



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Patrick Gavin, Executive Director
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8: Recommendations for No Action as it relates to the Academic performance of Argent Preparatory Academy, Quest Preparatory Academy and Beacon Academy Based on the 2017 – 2018 Nevada School Performance Framework Results and Participation Rates
DATE: September 28, 2018

As the Authority is aware, the Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework results for the 2017 – 2018 school year. All public schools in the state of Nevada are issued a star rating when all data points are available. The 2017 – 2018 school year is also the first year that high school ratings will be released after the ratings freeze during the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Additionally, the State of Nevada is required to “annually measure the achievement of not less than 95 percent of all students, and 95 percent of all students in each subgroup of students who are enrolled in public schools...” (ESSA 1177-35(E)). These subgroups are as follows:

<u>State of Nevada ESSA Subgroups</u>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	Two or More Races
Asian	White/Caucasian
Black/African American	IEP
Hispanic/Latino	Economically Disadvantaged (ED)
Pacific Islander	English Learner (EL)

Based on the final NSPF results released last week, SPCSA staff recommends that no action be taken in regard to the following schools, which received a one- or two-star rating, or were rated in the lowest 5% of all elementary, middle, and high schools in the state:

- **Argent Preparatory Academy**

- Argent's high school was rated as the lowest in the entire SPCSA portfolio, with an index score of 11.11, and a graduation rate of 34.52%. However due to the closure of the high school at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, SPCSA staff recommends that no action be taken in regard to Argent Preparatory Academy. Staff anticipates that Mr. Kern, receiver, will be updating the Board at our next Authority Board meeting on November 2, 2018.

- **Quest Preparatory Academy**

- Quest's elementary schools at both the Bridger and Northwest campuses received two-star ratings, 47 and 48.5 respectively, almost earning a three-star rating. Quest's Northwest campus middle school program did earn a three-star rating with an index score of 56. While both elementary school campuses received two-star ratings, both campuses exceeded all targets and expectations for the past academic year. Most notably, Quest's elementary school program earned an index score of 18 last year, an improvement of nearly 30 points. Given that Quest is under a court-ordered receivership, and that the Bridger campus closed at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority take no action in regard to Quest Preparatory Academy. Staff anticipates that Mr. Kern, receiver, will be updating the Board at our next Authority Board meeting on November 2, 2018.

- **Beacon Academy of Nevada**

- Beacon Academy of Nevada's high school received a one-star rating of 15.5 under the NSPF, and had a graduation rate of 59.5% for its four-year cohort. As a reminder, Beacon's charter contract includes a separate, unique performance framework which was mutually agreed upon by both the school and the Authority Board. Additionally, the school updated the Board on its 2016 – 2017 performance framework data last month, and will do the same at a future meeting for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Given that Beacon has transitioned to the Alternative Performance Framework for the 2018 – 2019 school year, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority take no action in regard to Beacon Academy of Nevada.

Notwithstanding staff recommendation that no action be taken by the Authority in regards to the issuance of Notices, per [NRS 388A.367](#), the above schools are deemed to be qualifying low performing schools, and must notify the parent or guardian of each enrolled pupil. Additionally, qualifying schools are required to post written notification of this performance according to the statewide system of accountability on their website, as well as the scores of neighboring zone traditional public schools. Finally, [NRS 388A.367](#) requires the governing body of qualifying public charter schools to hold a public hearing within 30 days of sending out the required notice so as to provide all stakeholders and opportunity to discuss actions and solicit feedback for continued growth and improvement based on the statewide accountability rating system.

Given the performance of each school above and the requirements of [NRS 388A.367](#), staff expects that each school execute the obligations set forth in statute. This ensures that all parents and guardians are notified, notice is posted on the school's website, and a public hearing is held by the school within 30 days of the required notice being sent.