

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: **Western Youth Leadership, Engagement, and Empowerment School (WYLEES)– Charter Amendment Request to Reduce its Enrollment Cap**
DATE: March 13, 2026

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Western Youth Leadership, Engagement, and Empowerment School (WYLEES) 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

WYLEES was approved by the Authority at the August 23, 2024, board meeting. WYLEES opened during the 2025 – 26 school year and serve grades 6 – 8. The school is approved to operate at 3634 Maryland Parkway, Suite 300, Las Vegas, NV 89169. According to the amendment application, WYLEES is requesting the enrollment cap for the 2025 – 26 and 2026 – 27 school years be reduced.

According to WYLEES experienced a lower-than-expected initial enrollment at the beginning of 2025 – 26 school year, despite strong interest and a relatively high conversion rate of applications to enrollments. On the 2025 Validation Day, WYLEES’ enrollment was 203 students, roughly 75% of the 272 students proposed in the initial application. Additionally, according to the amendment application, the proposed amendment reflects current and projected enrollment for the 2025 – 26 school year and expected demand for seats in 2026 – 27. WYLEES notes that the 2025 – 26 cap reductions reduce the number of enrolled students, while still maintaining sufficient enrollment to sustain current staffing and ensuring that WYLEES students and staff can form a solid school culture that reflects the design and priorities of the model.

Finally, according to the amendment application, WYLEES anticipated the lower enrollment and included the enrollment in WYLEES’ amended 2025 – 26 budget and operationalized this through reduced staffing and supply expenditures. WYLEES is also seeking additional federal CSP funds for the implementation period of its new school start up and anticipates that the school will be awarded these funds. WYLEES has also successfully obtained several external grants from a variety of sources (Opportunity 180’s Year 0 Grant, New Schools Venture Fund’s Innovative Public Schools Grant, Charter School Growth Fund’s Seed Grant [and reinvestment]), which have helped to bolster strategic reserves.

The proposed enrollment cap for WYLEES will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8
Enrollment Cap	190	310	399	461	496	501

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. WYLEES is in its first year of operation and therefore does not have performance results to analyze. However, SPCSA staff do not have concern regarding WYLEES’ 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, WYLEES was unable to meet the 90% threshold for year 1 enrollment. SPCSA staff notes the school did enroll 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 receive and seek grant money to fill in the gaps where necessary.

Proposed Motion: Grant WYLEES Good Cause Exemption request and approve WYLEE’s request to reduce its enrollment cap as detailed in the recommendation memo:

If approved, the enrollment cap for WYLEES will be:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8
Enrollment Cap	190	310	399	461	496	501

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276

The current enrollment cap for WYLEES is:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade Levels	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8
Enrollment Cap	272	329	399	461	496	501

Enrollment and Demographic Information - WYLEES

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
25-26	203	1.9%	27.5%	24.6%	39.4%	0.0%	0.9%	5.4%	10.8%	15.7%	72.4%

- 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

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