

# State Public Charter School Authority

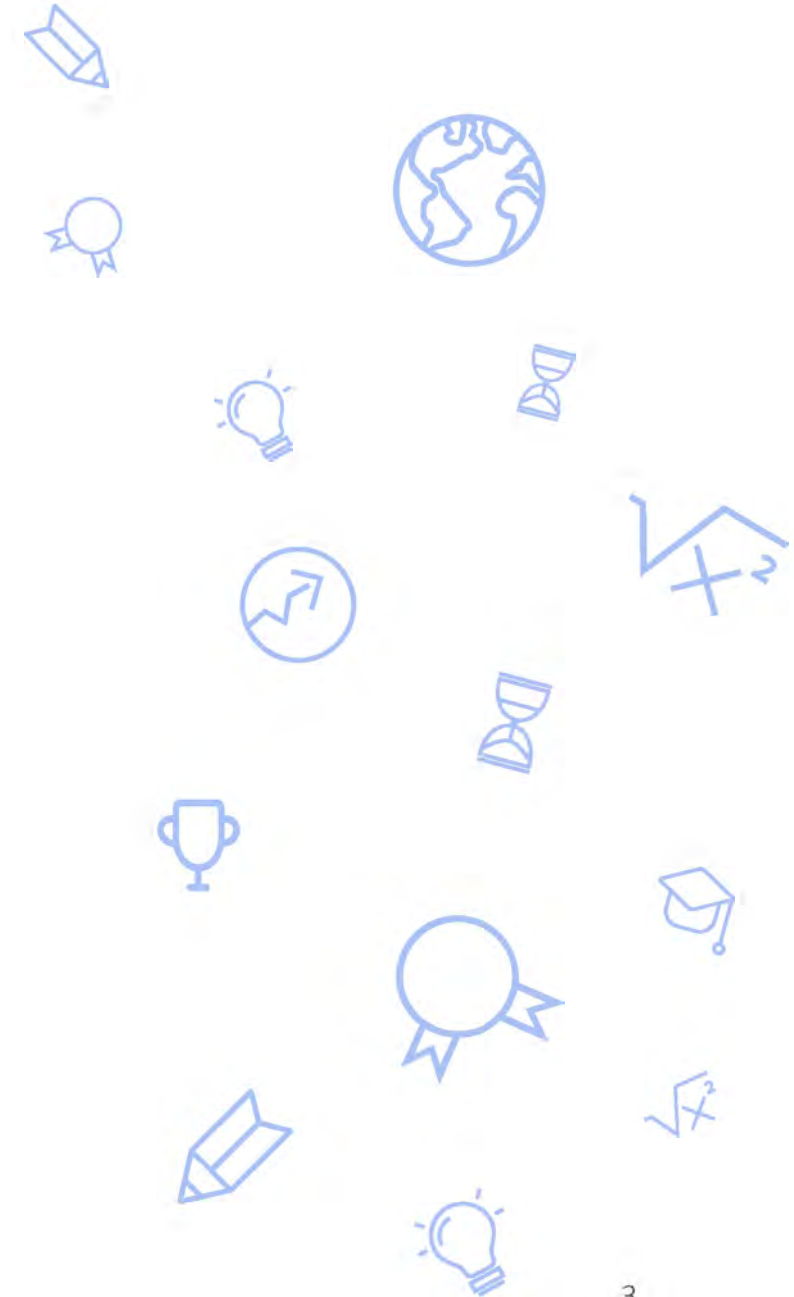
Overview and Summary of Recent Legislation



# Overview

- 1) The SPCSA
- 2) SPCSA-Sponsored Charter Schools
- 3) Recent Charter School Specific Legislation

