



**Nevada State Public
Charter School
Authority**

Presentation to Legislative Committee on Education

January 23, 2019

Agenda

1. Introduction and Background
2. Assembly Bill 462
3. Assembly Bill 78 (Separate Agenda Item)
4. Summary



Introduction and Background



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 (SBAC, 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.*

About the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)

Created in 2011, the purpose of the State Public Charter School Authority is to:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.

NRS 388A.150

The SPCSA's Role as a Charter School Sponsor

- Rigorous process for new school applications
- Oversight and monitoring
 - Annual Reporting Requirements
 - At least bi-annual site evaluations
 - Regular touch points aligned to LEA role (training, monitoring, technical assistance)
- Accountability for Results
 - Evaluate against Academic, Organizational and Financial Performance Framework and Issue Notices as needed
 - Stringent renewal standards
 - Closure for persistent low performance and/or circumstances that undermine the health and safety of students
- Regular communication with districts and other charter school sponsors

Overview of Schools



60 Schools

Sponsored by the SPCSA

Schools located in 5 counties

- (Churchill, Clark, Elko, Washoe, White Pine)
- 85% of SPCSA-sponsored schools are located in Clark County

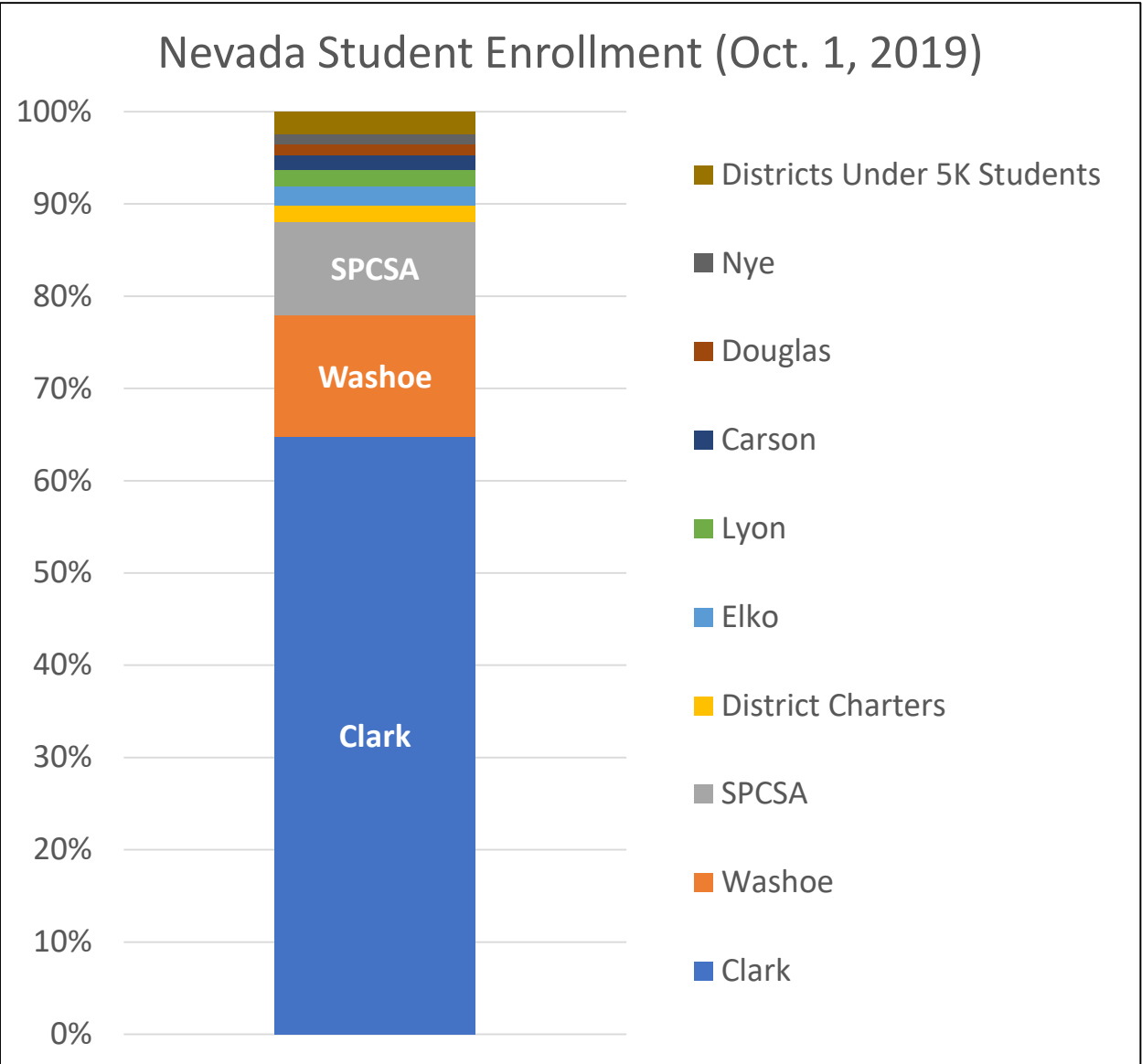


49,000 Students

Attending schools sponsored by the SPCSA

In addition, there are approximately 8,000 students enrolled in district-sponsored charter schools:

- 1 in Carson City
- 6 in Clark County
- 7 in Washoe County



SPCSA-Sponsored Schools

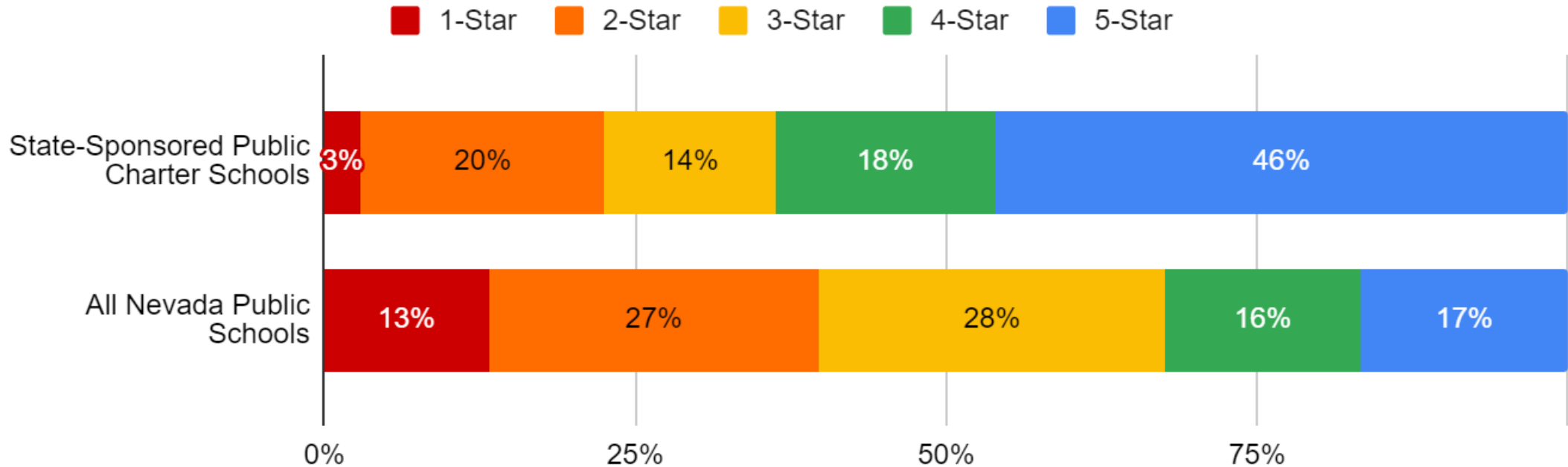
By offering a variety of school models, the SPCSA enables Nevada families to choose schools that best align with the needs and interests of their children.

- Alternative High Schools Serving Under-Credited Students
- Arts Integration Schools
- A Montessori School
- A Sports Leadership and Management School
- Dual Enrollment High Schools
- Online or Blended Learning Schools
- Classical Education Schools
- STEM/STEAM Schools



SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Performance

The majority of SPCSA-sponsored charter schools are rated as commendable (4-Star) or superior (5-star) on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF).



