

2023 Charter Renewal Application

Per [NRS 388A.285](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-388A.html#NRS388ASec285) and [NAC](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Register/2016Register/R087-16A.pdf) 388A.415

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

Charter school authorizers are responsible for evaluating current charter schools’ performance and achievement levels in the process of deciding whether to renew a school’s charter. A strong renewal process is critical to protect charter school autonomy, students, and stakeholders and ensures schools are held to high standards.

In the following pages, we provide guidance around and outline the timeline for the renewal process with the hopes of making the process as seamless and smooth for schools and our Authorization team.

Please read through the renewal application and guideline carefully and reach out to **Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III at 775-687-9178** or **dpeltier@spcsa.nv.gov** or **Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director** at **775-546-3021** or **Rebecca.Feiden@spcsa.nv.gov** with any questions.

All of us at the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority are excited to work with each of you and support the work schools are doing on behalf of Nevada students.

RENEWAL TIMELINE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Renewal Stage | Date (Fall) | Action |
| Optional Renewal Orientation | May | Schools up for renewal will be invited to join an orientation to answer general questions, address common concerns, and learn more about the renewal process. |
| Renewal Report from the SPCSA | No later than June 30, 2023 | SPCSA staff will provide each school up for renewal a copy of a summarizing performance report for the current charter term. |
| Letter of Intent | - Guidance provided by July 31  - Due no later than Sept 1 | Schools complete this critical first step and submit a notice of intent to apply for charter renewal. |
| Release of renewal application and decision criteria | - Released no later than July 31  - Due by October 15 @ 11:59 p.m. | Schools complete the formal renewal application process, submitting required documents and evidence to support a renewal. |
| Staff Review of Renewal Application | Mid-October through mid-November | Staff reviews schools’ applications and supporting documents, including previously conducted site evaluations, to provide an informed, evidence-based recommendation to SPCSA Board. |
| Staff Recommendation to the Authority[[1]](#footnote-2) | Delivered at an Authority Board Meeting within 60 days of renewal submission or by a mutually agreed upon date | Staff submits recommendation to SPCSA Board based on thorough review. The Authority will discuss and make a decision about schools’ renewal in an open meeting. |

REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS

The completed renewal application and all required documents must be submitted as a signed PDF into the Charter Renewal Application section in Epicenter by 11:59 pm PT on the due date. Any Excel documents, i.e. budget workbook, should be submitted as a separate attachment along with the signed PDF. Note that changes contemplated within this section of the renewal application may constitute an amendment under NAC 388A.330. SPCSA staff and the Authority will work with individual schools to accommodate these amendment requests should circumstances warrant.

1. **Executive Summary** [Limited to 5 pages]

Provide a written Executive Summary that includes the following:

* Mission Statement for next charter term. *Note that a change may require separate Authority approval*.
* Key Design Elements of your school
  + What do you do plan to do and why?
* Proposed changes for the next charter term and rationale
  + Speak to programs, structure, and principles[[2]](#footnote-3)

2. **Renewal Application**

A. Application Form

Complete the provided template application (pg. 7 of this form) for the following:

* Academic Performance
* Operational Overview
* Financial Performance
* Organizational Performance
* Next Charter Term

B. Written Narrative [Limited to 5 pages]

Provide any written narrative that addresses the enrollment, retention, attendance, discipline, faculty/staff retention, parent and family engagement, and other relevant information to support the data provided in the Application Form. Finally, please discuss the demographics of the school as compared to the community it serves, local district, SPCSA and statewide averages. Include any plans[[3]](#footnote-4) that the school may be considering to address any student demographic gaps so as to align to the SPCSA Strategic Plan, as well as any efforts to ensure a representative teaching staff and governing board.

C. Required Supporting Documents

Please upload with your renewal application the following documents:

* Proposed calendar for the first year of the new charter term
* Daily schedule for all grade levels

3. **Academic Plans for the Proposed Charter Term**

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

Please include a written narrative describing the academic vision and plans for the next charter term. This should include detailed descriptions of key design elements, programs, structures, principles, that remain unchanged as well as those that may be changing. For any proposed changes, please provide a rationale. This section should also include a description of any academic improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement as well as a plans to monitor for potential disproportionate discipline practices, and plans to address any opportunity gaps for specific student groups. This may include plans to close gaps in proficiency and/or growth between different student groups (ex. race/ethnicity, FRL, EL, IEP).

Finally, if the school currently provides distance education and plans to continue doing so under a renewed contract, please include responses to the following questions as required by NRS 388A.725(3) and NRS 388A.725(4):

* The support available to each pupil, in his or her home or community, including, without limitation, the availability and frequency of interactions between the pupil and teachers;
* The methods the charter school for distance education will use to administer any test, exam or assessment required by state or federal law;
* The methods the charter school for distance education will use to assess the academic success of pupils; and
* The criteria pupils must meet to be eligible for enrollment at the charter school for distance education.

