

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

July 26, 2023

**SUBJECT: Private School New License**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the initial provisional licenses for a two-year period for:

- Milestone Academy, Clark County (two campuses)
- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School, Clark County
- Shuvu Academy, Clark County
- Village Christian Academy, Washoe County
- Zucker Jewish Academy, Clark County

BACKGROUND: Private education institutions are covered by Chapter 394 in both the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. The Private Schools Education Program Professional verifies that the statutory and regulatory requirements are met. The Nevada State Board of Education approves the issuing of a private school license.

SUBMITTED BY:

Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional  
Office of Student and School Supports

Karl Wilson, Education Programs Supervisor  
Office of Student and School Supports

Maria Sauter, Director  
Office of Student and School Supports

Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Student Achievement Division

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Milestone Academy, Clark County (two campuses)

**Background:** Milestone Academy was established over a decade ago to serve students in preschool. The school is seeking a license to expand its school to include one Kindergarten class at two of its campuses. Milestone Academy encompasses all aspects of learning. In addition to ELA and Math, the schools' Kindergarten programs will offer hands-on science and STEAM components. The school service delivery will create a learning progression that builds children's understanding in each lesson. Students will explore technology through problem solving, projects, and activities designed to build a solid foundation of understanding technology. Learning games will be age appropriate and make learning fun.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Milestone Academy for an initial provisional license for two years from July 31, 2023, through July 31, 2025. Milestone Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements for initial licensing.

**Address:** Milestone Academy – Inspirada  
3247 Bicentennial Parkway, Henderson, Nevada 89044

Milestone Academy – Fort Apache  
5970 S. Fort Apache Road Suite 103, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148

**Ownership:** MSA Bicentennial, LLC

**Insurance:** United Financial Casualty Company liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 23 students each campus, Kindergarten

**Educational Staff:** 2

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School, Clark County

**Background:** Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School currently operates a preschool and endeavors to expand the school to include one Kindergarten classroom. Kindergarten will incorporate active learning into its curriculum. Students in Kindergarten will participate in activities in which they will explore, converse, and invent. A typical day will include whole group lessons, small group lessons, music and movement, and art projects as well as chapel and bible time.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School for an initial provisional license for two years from July 31, 2023, through July 31, 2025. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements for initial licensing.

**Address:** 6520 North Dapple Gray Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89149

**Ownership:** Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

**Insurance:** Church Mutual Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 20 students, Kindergarten

**Educational Staff:** 2

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Shuvu Academy, Clark County

**Background:** Shuvu Academy will operate under auspices of the Shuvu synagogue. Shuvu Academy will utilize the Spectrum curriculum in both ELA and Math in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Spectrum is Common Core aligned and meets Nevada Academic Content Standards. The school will utilize the Abeka curriculum for Social Studies and Science. Judaics, Hebrew, and Spanish are among the electives that the school will offer to each of its students.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Shuvu Academy for an initial provisional license for two years from July 31, 2023, through July 31, 2025. Shuvu Academy reported that the school is working to complete statutory and regulatory requirements for initial licensing by July 26, 2023. The provisional license will be issued when final compliance measures are complete.

**Address:** 1771 East Flamingo Road, Suite 108-A, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

**Ownership:** Beit Shuvu, Inc.

**Insurance:** Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 20 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 7

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Village Christian Academy, Washoe County

**Background:** Village Christian Academy will partner with families to offer a distinctly Christian approach to education to grow and nurture students based on biblical principles. The school will use Bob Jones curriculum in its Kindergarten and first grade classes. The curriculum includes English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The school will also offer Spanish for its young learners. The school will start with Kindergarten through Grade 2 and plans to expand in its second year.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Village Christian Academy for an initial provisional license for two years from, July 31, 2023, through, July 31, 2025. Village Christian Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements for initial licensing.