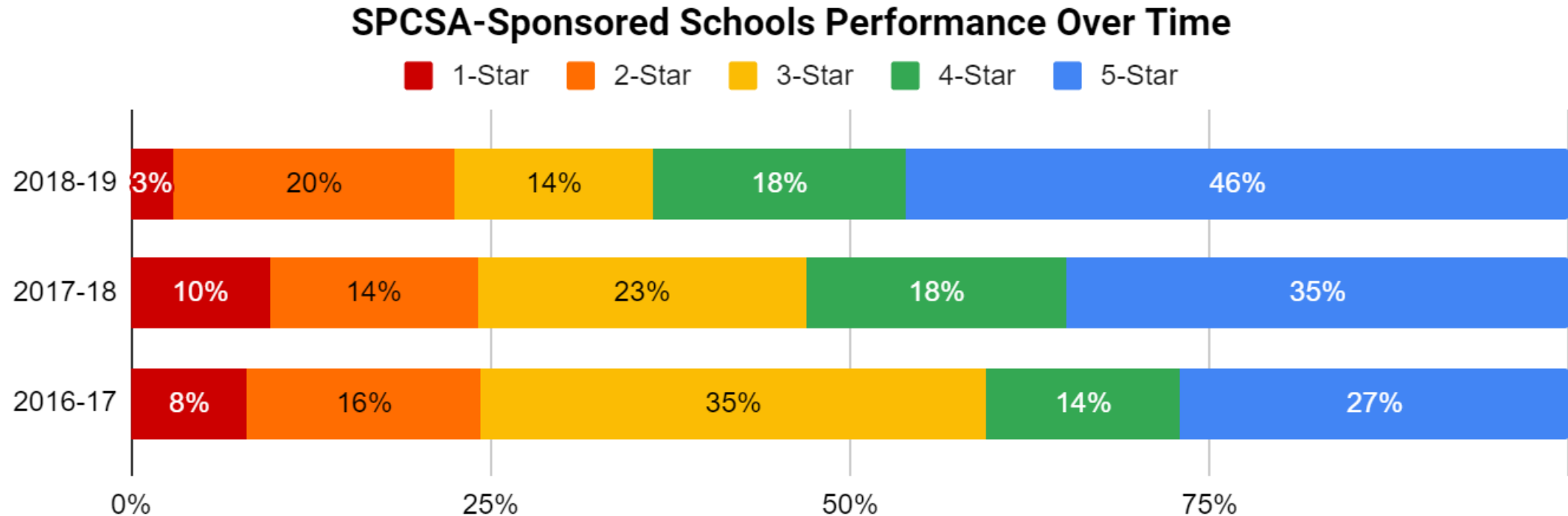
Definitions

1-Star	2-Star	3-Star	4-Star	5-Star
Has not met standards	Partially met standards	Adequate	Commendable	Superior

For complete definitions, see Appendix C of the [NSPF Procedures Manual](#).

SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Performance Over Time

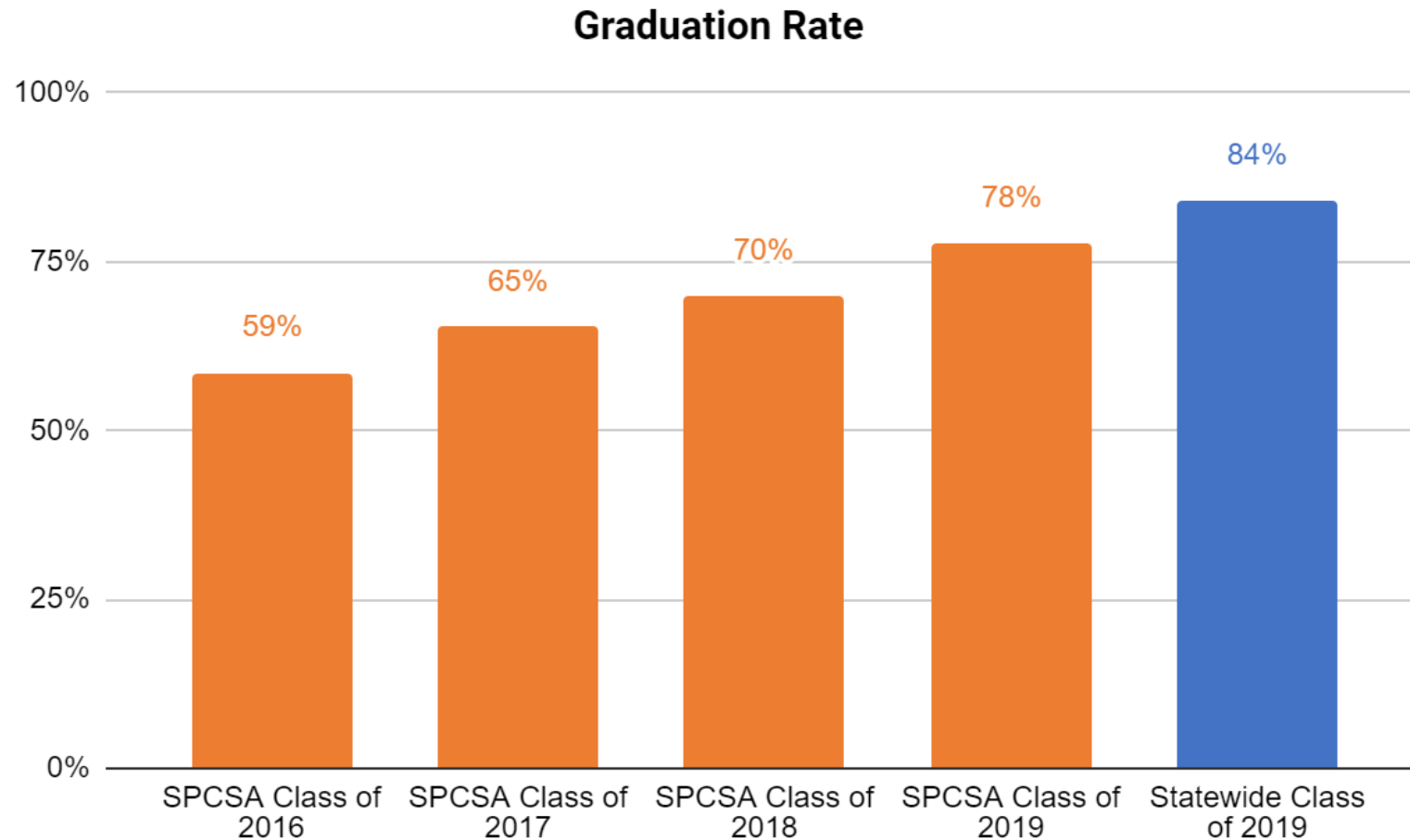
The percent of schools rated as commendable (4-Star) and superior (5-star) have increased steadily over the last three years.



Note that high schools did not receive ratings for the 2016-17 school year so the 2016-17 data only includes elementary and middle schools.

SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Graduation Rate

The combined graduation rate of SPCSA-sponsored schools has improved significantly over the last four years, but continues to lag behind the statewide graduation rate.

