



Small Expansion Application

Charter School Name:

Treeside Charter School

Charter School Director:

Rachel Brunson

Does this request meet the definition of a small expansion, as found in R277-550, which: is for 100 or fewer students; would not necessitate a significant renovation; and is for no more than one additional grade?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the school requesting specifically? [example: adding 7th grade and 100 students]

7th grade and 60 students

What school year does the small expansion start? [example: SY 2026-2027] **SY 2027-2028**

Explanation from the charter school of justified need, as allowed by R277-552-5

Community Demand: Our 6th grade student population has increased from a yearly average of 30 students in SY 2018-2021 to a yearly average of 40 students in SY 2022-2025, with a grade level count of 48 students in SY2026. Parents have requested the continuation of the Waldorf school K-8 model where students are in a homeroom classroom, instead of the middle school model currently in place in Provo School District, where students have 6-8 different teachers. Parents have cited 1) the lack of continuity at middle schools, 2) the increased sense of student supervision and community at Treeside, 3) the necessity for a single drop off site for siblings, 4) the desire for their children to "have more time before being exposed to outside influences such as vaping and drugs."

Demographic Gaps: Currently, approximately 50% of our 6th grade student population transitions to Merit Academy, a charter school in Springville, Utah, within the boundaries of Nebo School District. This school is 7th-12th grade. It is a high school model, and students are exposed to many influences that are outside the scope of their age-appropriate development. Parents are concerned that their students aren't academically or socially prepared for the transition, and some students choose to homeschool after 6th grade because of this. Over 50% of our student population lives within the Provo School District boundaries, and parents have indicated that the transportation to Springville has increased difficulties in expenses and

scheduling. This contributes to some families' decisions to attend a neighborhood district school for 7th and 8th grade. While Walden School of Liberal Arts is located in North Provo, less than 1% of our students transition to this school, due to the further distance. Parents would prefer to go to a single location for their K-8 students, and then a separate location for high school instead of three different schools, all at varying locations in the area. Providing a K-8 Waldorf school model gives an opportunity for students to stay in a charter school, instead of moving to a district school. It provides more continuity for students, and less transportation and scheduling issues for parents.

Operational Capacity: Both at our previous location at 1724 South State Street in Provo and our current location at 34 East 1700 South in Provo, the square footage of the classroom portion of the building has been/is approximately 33,000 square feet. For the 2027-2028 school year, we are planning to relocate to a new building, where our classroom square footage is approximately 45,000. This increase in classroom square footage gives the physical space for a small expansion and increased student count of 60 students. Over the last four years we have maintained a debt coverage of over 110%. As of May 30th, we had 186 days cash on hand. *FY25 was an anomaly due to settlement, not normal operating expenses.

Signature from the school's governing board chair and director, as allowed by R277-552-5.
Add additional page or lines as needed.



Board Chair - Kimber Pritchard



Board Member - Jose Rivera



Board Member - Scott Sundblom



Board Member - Rachelle Metcalf



Board Member - Megan Philibin



Executive Director - Rachel Brunson

For SCSB Informational Use Only:

☐ No concerns, move to board meeting

or

☐ On-going remediation

☐ Corrective action plan (CAP)

☐ State turnaround

☐ System of Support

☐ Comprehensive Support and Improvement

☐ SCSB Warning

☐ SCSB Probation