# SPCSA Overview





# Creation and Purpose

- Created in 2011, the purpose of the State Public Charter School Authority is to:
  - “ Authorize charter schools of high-quality throughout this State with the goal of expanding the opportunities for pupils in this State, including, without limitation, pupils who are at risk.
  - Provide oversight to the charter schools that it sponsors to ensure that those charter schools maintain high educational and operational standards, preserve autonomy and safeguard the interests of pupils and the community.
  - Serve as a model of the best practices in sponsoring charter schools and foster a climate in this State in which all high-quality charter schools, regardless of sponsor, can flourish. ”
- When the SPCSA was created in 2011, the SPCSA inherited 16 public charter schools that had previously been sponsored by the Nevada State Board of Education. While the Clark, Washoe, Carson City school districts continue to sponsor a small number of charter school directly that were in operation prior to the creation of the SPCSA in 2011, school districts have not authorized the opening of any new charter schools since the creation of the SPCSA in 2011.





# About the State Public Charter School Authority

- 9 Member board appointed by Governor, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly, State Board of Education, and Charter School Association of Nevada
- 25 Full time employees who conduct oversight of schools and execute Local Education Agency responsibilities (ex. monitoring, technical assistance, managing grants)
- 2 Offices, one located in Carson City and one located in Las Vegas
- \$22M Estimated pass-through of annual federal and state grants to schools for FY 2022 (excluding emergency funding)



## Vision

Equitable access to diverse, innovative, and high-quality public schools for every Nevada student.

## Mission

The SPCSA sponsors, supports, and oversees dynamic and responsive public charter schools that prepare all students for academic, social, and economic success.



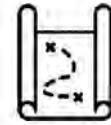
# Five-Year Goals

- ✓ Provide families with access to high quality schools
- ✓ Ensure that every SPCSA student succeeds – including those from historically underserved student groups
- ✓ Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools

# Strategies



Proactive Oversight



Strategic Growth



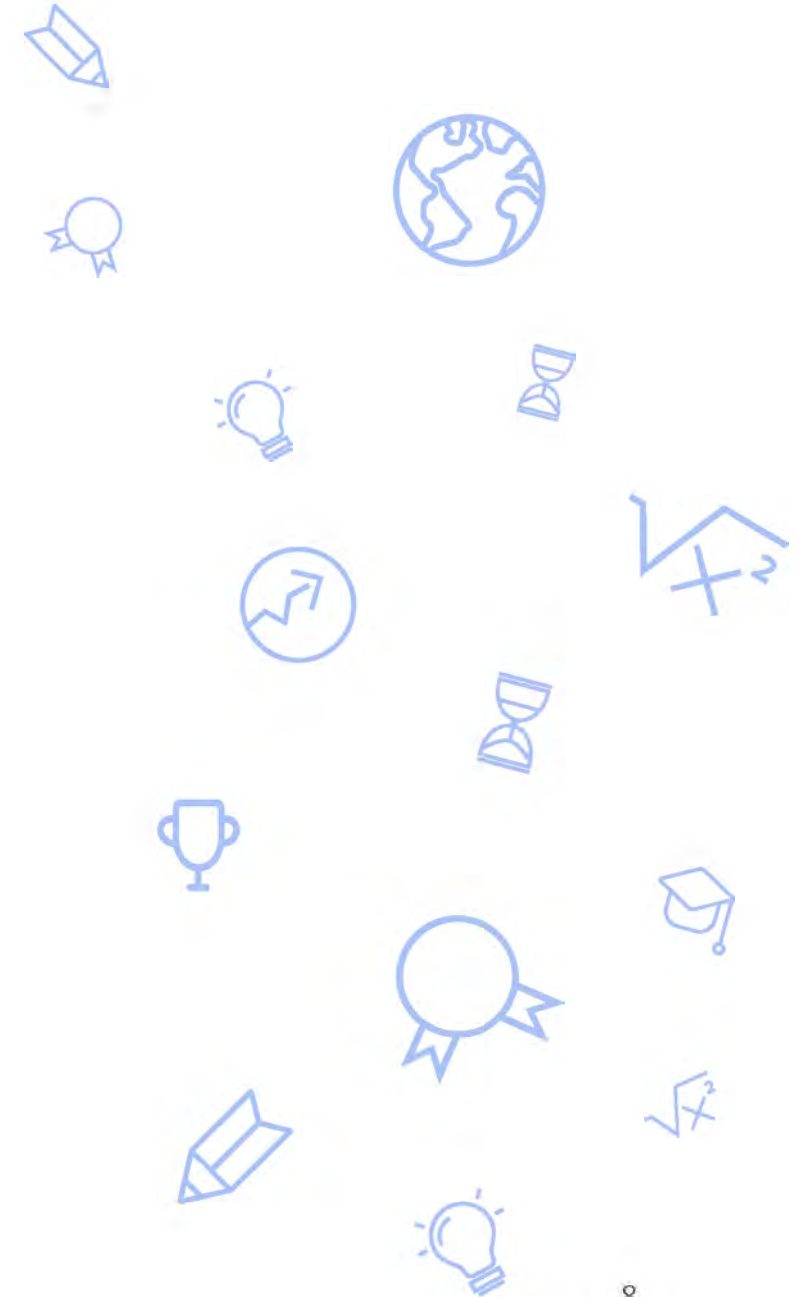
Expanded Support



Recognize Progress



# SPCSA-Sponsored Charter Schools





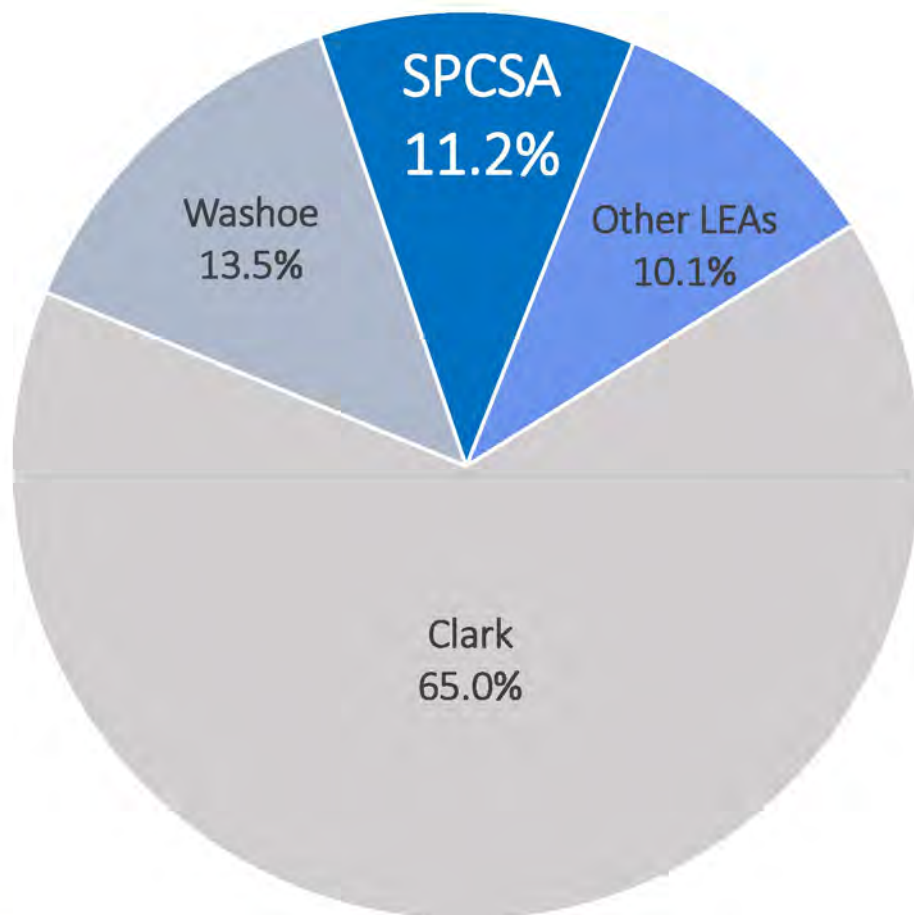
# What are public charter schools?