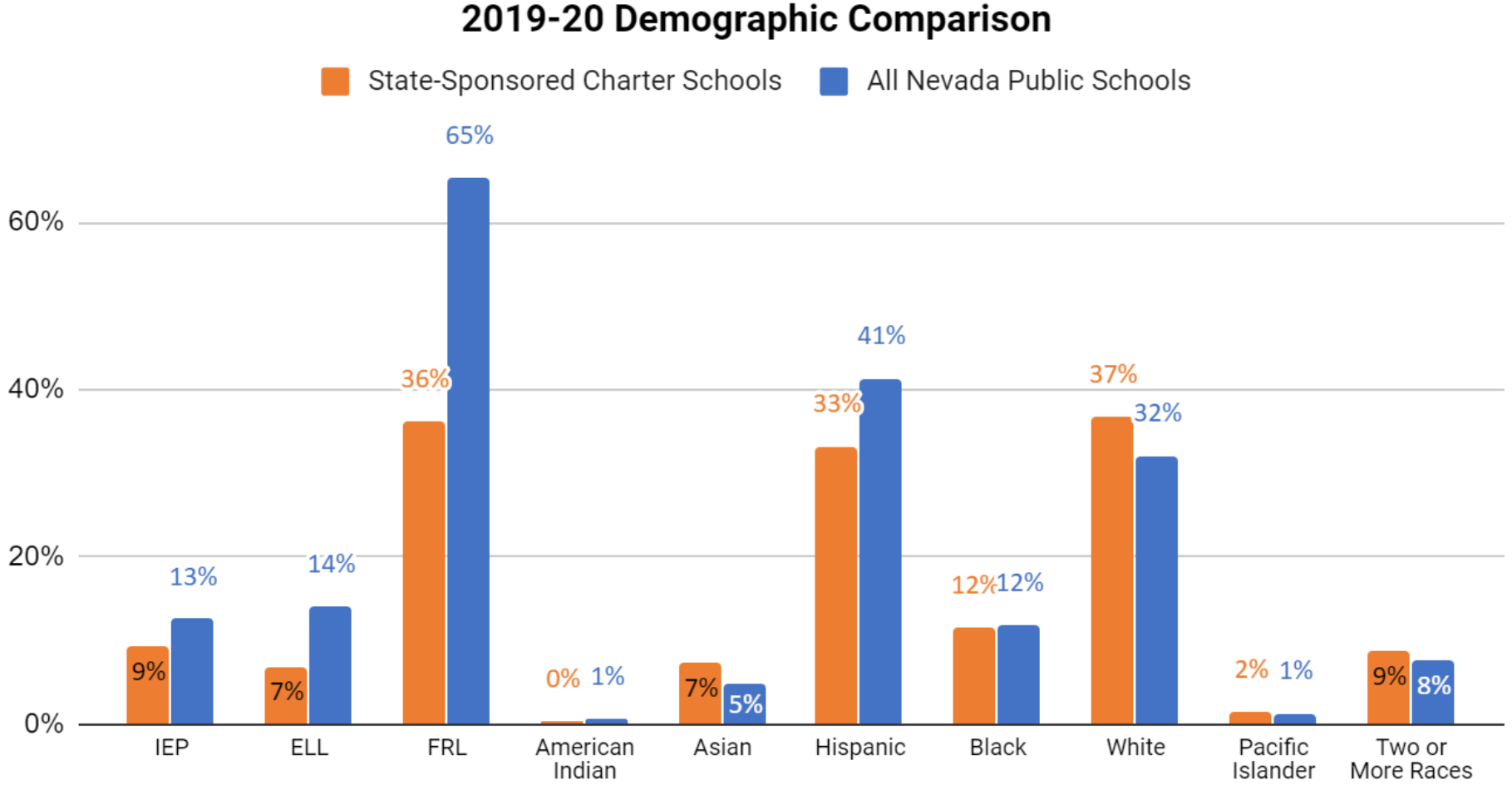


Recent Awards and Recognitions

- Nevada ESEA Distinguished Schools [3 identified statewide]
 - Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus Middle School (excellence in serving special populations of students)
 - Mater Academy of Northern Nevada Middle School (excellence in serving special populations of students)
- Shining Star Schools
 - Mater Academy of Northern Nevada Middle School
 - Equipo Academy Middle School
 - Equipo Academy High School
 - Mater Academy Mt. Vista Elementary School
 - Mater Academy Mt. Vista Middle School
 - Mater Academy Bonanza Middle School
 - Nevada State High School Downtown
 - Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus Middle School
 - Nevada Prep Middle School

SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Demographics

Compared to the rest of Nevada, the SPCSA serves relatively lower proportions of Hispanic students, students classified as economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners, and students requiring special education services.