4. **Organizational Viability and plans for the Proposed Charter Term**

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

Please include a written narrative describing the current Governing Board’s capacity, skills, and qualifications for continued successful implementation of the school’s design, as well as a growth plan for adding/replacing board members that support the school’s success. This section should also include a description of any organizational improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement in response to past performance, including board training and development. Additionally, should the school contract with a Charter Management Organization (CMO) or Education Management Organization (EMO), this section should speak to the oversight and monitoring by the local board of the services provided by these organization(s)

B. Required Supporting Documents

Please upload with your renewal application the following documents:

* Board Member Roster (page 8 of this application). Note that only names, contact information and Board leadership information are required. Information provided in this section should match Epicenter.
* Board Chair Assurance Statement & Signature (see page 11 of this application)
* For schools contracting with a CMO or EMO, a copy of a draft contract for the upcoming term.

5. **Fiscal Soundness and Plans for the Proposed Charter Term**

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

Please include a written narrative describing the current fiscal state of the school and plans during the upcoming charter term to ensure it remains financially viable. This section should also include a description of any financial improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement.

Please upload with your renewal application the following school board-approved documents:

* Budget for the current and upcoming fiscal year (FY25)[[4]](#footnote-5)

6. **Additional Information from the Governing Board Supporting Renewal**

Please provide any information or data that the governing body of the charter school determines supports the renewal of the charter contract. This information must include:

* If applicable, external evaluations or academic data submitted within this section must be independently audited and verified by the person performing the evaluation as required by [NAC 388A.415](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-388A.html#NAC388ASec415).
* Agenda and draft minutes for the meeting where the governing body voted to approve the submission of the renewal application.

OVERSIGHT

SPCSA staff will include any Site Evaluations in the recommendation and provide documentation collected during visits to the Board as part of the renewal process. Additionally, SPCSA staff may consider and include the results of any subrecipient grant monitoring.

Renewal decisions for schools operating under charter contacts are based on historic performance data as evidenced by both the NSPF Performance Framework as well as the SPCSA Performance Frameworks. Historical anecdotes or unsolicited data, e.g. leadership changes or past programmatic adjustments, may be included in the report but will be given less weight when considered by the Authority in making renewal decisions. Additionally, renewal decisions will be based on the overall financial and organizational health of the public charter school. Evidence from both the financial framework and financial audits will be used to assess the overall financial health of a school, and the SPCSA Organizational Framework will be used to assess the overall organizational capacity of the school. The Epicenter platform will be used to inform the assessment of the organizational health of a school, and to help determine whether or not the school is compliant under local, state and federal law.

Schools which are contemplating material amendments, e.g. changes to the mission statement, grade levels served, enrollment, facilities expansion, academic program, instructional delivery, management agreement, etc. will be permitted to submit such amendment requests in the event that the school is renewed based on past performance. Schools are permitted to draft such amendment requests during the renewal process for filing immediately following the renewal decision by the Authority. Stated another way, a school may submit formal amendments for consideration by the Authority separately from the renewal application.

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the content is accurate and reflects information provided by NDE and the SPCSA. Any discrepancies between the data submitted and data previously provided by NDE or the SPCSA will result in a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

Schools are required to submit the agenda and draft minutes for the meeting where the governing body voted to approve the submission of the renewal application into the appropriate areas in Epicenter prior to filing the renewal application, as called for in Section 6 of this application template. Failure to submit the agenda and draft minutes into the appropriate areas in Epicenter prior to filing the renewal application will result in the return of the renewal application and a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

ACCESSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

All charter school applications and renewals are required to be ADA compliant as described by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (refer to 29 U.S.C. 794d). This statute requires access to and use of Federal executive agencies and information technology (ICT) by individuals with disabilities. Compliance with Section 508 is mandatory for all entities receiving federal funds-including the SPCSA and its charters.

2023 Written Application for Renewal of Charter

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School Name & Contact Info | Name:  Address:  Phone:  Website: | |
| School Leader Name & Contact Info | Name:  Title:  Contact info: | |
| Governing Board Names & Contact Info  *Add rows/names as may be necessary* | Chair/President | Name:  Email:  Phone: |
| Vice Chair/Vice President | Name:  Email: |
| Treasurer | Name:  Email: |
| Secretary | Name:  Email: |
| Member | Name:  Email: |
| Member | Name:  Email: |
| Member | Name:  Email: |
| Member | Name:  Email: |

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE[[5]](#footnote-6)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021 - 22 SPCSA Academic Performance rating | | Campus 1 (name) | | Campus 2 (name) | | | Campus 3 (name) | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| 2021 - 22 NSPF Index Score[[6]](#footnote-7) | | Campus 1 (name) | | Campus 2 (name) | | | Campus 3 (name) | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| Campus 4 (name) | | Campus 5 (name) | | | Campus 6 (name) | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| 2019 - 20[[7]](#footnote-8) NSPF Rating  *Complete campus boxes as may be applicable* | | Campus 1 (name) | | Campus 2 (name) | | | Campus 3 (name) | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| Campus 4 (name) | | Campus 5 (name) | | | Campus 6 (name) | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| 2018 - 19 NSPF Rating | | Elementary School Rating | | Middle School Rating | | | High School Rating | |
|  | |  | | |  | |
| CSI, ATSI, or TSI Identification | | Please list any years in which your school was identified as a CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement), TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement), or ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) school by NDE. | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | | | | | | |  |
|  | Class of 2018-19 | | Class of 2019-20 | | Class of 2020-21 | Class of 2021-22 | |
| Four-Year Graduation Rate |  | |  | |  |  | |