**Address:** 736 McCoury Boulevard, Incline Village, Nevada 89451

**Ownership:** The Village Church

**Insurance:** Church Mutual Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 50 students, Kindergarten through Grade 5

**Educational Staff:** 2

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Zucker Jewish Academy, Clark County

**Background:** Zucker Jewish Academy will utilize Go Math for all grade levels, Wonders for its ELA curriculum, and Next Generation Science for its kindergartners through fifth grade classes. The school will use Wordly Wise 3000 and HMH Science Dimensions for Grades 6-8. All curriculum adheres to Nevada Academic Content Standards. Texts for Social Studies will vary by grade level.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Zucker Jewish Academy for an initial provisional license for two years from, July 31, 2023, through, July 31, 2025. Zucker Jewish Academy reported that the school is working to complete statutory and regulatory requirements for initial licensing by July 26, 2023. The provisional license will be issued when final compliance measures are complete.

**Address:** 10100 Banburry Cross Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89144

**Ownership:** Jewish Success Initiative

**Insurance:** The Hartford Underwriter's Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 200 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 16

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

**SUBJECT: Private School Renewal License**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the licensing for a two-year period for:

- Foothills Montessori School, Clark County
- Omar Haikal Islamic Academy, Clark County
- Sierra Lutheran High School, Douglas County

Approve the licensing for a four-year period for:

- American Heritage Academy, Clark County
- Applied Scholastics Academy, Clark County
- Desert Torah Academy, Clark County
- Excel Christian School, Washoe County
- Little Flower Catholic Schools, Washoe County
- Merryhill School – Summerlin Campus, Clark County
- Sunset Montessori Community, Clark County

**BACKGROUND:** Private education institutions are covered by Chapter 394 in both the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. The Private Schools Education Programs Professional verifies that the statutory and regulatory requirements are met. The Nevada State Board of Education approves the issuing of a private school license.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional  
Office of Student and School Supports

Karl Wilson, Education Programs Supervisor  
Office of Student and School Supports

Maria Sauter, Interim Director  
Office of Student and School Supports

Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Student Achievement Division

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Foothills Montessori School, Clark County

**Background:** The mission of Foothills Montessori School is to nurture the potential of the whole child and cultivate the growth of a diverse, international community. The school provides a “respectful and peaceful Montessori environment that inspires academic excellence.” The school reports that 99% of third through eighth grade students meet or exceed state proficiency standards for reading, and 98% meet or exceed standards for math. Instruction is tailored to meet the educational needs of each student. The Montessori educational experience focuses on fostering independence combined with a sense of community and global awareness.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Foothills Montessori School for a license for two years from, August 31, 2023, through August 31, 2025. Foothills Montessori School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 1401 Amador Lane, Henderson, Nevada 89012

**Ownership:** Endeavor Schools, LLC

**Insurance:** Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 228 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 34

**Complaint Status:** One verified complaint, issue resolved.



## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Omar Haikal Islamic Academy, Clark County

**Background:** Omar Haikal Islamic Academy prides itself on its reputation for academic excellence, openness, informality, diversity and strong welfare and student support systems. When the decision has been made to admit a student, the Academy's main priority is to ensure each student's ability and desire to be academically successful. Admission to the school is based solely on merit. The school seeks to attract the most talented students regardless of their educational, social, or cultural background.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Omar Haikal Islamic Academy for a license for two years from, June 30, 2023, through, June 30, 2025. Omar Haikal Islamic Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 485 East Eldorado Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89123

**Ownership:** The Islamic Foundation of Nevada

**Insurance:** Philadelphia Insurance Company liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 176 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 17

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Sierra Lutheran High School, Douglas County

**Background:** The Sierra Lutheran High School Association churches, board and staff dedicate themselves to providing a personalized and impactful learning experience that challenges students to use their many gifts and talents. Students are expected to become productive, literate, and faithful citizens in the world. Sierra Lutheran High School prides itself on its academics: the school reports 96 percent of its graduates go to college; 72 percent go to a four-year college. The school has won five Academic Olympic State Championships, and 12 of the school's athletic teams have won state championships.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Sierra Lutheran High School for a license for two years from, July 31, 2023, through, July 31, 2025. Sierra Lutheran High School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 3601 Romans Road, Carson City, Nevada 89705