- ✓ Tuition-free, public schools
- ✓ Students enrolled through a lottery (school may not impose any admission criteria\*)
- ✓ Required to take all state assessments (Smarter Balanced, ACT, etc.)
- ✓ Governed by volunteer board of directors
- ✓ May not operate for profit
- ✓ Subject to a performance contract with a charter school sponsor

*\*Pursuant to NRS 388A.274, a charter school may, with approval from the SPCSA and State Board of Education, be rated under the Alternative Performance Framework schools and restrict enrollment to certain students, including those that are significantly under-credited.*

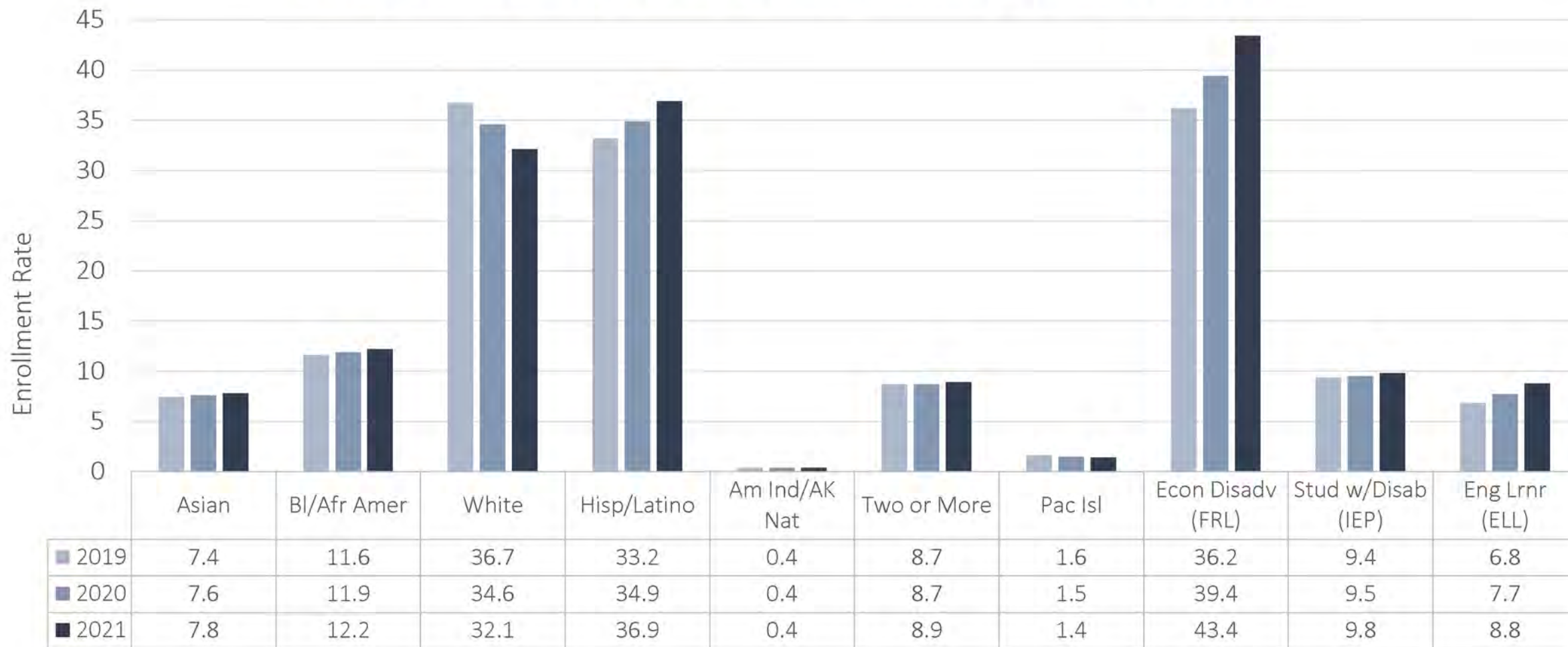
# Overview of Schools and Students Served

