

From: [Leigh Metcalfe](#)
Subject: Written commentary - support of Doral Academy of Northern Nevada's charter amendment
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Dear SPCSA Staff and Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed charter amendment to establish the DANN Laboratory School, a pioneering partnership between Doral Academy and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Decisionmakers face a defining choice: protect legacy administrative structures or invest in adaptive, research-driven educational progress that serves families for generations.

Approving this amendment delivers crucial benefits to our regional educational community. First, Doral Academy will establish a high-quality, walkable neighborhood school in an underserved area, removing significant transit barriers and giving local families direct access to world-class STEAM education. Second, as the nation's first public charter laboratory school aligned with a public university, DANN is engineered to give UNR researchers non-intrusive access to active classrooms. The empirical research and pedagogical insights developed here will directly strengthen teacher preparation programs and raise instructional standards across all public schools in our region, including traditional district classrooms.

Finally, we must prioritize student outcomes over balance sheets. Opposition focused on short-term fiscal anxieties, declining enrollment, and facility preservation views public education through a zero-sum lens, choosing administrative revenue protection over innovation for our students. By looking past short-term friction and investing in this collaborative, research-backed model, the Board has an extraordinary opportunity to place the long-term needs of students and families at the center of public education. I strongly encourage you to approve this partnership.

Sincerely,

Leigh Metcalfe

National Board Certified Science Educator
Doral Academy of Northern Nevada