**Ownership:** Sierra Lutheran High School Association

**Insurance:** Church Mutual Insurance Company liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 135 students, Grade 9 through Grade 12

**Educational Staff:** 15

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** American Heritage Academy, Clark County

**Background:** American Heritage Academy fosters the love of learning at an early age. Students in elementary school learn to reason and think reflectively as they engage in classes that include classical literature, grammar, writing, math, history, physical education, and the fine arts. In middle school, students balance rigorous academics with activities that nurture the social development of the school's scholars. The high school prepares students for college with honor and AP level classes.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve American Heritage Academy for a license for four years from, August 31, 2023, through August 31, 2027. American Heritage Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 2100 Olympic Avenue, Henderson, Nevada 89014

**Ownership:** Liber, Inc.

**Insurance:** American Southern Home Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 792 students, Kindergarten through Grade 12

**Educational Staff:** 45

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Applied Scholastics Academy, Clark County

**Background:** The aim of Applied Scholastics Academy is to prepare each student to succeed in life. The emphasis is upon increasing each child's self-determinism and in restoring, not overriding, his or her natural ability to learn, to think, and to observe. The school's goal is to empower each student with the ability to be the guardian of his or her own knowledge. The small class sizes and individualized curriculum ensures that each child will not only know what is required, but he or she will be motivated to learn beyond those requirements. Upon entry, each student takes a placement test to see where he or she excels and in what areas that child needs more support.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Applied Scholastics Academy for a license for four years from, September 30, 2023, through September 30, 2027. Applied Scholastics Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 7550 West Alexander Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

**Ownership:** Academy for Learning

**Insurance:** Hartford Casualty Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 40 students, Kindergarten through Grade 12

**Educational Staff:** 6

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Desert Torah Academy, Clark County

**Background:** Desert Torah Academy promotes students' growth as active learners, respectful, responsible citizens, and independent thinkers. The school provides a safe learning environment for students to grow in appreciation of Jewish tradition and culture while it prepares them for success in high school and life in the world community. The school strives for academic excellence, while at the same time, faculty members devote themselves to a student-centered education to encourage students to achieve their personal best. Desert Torah Academy is accredited by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Desert Torah Academy for a license for four years from, July 31, 2023, through July 31, 2027. Desert Torah Academy has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 1312 Vista Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

**Ownership:** Chabad of Southern Nevada

**Insurance:** Church Mutual Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 250 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 17

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Excel Christian School, Washoe County

**Background:** The mission of Excel Christian School is to motivate students “to find joy in the pursuit of spiritual, moral, relational, and academic excellence.” The curriculum and service delivery promotes critical thinking, cultural literacy, hands-on learning, and various learning modalities so teachers can reach all learners. Students who struggle academically can get extra help during designated times during the school day. As part of the school’s relational excellence, students learn to relate to teachers, staff, and other students with love and respect. Teachers and staff model that respect by “demonstrating true Christ-like character in all their interactions, treating students and each other with the highest degree of respect.” Excel Christian is accredited through Cognia.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Excel Christian School for a license for four years from, June 30, 2023, through June 30, 2027. Excel Christian School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 850 Baring Boulevard, Sparks, Nevada 89434

**Ownership:** Excel Christian School

**Insurance:** Brotherhood Mutual Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 216 students, Kindergarten through Grade 12

**Educational Staff:** 34

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Little Flower Catholic School, Washoe County

**Background:** Little Flower Catholic School community provides children a Catholic education rooted in high academic expectations, leadership, and service opportunities in a faith-filled environment. The school was founded in 1962 by the Sisters of Mercy and has continued to educate students in the Reno area for the past 61 years. The school utilizes Singapore Math and Into Reading for its core curriculum.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Little Flower Catholic School for a license for four years from, October 31, 2023, through October 31, 2027. Little Flower Catholic School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 1300 Casazza Drive, Reno, Nevada 89509

**Ownership:** St. Therese of the Flower Church

**Insurance:** The Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 338 student students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 33

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Merryhill School-Summerlin, Clark County