There are 70 charter school campuses sponsored by the SPCSA located across five counties: Churchill, Clark, Elko, Washoe, and White Pine. Of the school campuses sponsored by the SPCSA, about 82% are located in Clark County.



| Entity       | Enrollment | % of State |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| STATE        | 492338     | -          |
| Clark        | 320245     | 65.0%      |
| Washoe       | 66541      | 13.5%      |
| SPCSA        | 55415      | 11.2%      |
| Elko         | 9943       | 2.0%       |
| Lyon         | 8937       | 1.8%       |
| Carson       | 7822       | 1.5%       |
| Nye          | 5627       | 1.1%       |
| Douglas      | 5397       | 1.0%       |
| Humboldt     | 3387       | 0.6%       |
| Churchill    | 3360       | 0.6%       |
| White Pine   | 1272       | 0.2%       |
| Lander       | 1030       | 0.2%       |
| Lincoln      | 942        | 0.1%       |
| Pershing     | 686        | 0.1%       |
| Mineral      | 612        | 0.1%       |
| Storey       | 433        | <0.1%      |
| Eureka       | 348        | <0.1%      |
| University   | 229        | <0.1%      |
| Esmeralda    | 83         | <0.1%      |
| Correctional | 29         | <0.1%      |

# The SPCSA's Demographics Show Steady Progress Towards Alignment with the State



Enrollment rates are from the Nevada Department of Education October 1 validation day of the respective year.



