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Katie Gomersall, Head of School
C/O: Sara Struhs, Board President
North Carolina Virtual Academy
4220 NC Highway 55, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27713-2226

C/O: Ashley Baquero, Director of NC OCS
Department of Public Instruction
301 N Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

North Carolina State Board of Education
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825

Dear North Carolina State Board of Education,

The North Carolina Virtual Academy (NCVA, LEA Code / Number 00B) is a tuition-free, online North Carolina public charter school, which satisfies the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and, also, gives parents/ guardians the curriculum, tools, and support they need to deliver a high-quality, well-rounded education to their student. NCVA opened in 2015, with our main office located in Durham County, and has served students in grades Kindergarten through 12th Grade for over 8 years. NCVA teachers hold multiple required live instructional sessions each week and cover a variety of topics, including NC State Standards, support for daily lessons in the online school platform, data supported areas of need, state testing preparation, and other topics as deemed necessary. These lessons are an integral component of virtual education and great opportunities for live instructional support. In partnership with North Carolina state-certified teachers, parents/ guardians are given the opportunity to be highly involved with their student's education by serving as Learning Coaches and guiding their student through our online curriculum.

On behalf of NC Virtual Academy and its Board of Directors, we respectfully request approval from the North Carolina State Board of Education to increase our enrollment capacity from 2,592 students to 3,100 students beginning school year 2023-2024. This 19.598% increase, aligned with NCVA's mission of dedication to expanding educational choice through innovative and technology rich instructional practices, and developing each student's full potential for academic and post-secondary success, would empower our school and staff to provide resources and support to more students and families across the state North Carolina. As with many unforeseen impacts of COVID-19, one of which was the extremely high interest of families seeking educational institutions offering remote learning for their student(s).

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Detailed in Session Law 2020-97, NC H1105, Section 3.2.(a) and highlighted below during Year 6 (SY20-21), NCVA was permitted an increase in student enrollment and, as a result, was able to serve and support the additional 601 students through experience with virtual learning, increased resources, and additional instructional positions. NCVA has successfully met and maintained enrollment capacity each year since opening, with an abundance of applicants on the Waitlist, as shown on the chart “Enrollment and Waitlist Data” below, proving constant demand for the educational setting provided by NCVA.

Enrollment and Waitlist Data				
Academic Year	Capacity, Enrolled Students	Year-over-Year Enrollment Delta	Waitlisted Students	Year-over-Year Waitlist Delta
Year 1 (SY15-16)	1,500	--	2,695	--
Year 2 (SY16-17)	1,800	20%	2,883	6.975%
Year 3 (SY17-18)	2,160	20%	2,963	2.774%
Year 4 (SY18-19)	2,592	20%	3,819	28.889%
Year 5 (SY19-20)	2,699	4.128%	4,905	28.436%
Year 6 (SY20-21)	3,300	22.267%	8,830	80.02%
Year 7 (SY21-22)	3,439	4.212%	4,992	-43.465%
Year 8 (SY22-23)	2,592	-24.629%	2,849	-42.928%

The chart below displays NCVA’s current and proposed enrollment.

Grade Level	SY22-23 Enrollment Capacity	Current Enrollments as of 2/16/2023	Proposed Enrollments
Kindergarten	175 students	172 students	200 students
1st Grade	150 students	199 students	200 students
2nd Grade	175 students	221 students	200 students
3rd Grade	175 students	201 students	200 students
4th Grade	175 students	214 students	200 students
5th Grade	175 students	221 students	200 students
6th Grade	250 students	287 students	300 students
7th Grade	246 students	261 students	300 students
8th Grade	246 students	269 students	300 students
9th Grade	250 students	259 students	300 students
10th Grade	200 students	200 students	250 students
11th Grade	200 students	202 students	250 students
12th Grade	175 students	142 students	200 students
Total	2,592 students	2,848 students	3,100 students

The NCVA Board of Directors voted to approve this request on January 26, 2023 at a called board meeting held in compliance with North Carolina open meetings and public records law, Article 14A of § 115C-218.25. At that meeting, the Board of Directors authorized me to submit this request on their behalf.

NCVA has proven to be a viable educational institution and faithful to the terms of its charter. NCVA has served thousands of students since opening in 2015 and has been a reliable option for many families across the state, regardless of their status. At NCVA, 59.2% students are economically disadvantaged, compared to North Carolina average of 38.3% students. Of the economically disadvantaged students, over

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96% are eligible for Free and/ or Reduced Meals. Those who are eligible receive an internet stipend and laptop provided by NCVA to help support their online learning. Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), NCVA moved from Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) to Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) after raising our graduation rate to 81.5% at the end of SY21-22. Pursuant of § 115C-218.7, NCVA is substantially in compliance with State law, federal law, NCVA's own bylaws, and the provisions set forth in its charter granted by the State Board, proving fealty to the terms of its charter.