**Background:** The curriculum at Merryhill School-Summerlin campus combines academic rigor with innovative approaches to learning. The curriculum exceeds Common Core Standards. The service delivery combines rigorous academic content with high-impact instruction, personalized learning, and learning mindsets. High-impact instruction integrates technology, small group instruction, and authentic project-based learning. The school believes learning mindsets support student emotional and academic growth, while project-based learning engages students in comprehensive understanding that is deep and long-lasting. Merryhill School-Summerlin prides itself on preparing students for the next level in their educational journey.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Merryhill School-Summerlin for a license for four years from, July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2027. Merryhill School-Summerlin has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 2160 Snow Trail, Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

**Ownership:** Spring Education Group

**Insurance:** Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 160 students, Kindergarten through Grade 8

**Educational Staff:** 11

**Complaint Status:** No verified complaints on file



## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** Sunset Montessori Community, Clark County

**Background:** The Sunset Montessori Community was established in 2011 and has been adhering to the same core principles since its inception. Sunset Montessori stresses collaboration and community, clear and effective communication, meta-cognition, self-reflection, critical thinking and reasoning, education for environmental sustainability, integrity, responsibility, and discipline. The school utilizes play, creativity, innovation, exploration, and discovery in its service delivery to keep students curious and motivated.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve Sunset Montessori Community for a license for four years from, August 1, 2023, through August 1, 2027. Sunset Montessori Community has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 3525 East Sunset Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89178

**Ownership:** Ana Martinez

**Insurance:** Amwins Access Insurance Services for liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence

**Enrollment:** 11 students, Kindergarten through Grade 3

**Educational Staff:** 2

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file

**SUBJECT: Private School Operational Change**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the addition of grade levels for the remaining license period of the current license August 31, 2022 through August 31, 2024:

- The Goddard School, Washoe County, will now operate as a Kindergarten through Grade 2 school.

**BACKGROUND:** Private education institutions are covered by Chapter 394 in both the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. The Private Schools Education Program Professional verifies that the statutory and regulatory requirements are met. The Nevada State Board of Education approves the issuing of a private school license.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional  
Office of Student and School Supports

Karl Wilson, Education Programs Supervisor  
Office of Student and School Supports

Maria Sauter, Interim Director  
Office of Student and School Supports

Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent Student  
Achievement Division

## Private School Analysis

**School Name:** The Goddard School, Washoe County

**Background:** The Goddard School currently holds a Private School License for Kindergarten. The school would like to expand its services to include Grade 1 and Grade 2. The school has submitted the required documentation to add both grades to its license. The school uses Foundations curriculum for reading supplementing with Reading A-Z, and Eureka Math, which align with Common Core Standards. The school will also use Foss for science in each grade.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the addition of Grade 1 and Grade 2 to The Goddard School for the remaining term of its license, August 31, 2022, to August 31, 2024. The Goddard School has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Address:** 6330 Mae Anne Avenue, Reno, Nevada 89523

**Ownership:** Denise Cross

**Insurance:** Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company liability for death, personal injury or property damage is at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**Enrollment:** 45, Kindergarten through Grade 2

**Educational Staff:** 3

**Complaint Status:** No complaints on file.

## Private School Agent Permit

### **SUBJECT: Private School Agent Permit**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the permit for the applicant listed who has submitted a complete application along with three recent letters of recommendation for this position, a copy of the private school's surety bond or CD and required payment. The applicant has also indicated whether he has a child support obligation and if so, whether it is current or in arrears. The Agent Permit will be valid from August 1, 2023 - January 1, 2024.

**BACKGROUND:** Private education institutions are covered by Chapter 394 in both the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. The Private Schools Education Program Professional verifies that the Agent Application is complete, and the Nevada State Board of Education approves the issuing of each private school's agent permit.

### **SUBMITTED BY:**

Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional  
Office of Student and School Supports

Karl Wilson, Education Programs Supervisor  
Office of Student and School Supports

Maria Sauter, Interim Director  
Office of Student and School Supports

Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Student Achievement Division

## Agent Permit Application Requestors

**Private School**

Omar Haikal Islamic Academy

**Agent Name**

Dr. Osama Haikal