# In the last three years, SPCSA-sponsored schools showed strong growth and overall performance



## Nevada School Star Ratings (2018-19 School Year)



**80%**  
of SPCSA schools  
rated 3 stars or better



**66%**  
of SPCSA schools are  
4- and 5-star schools

## Graduation Rates (Class of 2021)



**86.8%**  
4-year graduation rate

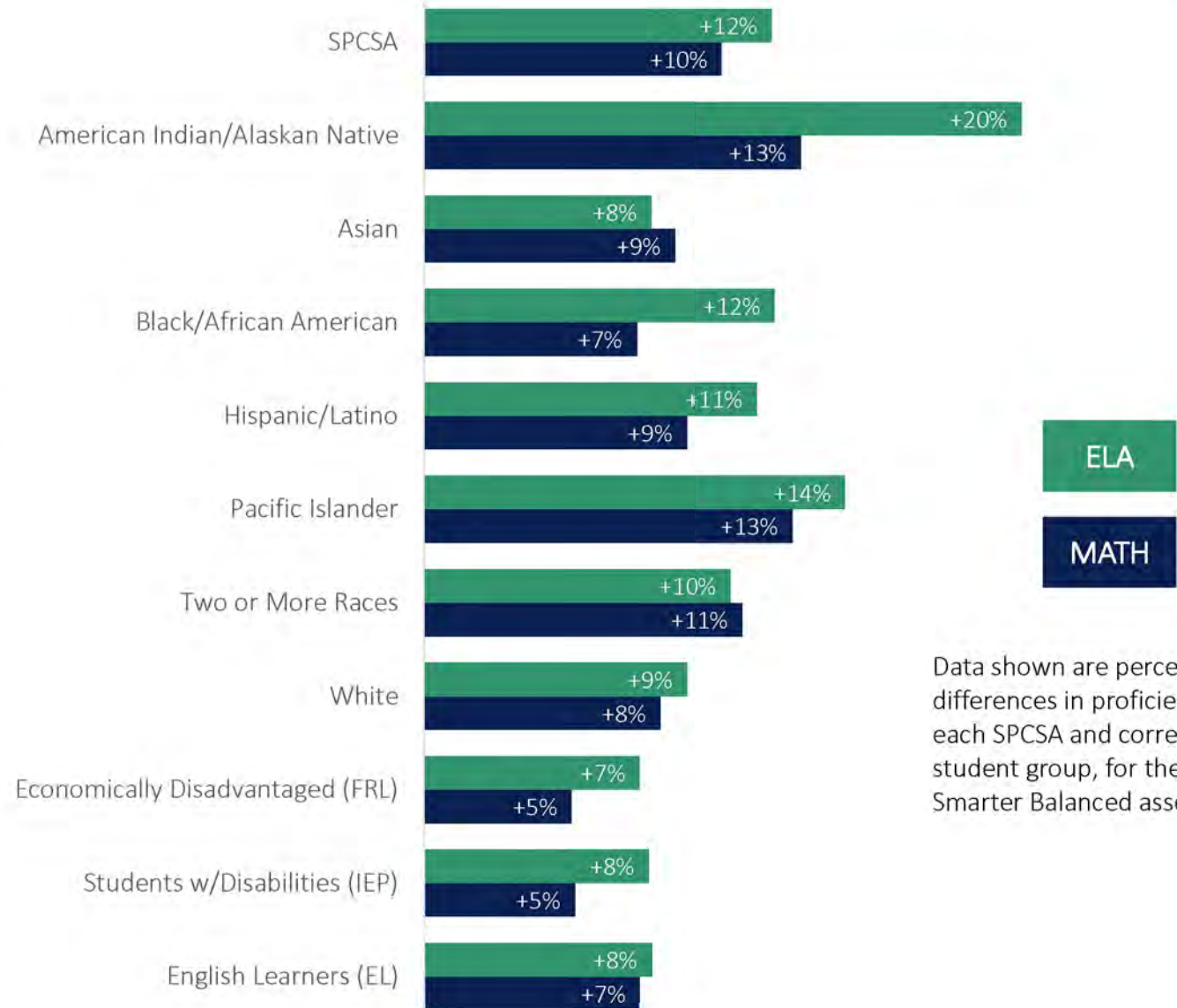


**2.6 point increase**  
compared to prior year

**23 of 24 high schools**  
exceeded the statewide graduation rate



# All SPCSA Student Groups Outperformed their State Peers in 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and ELA



Data shown are percent point differences in proficiency between each SPCSA and corresponding state student group, for the 2020-21 Smarter Balanced assessments.





