollment is due to external factors beyond our control that have been seen in recent years across Clark County and the nation.

Additionally, according to the amendment application, SSMCS is taking steps to increase marketing by creating and promoting a Facebook page and creating ads within Facebook to target families living in the Las Vegas/Henderson area. They have participated in the School Choice Fair and have reached out to apartment communities to engage families who live within walking distance to the school.

Finally, SSMCS presented a fiscally conservative budget and noted that they had made staffing decisions to make up for the loss in revenue. According to the amendment application, SSMCS continues to use a conservative approach to managing our budget. In FY2025 – 26, SSMCS decided to not hire the additional support staff position, three part-time educational specialists (Art, Music, Foreign Language) and one licensed teaching position as was planned in the original budget.

If approved, the enrollment cap for SSMCS will be at:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	195	200

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. Regarding SSMCS’s academic performance, the middle school was rated as 3-stars and received 43.7 points on the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework, which did not meet standard. The elementary school was rated as 3-stars and received 57.7 points on the SPCSA’s Academic Performance Framework which met standard. SSMCS was rated as Out-of-Compliance on the 2024 – 25 Organizational Performance Framework. SSMCS was found to have met standards on the SPCSA’s 2025 Financial Performance Framework.

SPCSA staff supports the request of SSCMS’s to reduce its enrollment cap. SSMCS has operated a relatively small school for over 15 years and recent trends of enrollment dropping across Clark County can have a larger impact on a smaller school. The school still continues to be financially healthy as was shown on the 2025 SPCSA Financial Framework results.

Proposed Motion: Grant Silver Sands’ Good Cause Exemption request and approve Silver Sands request to reduce the enrollment cap as outlined in the recommendation memo.

If approved, the enrollment cap for SSMCS will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	195	200

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276

The current enrollment cap for SSMCS is:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8
Enrollment Cap	230	245

Historical Performance and Demographic Information – Silver Sands

School Total Enrollment and Demographics since 2021

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
21-22	259	6.5%	4.6%	32.0%	43.2%	0.7%	12.3%	0.3%	11.5%	5.7%	37.8%
22-23	243	6.5%	5.3%	24.6%	49.3%	0.8%	12.3%	0.8%	11.5%	<5.0%	35.3%
23-24	242	7.0%	6.1%	18.1%	53.7%	2.0%	12.8%	0.0%	15.2%	10.7%	38.8%
24-25	226	6.6%	5.3%	16.8%	55.7%	0.8%	13.7%	0.8*	14.6%	12.8%	38.0%
25-26	188	7.9%	5.8%	13.8%	58.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	14.8%	12.2%	42.5%

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C – Caucasian
- H – Hispanic
- I – American Indian/Alaskan Native
- M – Two or more races
- P – Pacific Islander
- IEP – Individualized Education Plan – A student with a disability/special education student
- ELL – English Language Learner
- FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- * - Suppressed data due to n-count

Silver Sands Financial Performance

2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets Standard
2024 – 2025	Meets Standard

Silver Sands Organizational Performance

2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets Standard
2024 – 2025	Out of Compliance

Silver Sands Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2024 – 2025 Star Rating	Middle School: 3-star Elementary School: 3-star
2023 – 2024 Star Rating	Middle School: 3-star Elementary School: 1-star
2022 – 2023 Star Rating	Middle School: 3-stars Elementary School: 1-star

Silver Sands 2024-25 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2024-25 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2024-25 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle School	57.7	MEETS STANDARD
Elementary School	43.7	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD

Silver Sands 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle School	62.3	MEETS STANDARD
Elementary School	25.3	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD

Silver Sands 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Middle School	65.9	MEETS STANDARD
Elementary School	13.2	BELOW STANDARD