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**Explore Academy Additional Square Footage Amendment Request
June 27, 2025, Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting
Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis**

Request: Explore Academy requests PEC approval to add 20,858 square feet of additional space to their facility at 6600 Gulton Ct. NE, the secondary school serving grades 6-12 (the school has a separate facility at 5100 Masthead St. NE that serves grades K-5).

Analysis: This additional square footage will add 12,113 square feet for gym and black box theater and 8,745 square feet for classrooms and restroom bank. The school has submitted a certificate of occupancy and assurances by the governing board chair. The school estimates that the 8,745 square feet classroom space will be completed by July 1, 2025 and the 12,113 square feet for the gym and black box theater will be completed by November 1, 2025, assuming the school passes all inspections.

An enrollment cap amendment request is on this month's PEC agenda as well, but the school emphasized to CSD that the square footage request is ***entirely separate from and independent of*** that request. After a discussion with representatives of the school, CSD agrees that the requests are unrelated, so will analyze them separately and make separate recommendations.

The construction of the additional school facilities began several years ago and is nearly complete. The school did not have PEC approval when they began the process. When CSD questioned this, the head administrator said that he realized when reviewing documents that the school did not have an approved amendment request, so submitted one.

In future, the school should seek PEC approval prior to moving forward with expansion projects, but CSD sees little point in recommending denial for this reason. The school is at capacity and has a wait list, all documents are in order, and the expansion is reasonable.

Recommendation: CSD recommends approving the change requested.