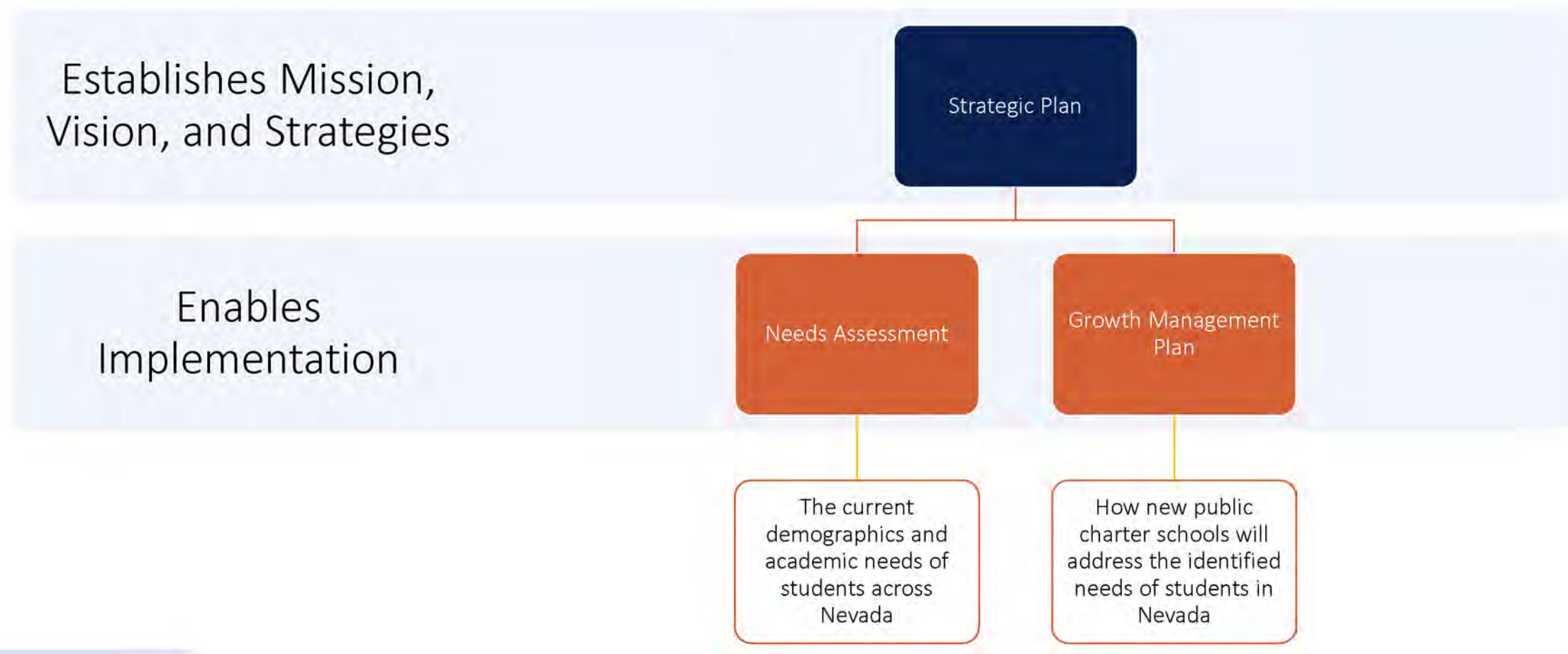


# Assembly Bill 462 (2019)

- **Needs Assessment:** Requires the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) to annually conduct and incorporate the findings of “an evaluation of demographic information of pupils, the academic needs of pupils and the needs of any pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school in this State” into its charter school authorizing decisions. (NRS 388A.220 and 388A.249)
- **Growth Management Plan:** Requires the SPCSA to “establish a plan to manage the growth of charter schools” which contemplates new schools, additional campuses, expansion of existing schools, and renewal of charter contracts for current schools. (NRS 388A.167)
- **Notification and Solicitation of Input:** Requires the SPCSA to
  - Notify school districts and NDE regarding requests to amend charter contracts and applications for new charter schools. (NRS 388A.225)
  - Solicit input from local school districts regarding applications for new charter schools. (NRS 388A.249)
- **Site Evaluations:** Requires charter school sponsors to conduct “site evaluations of each campus of a charter school it sponsors during the first, third and fifth years after entering into or renewing a charter contract.” (NRS 388A.223)