The growth effects consequent of the requested amendment are accounted for in the updated budget, of which the impacts include more positions, more funding for instructional materials, and a variety of supports for students. This enrollment increase would result in additional staffing, detailed as 10 additional K-5th teaching positions, 3 additional 6th-8th teaching positions, 3 special education teaching positions, 1 counselor, and 2 advisors/ interventionists. To further support students who are economically disadvantaged and eligible for Free and/ or Reduced Meals, the updated budget reflects a 17.78% increase toward instructional materials, student issued computers and Internet Service Provider (ISP) checks, or internet stipend.

Attached are (1) the board minutes approving the request and (2) an updated budget with comprehensive overview. The NCVA Board of Directors requests your approval of this amendment. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Katharine Gomersall
NCVA Head of School

C/O: Sara Struhs
NCVA Board President

Every child. Every class. Every day.



NCVA is a community of students, families, and educators dedicated to expanding educational choice through innovative and technology-rich instructional practices, and accountable for developing each student's full potential for academic and post-secondary success.

**January 26, 2023
Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting – via Zoom Conference
North Carolina Learns, Inc.**

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	Others in Attendance Non-Voting
Sara Struhs- P	Brenda Robertson- P		Katie Gomersall, K12-P
Dr. Steven Peters-P	Mark Fleming- P		
Walter Martin-P	Chris Farrell-P		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Sara Struhs called the meeting to order at 11:00AM. With a quorum present, board business could be performed.

A Roll Call for Quorum

B. Reading of the Mission and deliberations for the meeting

ACTION: Mr. Mark Fleming, made a motion to approve the agenda seconded, by Mr. Steve Peters. The motion passed unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

This period of public comment is set aside for audience members to address items on the published agenda. The Board will not hear complaints about school personnel or other persons during a public session. The Board will not generally respond to remarks made in this manner during the meeting but may issue a written response after the meeting. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes. Extensions of time will be at the sole discretion of the Board Chair.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

All items listed here are considered by the Board to be routine matters and will be approved by the Board in one motion. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board vote. The Executive Director stated there are not consent items for this board meeting.

ACTION: N/A

IV. ACTION ITEM:

A. Request to amend charter to reflect a 20% increase in enrollment capacity from 2,592 to 3,110 students for SY 2023-2024

ACTION: Mr. Walter Martin made a motion to approve request to be submitted to SBE/OCS and seconded, by Mr. Mark Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, passed unanimously, and the meeting was ended at 11:15AM

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on February 6, 2023.

North Carolina Virtual Academy
 Full Year Financial Comparison
 School Year 2023-24
 Before and After Requested Cap Increase

		Before Cap Increase	After Cap Increase	Variance	
9 Month Avg Enrollments					
K5		908	1,323	414	45.6%
MS		662	765	104	15.7%
HS		825	825	-	0.0%
Ending 9 Month Avg Enrollment		2,395	2,913	518	21.6%
<i>Peak Enrollment</i>		<i>2,592</i>	<i>3,100</i>	<i>508</i>	<i>19.6%</i>
Funding Sources					
	Basic Formula Funding - K-8 and HS	\$ 15,261,520	\$ 18,416,037	\$ 3,154,518	20.7%
	Special Education Funding - K-8 and HS	1,388,352	1,675,321	286,969	20.7%
	Other State Unrestricted Funds	-	-	-	
	State Restricted Funds - Non-SPED	1,742,344	2,118,849	376,505	21.6%
	State Restricted Funds - SPED	-	-	-	
	Federal - Title Funds	1,036,471	1,036,471	-	0.0%
	Federal - IDEA Funds	615,541	615,541	-	0.0%
	Other Federal Funds	17,572	17,572	-	0.0%
	Other Funding/Inc - Included in M&T base	60,000	60,000	-	0.0%
	Other Funding/Inc - Non M&T Base	1,989,627	2,032,086	42,459	2.1%
	CRE Specific Funding/Vocational	-	-	-	
Total Funding		22,111,426	25,971,877	3,860,451	17.5%
Instruction - Teachers					
Total Salaries (Instructional + Admin)		7,605,605	8,440,509	834,904	
	Salary - Regular	\$ 4,442,947	5,012,388	569,441	12.8%
	Salary - Special Ed	951,282	1,093,699	142,417	15.0%
	Salary - ICs / Advisors / Counselors	903,082	993,889	90,807	10.1%
	Salary - Title	-	-	-	
	Salary - Other (In-year Attrition)	(239,549)	(260,529)	(20,980)	8.8%
	Stipends	66,284	72,294	6,011	9.1%
	Salary - Leads/Masters & Interventionists	372,475	419,684	47,208	12.7%
	Instructional Temp/Contract Labor	70,000	70,000	-	0.0%
	Benefits	1,886,117	2,129,074	242,956	12.9%
	Bonus	77,784	80,339	2,555	3.3%
	Travel	765	854	90	11.7%
	Phone	-	-	-	
	K12 Instructional Materials	-	-	-	
	K12 Curriculum Delivery	259,492	288,324	28,832	11.1%
	K12 Charges-3rd Party Teacher	-	-	-	
	Teacher Laptops	96,600	99,400	2,800	2.9%
	Non-Instructional Materials & Supplies	9,917	10,935	1,018	10.3%
	Conf., Teacher Training & Prof. Dev.	154,060	156,846	2,787	1.8%
	Printing, Mailing, Postage	-	-	-	
	Tuition reimb.	3,409	3,809	400	11.7%
	ISP	30,741	34,344	3,603	11.7%
	Other	50,932	50,932	-	0.0%
Total Instruction - Teachers		9,136,338	10,256,282	1,119,944	12.3%
Instruction - Students					
	Proctored Exams & Test Administration	\$ 253,583	308,431	54,848	21.6%
	K12 Curriculum Delivery	3,326,806	4,046,366	719,560	21.6%
	K12 Instructional Materials	1,678,267	2,041,262	362,995	21.6%

