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TO: Nevada Commission on School Funding
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Authority
SUBJECT: Comparative Analysis of Charter School budgets under the Nevada Plan and the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan
DATE: June 11, 2020

Background

Section 76 of Senate Bill 543 (2019) requires each school district to “project its budget for the 2019-2021 biennium as if the provisions of [SB 543] were in effect for the 2019-2021 biennium, compare the projection to its projected budget under existing law for the 2019-2021 biennium and submit both budgets to the Commission on or before May 15, 2020.” While this requirement to prepare a hypothetical budget under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) and compare it to the budget under the Nevada Plan only applies to school districts, the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) has requested that each charter holder, or entity with which the SPCSA has a charter contract, similarly prepare a hypothetical budget under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan for comparison to the charter school’s actual budget under the Nevada Plan. Aligned to the SPCSA’s value of *Transparency* the intent behind the request made to sponsored schools and the data provided in this memo is to enable the commission, Department of Education, lawmakers and members of the public to have access to comparable information about charter schools as is available about school districts.

For additional information regarding charter schools and the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan refer to the presentation by the SPCSA to the Funding Commission on [January 9, 2020](#).

Comparison of Charter School Budgets

The information below was compiled by the SPCSA based on data provided by SPCSA-sponsored charter schools¹. The data below is grouped by charter holder, or the entity that holds the charter contract with the

¹ Charter schools sponsored by the Clark, Washoe and Carson City School Districts are not reflected in this data.

SPCSA. This means that in some cases, multiple school campuses are under a single charter holder. In the event that data was not provided by the charter holder or the data could not be verified by the SPCSA, the charter holder was omitted from this report. For information regarding data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix 1 and for more extensive data, please refer to Appendix 2.

Charter Holder	Location	Budgeted Nevada Plan Revenue for FY20	Hypothetical PCFP Revenue for FY20	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Alpine Academy	Washoe	\$1,024,757	\$850,429	(17.0%)
American Preparatory Academy	Clark	\$10,718,760	\$11,459,027	6.9%
Beacon Academy	Virtual	\$3,178,096	\$ 3,208,315	1.0%
Coral Academy of Science	Clark	\$27,041,342	\$27,388,327	1.3%
Doral Academy	Clark	\$42,663,753	\$44,759,665	4.9%
Elko Institute for Academic Achievement	Elko	\$ 2,002,399	\$ 1,419,024	(29.1%)
Futuro Academy	Clark	\$ 2,566,624	\$ 2,766,246	7.8%
Honors Academy of Literature	Washoe	\$ 1,790,896	\$ 1,652,563	(7.7%)
Leadership Academy of Nevada	Virtual	\$ 2,012,224	\$ 2,018,991	0.3%
Learning Bridge Charter School	White Pine	\$ 1,841,580	\$ 1,489,926	(19.1%)
Legacy Traditional School	Clark	\$31,417,750	\$31,644,430	0.7%
Mater Academy	Clark	\$13,452,996	\$16,471,497	22.4%
Mater Academy of Norther Nevada	Washoe	\$ 2,570,106	\$ 2,964,285	15.3%
Nevada Rise	Clark	\$ 1,687,454	\$ 1,776,151	5.3%
Nevada Virtual Academy	Virtual	\$11,511,887	\$12,645,921	9.9%
Oasis Academy	Churchill	\$ 5,751,420	\$ 4,748,137	(17.4%)
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada	Clark	\$43,873,561	\$46,959,113	7.0%
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas	Clark	\$65,423,415	\$71,806,406	9.8%
Sports Leadership and Management Academy	Clark	\$ 7,504,544	\$ 8,213,406	9.4%

Summary by Location

The table below provides a summary based on the location of the charter school(s) that provided sufficient data to conduct a comparison between the hypothetical Pupil-Centered Funding Plan budget and the actual Nevada Plan Budget for FY20.

Location	Number of Schools in Data Set	Sum of Budgeted Nevada Plan Revenue for FY20	Sum of Hypothetical PCFP Revenue for FY20	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Churchill	1	\$5,751,420	\$4,748,137	(17.4%)
Clark	10	\$246,350,199	\$263,244,268	6.9%
Elko	1	\$2,002,399	\$1,419,024	(29.1%)
Virtual	3	\$16,702,207	\$17,873,227	7.0%
Washoe	3	\$5,385,759	\$5,467,277	1.5%
White Pine	1	\$1,841,580	\$1,489,926	(19.1%)

APPENDIX 1

Assumptions

Base Per Pupil: \$6,383

Cost Adjustment Factor:

- As shown in the table below, the Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI) Cost Adjustment Factor of \$191.10 (\$6,383 x 3%) per student was added for SPCSA-sponsored schools in the Clark County and White Pine School Districts.
- Churchill, Elko, and Washoe School Districts (the other counties in which SPCSA-sponsored schools are located) are not slated to receive NCEI cost adjustments.

County	Cost Adjustment Factor (NCEI)
Churchill	1.000
Clark	1.030
Douglas	1.031
Elko	1.000
Esmeralda	1.030
Eureka	1.030
Humboldt	1.030
Lander	1.030
Lincoln	1.030
Lyon	1.030
Mineral	1.000
Nye	1.030
Carson	1.030
Pershing	1.030
Storey	1.000
Washoe	1.000
White Pine	1.030

Weights:

Category	Weight
Special Education (IEP)	\$9,649
English Learner (ELL)	\$1,959
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL)	\$434
Gifted (GATE)	\$2,400

Data Sources

Budgeted Nevada Plan Revenue for FY20: Based on the FY20 budgeted revenue as reported as part of the FY21 Final Budget submitted by charter schools on June 8, 2020. This includes both inside and outside revenue through the Nevada Plan along with any state grants that have been identified to be folded into the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. Specifically, the following budget revenue categories were included from the school Fiscal Year Ending 2020 Final Budgets:

- 3110 Distributive School Account (DSA)
- 3115 Special Education DSA Funding

3200 State Govt Restricted Funding

Enrollment Numbers: Based on the FY20 budgeted Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) as reported as part of the FY21 Final Budget submitted by charter schools on June 8, 2020.

Student Population (ex. EL, IEP, FRL, GATE) Numbers: Based on the student count from October 1, 2019.