# Needs Assessment and Growth Management Plan in Context





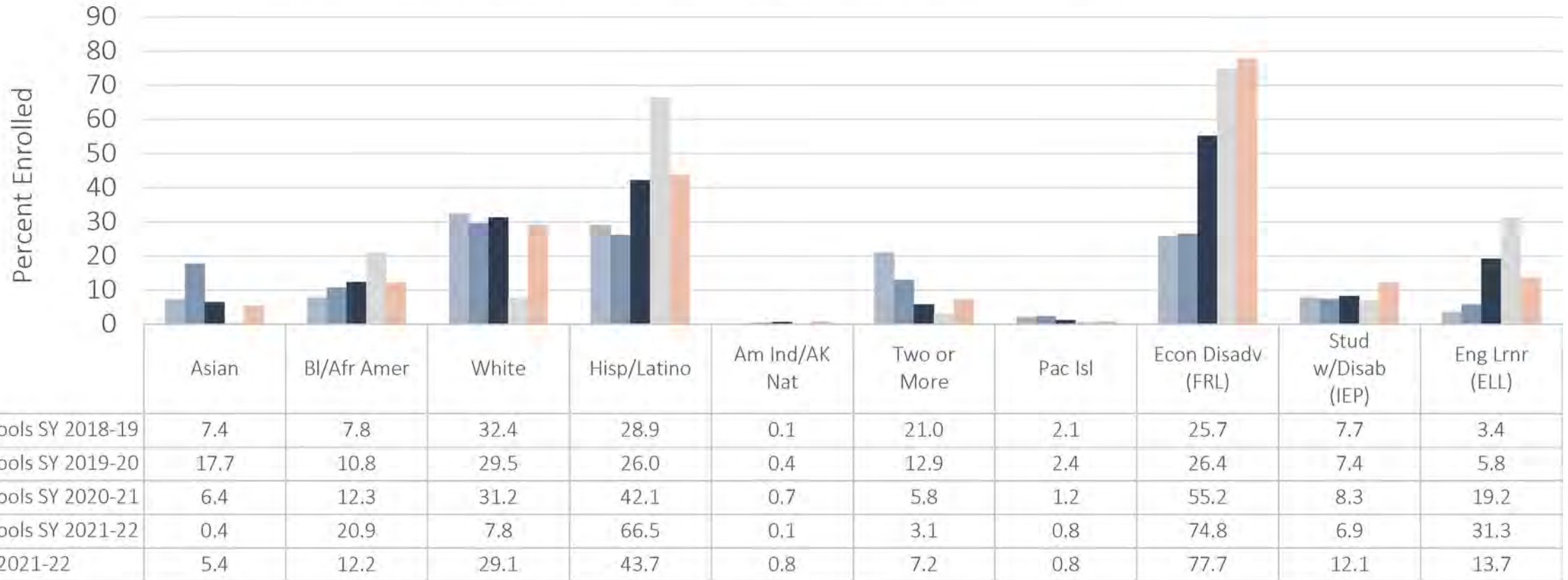


# Implementation of AB 462

- Initial [Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#) approved by Authority on July 26, 2019
  - Fourth iteration will be considered by Authority on January 28, 2022
- Initial [Growth Management Plan](#) approved by Authority on December 13, 2019 and transmitted to NDE and LCB on December 24, 2019
  - Updated Growth Management Plan approved by Authority, incorporating legislator feedback, on April 24, 2020; Third iteration approved by the Authority on May 21, 2021
  - Additional revisions expected in the spring of 2022
- Regular [communication](#) with school districts and NDE regarding new school applications and requests for charter contract amendments
- [Site Evaluations](#) conducted, at minimum, in the first, third, and fifth year of a charter contract.
  - Additional Site Evaluations conducted based on school performance
  - Continuing to refine Site Evaluation protocols to maximize their impact



# New SPCSA Schools that opened in School Year 2021-22 are More Reflective of State Enrollment Rates



Enrollment rates are from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) October 1 validation day of the respective year. New schools in SY 2018-19 include CASLV Eastgate, Legacy Cadence, NSHS Meadowood, NSHS Sunrise, Somerset Aliante, and Somerset Skye Canyon. New schools in SY 2019-20 include Legacy SW, NSHS SW, Pinecrest Sloan Canyon, and Signature Prep. New schools in SY 2020-21 include Amplus Acad Rainbow, Explore Acad, GALS, Mater East, NSHS Dtnw Henderson, NSHS NW, and Pinecrest Northern NV. New schools in SY 2021-22 include CIVICA and TEACH Las Vegas.



# Charter School Legislation (2021)

- AB 419 and SB 363
  - Governance Standards, Training, and Transparency
  - New Charter School Applications and Expansion Requests
  - Reporting from charter school sponsors
- AB 109
  - Teacher Licensure at Charter Schools
- AB 68
  - Technical changes regarding new charter school applications, alternative performance framework charter schools, and charter school closure



# Other Education Legislation (2021)

- SB 439, SB 458, SB 463, AB 495
  - Pupil Centered Funding Plan and other funding
- SB 102, SB 172, SB 160, AB 235, and SB 215
  - Age requirements for school
  - Dual Credit Courses for High Schools
  - Nevada College Kick Start and FAFSA information/assistance
  - Distance Education
- AB 195
  - ELL Bill of Right
- AB 371, AB 194, SB 354, AB 67
  - Discrimination based on race
  - Restorative justice
  - Student discipline
- AB 224
  - Feminine Hygiene Products



# Thank you!

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