

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Melissa Mackedon
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Follow Up to Questions Raised : 02-05-2024 Presentation
DATE: February 12, 2024

Special Education

Charter schools are required to enroll all students. Should those students have an IEP the charter school is required to provide the services of the IEP in accordance with IDEA.

If a charter school is not enrolling students with IEPs or not providing services required by the IEP they are breaking the law and should be reported.

6,435, or 10.4%, of students in charter schools have an Individualized Education Plan. Of those students 90 took the Nevada Alternative Assessment in the 2022-2023 school year, an assessment that is reserved for the most impacted student on an IEP. Meaning these students have severe disabilities. Typically, only 1-2% of students in a state take this assessment. The SPCSA percentage was within that range.

Licensed Professionals

2937/2973 teachers are licensed through the Nevada Department of Education (35 are not)

68/72 principals are licensed through the Nevada Department of Education

71/76 school counselors are licensed through the Nevada Department of Education

Teacher and School Leader Evaluations

Teacher evaluations at charter schools are reviewed by the SPCSA in numerous ways:

- Within the charter school application, the committee to form must answer the following questions:
 - Describe the school's performance management system and process for teacher evaluations.
 - Provide a copy of the teacher evaluation tool and all supporting protocols or documentation.
 - Explain how the school intends to identify and address unsatisfactory teacher performance.
- During Site Evaluations
 - SPCSA staff conduct focus groups with teachers relating to a variety of topics including those associated with evaluations. When site evaluations are conducted, the site evaluation team requests a staff roster from the school leader prior to the day of the evaluation. Once the SPCSA staff receives the staff roster, they randomly select teachers to attend a 45-minute staff focus group on the day of the evaluation. Questions for staff are prepared ahead of time and are based on previous site evaluation information, and current academic and school data. Questions from previous site evaluations include: *Do you believe you are improving as a teacher, and if so, how? What suggestions do you have for improving the academic outcomes of students? What type of professional development have you taken part in this school year? Do you feel the school leader is supportive of your ongoing personal ability to improve as a teacher? How has this taken place? Do you have a mentor program at the school.*

The school leader evaluation is reviewed by the SPCSA in numerous ways:

- Within the charter school application, the committee to form must answer the following questions:
 - Describe the qualifications of the school leader including selection criteria for the role and a job description.
 - Explain how the school leader will be supported, developed, and evaluated. Include any existing competencies used for school leader selection and evaluation.
 - Provide a copy of the leadership evaluation tool and all supporting protocols or documentation.
 - Explain how the school intends to identify and address unsatisfactory leadership performance.
- Charter school leaders are evaluated in accordance with NRS 241.031 (in public meeting similar to how district superintendents are evaluated)
- During Site Evaluations
 - The site evaluation team speaks directly to board members and asks about the evaluation of the school leader.
 - The site evaluation team asks the school leaders about their annual evaluation.

Replications vs. Stand Alone/Independent Schools

Opening a new charter school, or a new charter school campus, of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality school is defined in the industry as a replication. The term indicates that a Nevada Committee to Form is trying to start a charter school with a proven record of academic, organizational and financial success. The Nevada Committee to Form may be replicating a school that is already located in another region of Nevada and having success or they may be replicating a school from out of state who is having success. Regardless, the Committee to Form MUST not only show that the school will be successful in the Nevada context, but also must show, through the application, that the local community is supportive.

Looking for schools whose practices are getting good outcomes for students and replicating those practices is common practice across all education settings.

Schools highlighted Appendix A are replications. Some are schools that have started in Nevada and expanded, some are replications from out of state, some are combination of both.