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current Year Enrollment & Demographic Details | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| Total Student Enrollment [2023 Validation Day] = | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | Ethnicity/Race | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | | Male | | | Asian | | Black | | | White | | Hispanic/Latino | | American Indian/Alaskan Native | | Pacific Islander | Two or More Races |
|  | |  | | |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  |
| Special Populations | | | | | | | | | Students on Waitlist | | | | | | | |
| Students w/disabilities (percent) | ELLs  (percent) | | | Homeless  Students  (percent) | | Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility  (percent) | | | Number of Students on Waitlist | | | | Percentage of Waitlist Students w/Preference Status | | | |
|  |  | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| Staff Retention | | | | | | | | | Discipline Data (2022 – 23) | | | | | | | |
| Number of Instructional Staff | Total Number of Staff | | | Percentage returning staff 2021-22 | | Percentage returning staff 2022-23 | | | Number of out of school suspensions | | | | Number of expulsions | | | |
|  |  | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| Year-to-Year Mobility [Student Retention from Oct. 1 to Oct.1][[8]](#footnote-9) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2018 – 2019 | | | 2019 – 2020 | | | | | 2020 – 2021 | | | 2021 – 2022 | | | | 2022 – 2023 | |
|  | | |  | | | | |  | | |  | | | |  | |

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SPCSA Authority Academic Programmatic Audit Findings | |
| 2022-23 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2021-22 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2020-21 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2019-20 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2018 -19 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SPCSA Authority Financial Programmatic Audit Findings | |
| 2022-23 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2021-22 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2020-21 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2019-20 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2018 -19 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |

ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SPCSA Authority Organizational Programmatic Audit Findings | |
| 2022-23 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2021-22 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2020-21 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2019-20 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |
| 2018 -19 | No Notice Notice of Concern Notice of Breach |

NEXT CHARTER TERM

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current Enrollment Cap & Grade Spans for next charter term | | | | | | |
|  | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 | 2028-2029 | 2029-2030 |
| Planned Enrollment Caps |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Planned Grade Spans |  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Note: the enrollment cap and grade span information provided above should match current levels approved by the Authority, including previously approved amendments (such as expansions/new campuses) that have yet to take effect. These totals were provided in the school in the Performance Summary report submitted to the school by SPCSA staff on or before June 30.*

*Should the school propose a change in the enrollment cap or grade configuration during the upcoming charter term, please outline this change and provide a short rationale and additional information for the proposed change. Note that a change to the enrollment cap or grade configuration requires separate Authority approval.*

BOARD MEMBER ASSURANCE STATEMENT

*I certify that the governing body of this charter school has voted that the school and its staff will adhere to the renewal process expectations outlined in the Renewal Guidelines. The information provided in this charter renewal application is true and correct. I also certify that the governing body of this charter school understands that any academic, financial, or organizational performance data collected during the period of the current charter term which is analyzed and reported following a renewal vote may be considered by the Authority in making performance and accountability decisions in the subsequent charter term.*

Signature of Head of School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of President/Chair of Governing Body: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Governing Body voted to approve application for renewal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. There are additional steps and provisions within [NAC 388A.415](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-388A.html#NAC388ASec415) should the Executive Director of the SPCSA recommend non-renewal, or if the Authority chooses to non-renew or deny a renewal application for a school. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Proposed changes may require separate approval by the Authority as required by statute, regulation or the charter contract. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. If previously directed by the Authority through [action on March 4, 2022](https://charterschools.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/CharterSchoolsnvgov/content/News/2022/Recruitment%20and%20Enrollment%20Plans.2022.03.04.pdf), these plans should include updates on the implementation of a school’s formal recruitment and enrollment plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Applicants should use the budget template provided by the SPCSA. Should there be questions, or if incomplete information submitted, SPCSA staff will reach out to the applicant for additional information. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. For schools applying for a third charter term or beyond, NAC 388A.415 provides that the State Public Charter School Authority will give the academic performance of pupils a greater weight than that assigned to it on the first renewal. SPCSA staff will include academic performance data for any previous charter term for the Authority’s consideration. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but

   did not calculate corresponding star ratings. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings, [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. To calculate student retention, subtract the number of students from year 2 not returning from year 1, and divide this result by the total number of students in year 1. For example, if there were 5 students in year 1, and 1 student did not return in year 2, the retention calculation would be: (5-1)/5, or 80%. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)