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K12 Computer, Peripherals, & Software	939,144	1,142,274	203,129	21.6%
ISP	103,293	125,634	22,341	21.6%
Sales Tax	206,306	248,765	42,459	20.6%
K12 Charges Other	164,796	194,647	29,851	18.1%
Other	651,166	651,166	-	0.0%
Total Instruction - Students	7,323,361	8,758,544	1,435,184	19.6%
Student and Family Services				
Special Ed Contracted Svcs & Other Related Exp.	\$ 661,028	723,819	62,791	9.5%
Field Trips	-	-	-	
Hybrid Program	-	-	-	
School Events	31,137	37,871	6,735	21.6%
Annual School Reports	-	-	-	
School Premiums	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	
Total Student and Family Services	692,164	761,690	69,526	10.0%
School Administration & Governance				
K12 Educational Services	\$ 1,893,819	2,165,127	271,309	14.3%
Oversight/Sponsor Fee	-	-	-	
Legal Services	27,000	27,000	-	0.0%
Payroll Services	-	-	-	
Auditing - External	22,020	22,020	-	0.0%
Board Development & Training	16,316	16,316	-	0.0%
Administrator Travel	13,464	13,464	-	0.0%
Administrator Phone	-	-	-	
Admin Computer, Peripherals, & Software	6,900	6,900	-	0.0%
Administrative Staff Salaries	1,109,084	1,109,084	-	0.0%
Administrative Staff Benefits	324,348	324,348	-	0.0%
Administrative Staff Bonus	31,884	31,884	-	0.0%
Consultants	-	-	-	
Administrative Temp/Contract Labor	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
Other	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
Total School Administration & Governance	3,455,834	3,727,143	271,309	7.9%
Technology				
K12 Technology Services	\$ 591,742	718,168	126,425	21.4%
Other	-	-	-	
Total Technology	591,742	718,168	126,425	21.4%
Facilities / Insurance / Other				
Rent	\$ 132,604	132,604	-	0.0%
Maintenance/Repair Facility	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Water & Electric	-	-	-	
Telephone	79,083	79,083	-	0.0%
Internet Connection	273	273	-	0.0%
Conference calls	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Copier / Fax Lease	2,178	2,178	-	0.0%
Outside Copying	-	-	-	

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Office Postage and Shipping	17,328	17,328	-	0.0%
Office supplies and equipment	19,425	19,425	-	0.0%
Computer equip. & installation	19,781	19,781	-	0.0%
General Liability Insurance	94,826	109,075	14,249	15.0%
Bank fees	7,401	7,401	-	0.0%
Depreciation	-	-	-	
Other	312	312	-	0.0%
Total Facilities / Insurance / Other	380,212	394,461	14,249	3.7%
Total School Expenditures This Period	21,579,651	24,616,289	3,036,637	14.1%
Surplus (Deficit)	531,775	1,355,588	823,814	154.9%

	Before Cap Increase	After Cap Increase	Variance
Staffing			
K5	20.00	29.50	10
MS	20.00	23.00	3
HS	33.00	33.00	-
SPED	13.00	16.00	3
Counselors	4	5.00	1
School Leadership	3	3	-
Ops	9.00	9	-
Grant/Advisors/Interventionists	64.50	66.50	2