Charter School Campus Name	23-24 Grade Levels	23-24 Total Enrollment
Alpine Academy	9 - 12	157
Amplus - Durango	K - 12	1690
Amplus - Rainbow	K - 5	628
Battle Born Academy	K-7	267
Beacon Academy of Nevada - Flamingo	9 - 12	743*
Beacon Academy of Nevada - Sahara	9 - 12	<i>*Combined with Flamingo Campus</i>
CIVICA	K - 8	905
Coral Academy of Science - Cadence	PK-8	1573
Coral Academy of Science - Centennial Hills	K - 8	681
Coral Academy of Science - Eastgate	K - 7	582
Coral Academy of Science - Nellis AFB	PK - 8	895
Coral Academy of Science - Sandy Ridge	8 - 12	867
Coral Academy of Science - Tamarus	K - 4	394
Coral Academy of Science - Windmill	5 - 7	415
Democracy Prep	K - 12	1277
Discovery Charter School - Hillpointe	K - 8	400
Discovery Charter School - Sandhill	K - 5	93
Doral Academy - Cactus	K - 8	999
Doral Academy - Fire Mesa	K - 8	988
Doral Academy - Red Rock	K - 12	2365
Doral Academy - Saddle	K - 8	995
Doral Academy - West Pebble	K - 8	1000
Doral Academy of Northern Nevada	K - 8	996
Eagle Charter School	K-5	170
Elko Institute for Academic Achievement	K - 8	309
Equipo Academy School	6 - 12	855
Explore Academy	6-12	268
Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas	K - 12	1083
Freedom Classical Academy	K - 8	1064
Futuro Academy	K - 5	456
Honors Academy of Literature	K - 8	217
Imagine School at Mountain View	K - 6	674
Leadership Academy of Nevada	6 - 12	277
Learning Bridge Charter School	K - 8	164
Legacy Traditional School - Cadence	K - 8	1185
Legacy Traditional School - North Valley	K - 8	1349
Legacy Traditional School - Southwest	K - 8	1518
Mater Academy of Nevada - Bonanza	PK - 8	1105
Mater Academy of Nevada - East	PK - 11	2373
Mater Academy of Nevada - Mountain Vista	PK - 8	1103
Mater Academy of Northern Nevada	K - 8	490
Nevada Connections Academy	9 - 12	1052

Charter School Campus Name	23-24 Grade Levels	23-24 Total Enrollment
Nevada Prep	3 - 8	314
Nevada Rise	K - 5	369
Nevada State High School - Downtown	11 - 12	40
Nevada State High School - Henderson	11 - 12	229
Nevada State High School - Henderson/Downtown	11 - 12	118
Nevada State High School - Meadowood	11 - 12	30
Nevada State High School - Northwest	11 - 12	122
Nevada State High School - Southwest	11 - 12	139
Nevada State High School - Summerlin	11 - 12	131
Nevada State High School - Sunrise	11 - 12	51
Nevada State High School North Las Vegas	11 - 12	80
Nevada Virtual Academy	6 - 12	1717
Oasis Academy	K - 12	770
PilotED Cactus Park	K - 5	296
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - Cadence	K - 12	2299
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - Horizon	K - 5	901
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - Inspirada	K - 8	1191
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - Sloan Canyon	K - 12	2183
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada- Springs	K - 3	186
Pinecrest Academy of Nevada - St. Rose	K - 8	1025
Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada	K - 8	997
Pinecrest Academy Virtual	6 - 10	117
Quest Academy - Northwest	K - 8	452
Sage Collegiate	K - 6	241
Signature Preparatory	K - 8	1006
Silver Sands Montessori	K - 8	242
Somerset Academy - Aliante	K - 8	1163
Somerset Academy - Lone Mountain	K - 8	993
Somerset Academy - Losee	K - 12	2393
Somerset Academy - North Las Vegas	K - 5	770
Somerset Academy - Sky Pointe	K - 12	2152
Somerset Academy - Skye Canyon	K - 8	996
Somerset Academy - Stephanie	K - 8	956
Southern Nevada Trades High School	9-10	83
Sports Leadership and Management Academy	K - 12	1843
Strong Start Academy	K - 3	142
TEACH Las Vegas	K - 8	383
Young Women's Leadership Academy of Las Vegas	6 - 10	141