

**NEVADA ASD APPLICANT REVIEW  
2016 APPLICATION CYCLE**

**Key Points**

- Based on third party application reviews and interviews with the applicants, the Nevada ASD plans to approve Futuro Academy and Democracy Prep Public Schools to operate charter schools through the Nevada ASD for the 2017-2018 school year.
- The ASD plans to conditionally approve Celerity Schools to operate a charter school if the applicant meets a set of conditions including the identification of a strong leader for its proposed school and a significant level of on-the-ground engagement in Las Vegas.
- The ASD plans to not approve ASPIRA Schools and Pathways in Education.

**I. Overall Application Performance and Recommendations for Each of the Applicants**

**Application Results for the Experienced Applicants Based on Third Party Reviews**

| Section of the Application            | ASPIRA Schools        | Celerity Schools                             | Democracy Prep Public Schools | Pathways in Education |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive Summary                     | 3 out of 3            | 3/3<br>(1 conditionally met)                 | 3/3                           | 3/3                   |
| Student Population                    | 2 out of 2            | 2/2  | 2/2                           | 1/2                   |
| Proposed School Model & Academic Plan | 4 out of 5            | 5/5  | 4/5                           | 3/5                   |
| Founding Leadership Team              | 3 out of 4            | 4/4<br>(1 conditionally met)                 | 4/4                           | 0/4                   |
| Parent & Community Support            | 2 out of 2            | 2/2<br>(2 conditionally met)                 | 2/2                           | 2/2                   |
| Financial Readiness                   | 1 out of 3            | 3/3  | 3/3                           | 1/3                   |
| Nevada Launch Plan                    | 3 out of 4            | 3/4  | 4/4                           | 2/4                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>18/23</b>          | <b>22/23</b><br><b>(4 conditionally met)</b> | <b>22/23</b>                  | <b>12/23</b>          |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                 | <b>Do Not Approve</b> | <b>Conditionally Approve</b>                 | <b>Approve</b>                | <b>Do Not Approve</b> |

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**Application Results for the New Applicant Based on Third Party Reviews**

| Section of the Application            | Futuro Academy        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive Summary                     | 3/3                   |
| Purpose                               | 2/2                   |
| Student Population                    | 2/2                   |
| Proposed School Model & Academic Plan | 6/6                   |
| Founding Leadership Team              | 4/4                   |
| Human Capital                         | 3/3                   |
| Parent & Community Support            | 2/2                   |
| Financial Readiness                   | 3/4                   |
| School Sustainability                 | 3/3                   |
| Fresh Start Charter School Facility   | 1/1                   |
| Fresh Start Charter School Program    | 2/2                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>31/32</b>          |
| <b><i>Recommendation</i></b>          | <b><i>Approve</i></b> |

**Conditional Approval for Celerity**

Based on the findings of the third party review team as well as the interview process, the Nevada ASD plans to conditionally approve Celerity Schools' plan to operate a charter school through the ASD in 2017-2018. Conditions for Celerity to meet to qualify for full approval are related to (1) successful resolution of conditions to receive the pending Nevada Charter School Program grant (2) successful resolution of school authorization for two of its campuses in California, (3) the proposed school's founding leadership is secured, (4) demonstration of strong community engagement in Clark County. These conditions must be met as of January 15, 2017. The conditions for Celerity's approval will likely include (but may not be limited to) the following:

| Condition Area                                  | Condition to Meet  |
|---|--|
| Nevada Charter School Program Grant             | Celerity Schools was vetted through the Nevada Department of Education Charter School Program review team was awarded \$854,000 pending authorization by an approved sponsor in the State of Nevada and pending budget modifications and clarifications related to Celerity Nevada's local governance structure. |
| Successful Resolution of Schools in Los Angeles | Successful resolution two schools that are operated by the applicant in Los Angeles and that are up for non-renewal, for non-academic reasons.   |
| Identification of School Leader                 | The applicant must identify and secure a strong candidate to lead its proposed school in Las Vegas.  |

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|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Community Engagement in Las Vegas | While Celerity Schools has proposed relatively strong plans for community engagement, including the use of a full-time on-the-ground community liaison to build support in local neighborhoods, the applicant has not begun to execute on these plans. Celerity Schools must begin to engage the local community and demonstrate a strong level of community support for its proposed school. |
|-----------------------------------|---|

**III. Overview of the Review Process and the Third Party Review Team**

**The Review Team**

In collaboration with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, the NV ASD recruited a strong team of independent, third-party reviewers, who collaborated to come up with unified evaluations of each application. The review team consists of individuals with extensive and diverse backgrounds working with charter schools, uniquely positioning them to engage in a rigorous review process.

**The Review Process**

To ensure an equitable, fair review process for the applicants, all reviewers reviewed each applicant across a set of application standards. Further, to develop consistent, rigorous, and thoughtful reviews of each applicant, the review process included the following systems:

| Review Process Phase       | Systems to Ensure Rigor and Consistency   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Initial Review Phase       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online, collaborative review mechanism through Google Drive, in which reviewers may discuss their reviews of each applicant.</li> <li>• Conference calls during which reviewers discuss nuanced content from each application to develop a deeper understanding of each applicant’s plans and arrive at a general consensus.</li> <li>• A single lead reviewer to review each application in its entirety and reconcile any outstanding differences of opinion between reviewers.</li> </ul> |
| Supplemental Request Phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request for additional information and clarifications period during which applicants were able to clarify any information that was confusing or partially detailed in the application from the perspective of the review team.</li> </ul>  |
| Interview Phase            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interview phase, in which Jana Wilcox Lavin, Rebecca Feiden and as needed a representative from the Grand Isle group, interviewed all applicants to further gauge their plans for operating a school through the Nevada ASD.</li> </ul>   |