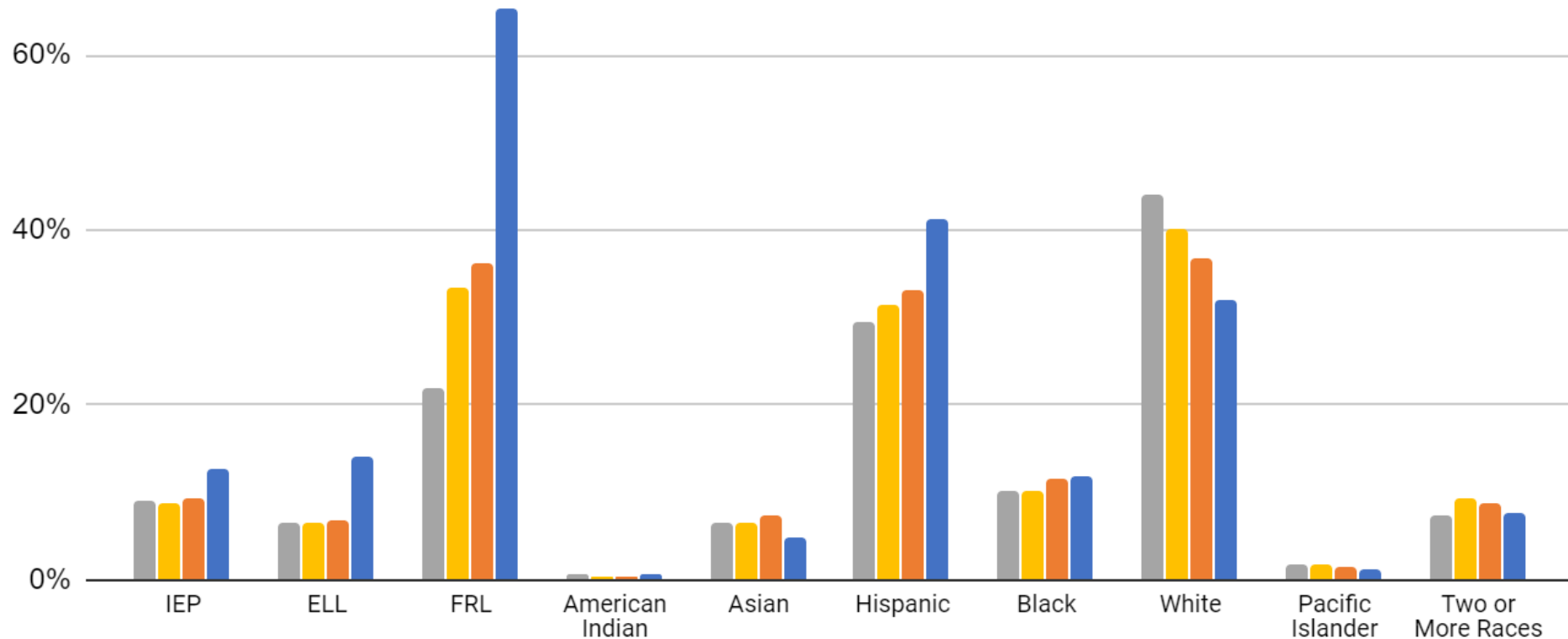


SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Demographics Over Time

Over the last two years, the SPCSA has made progress towards being more closely aligned to the state in several student groups.

Demographics of Students Enrolled in SPCSA-Sponsored Schools

■ SPCSA 2017-18 ■ SPCSA 2018-19 ■ SPCSA 2019-20 ■ Statewide 2019-20



Assembly Bill 462



Requirements of Assembly Bill 462

As a reminder, AB 462 requires the SPCSA to undertake four specific efforts.

- 1 Conduct the Academic and Demographic Academic Needs Assessment by July 30, 2019
- 2 Submit first bi-annual Growth Management Plan by January 1, 2020
 - The Committee shall evaluate, review, comment on the plan make recommendations to the State Public Charter School Authority concerning the plan.
- 3 Provide written notice to local school district and Department of any notices of intent, new school applications, amendment requests and approvals; solicit input on new school applications
- 4 Complete all site evaluations and provide a report to the Legislative Committee on Education by June 30, 2020

Strategic Authorizing Practices Aligned to the Needs of Nevada Students

Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment

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.



Growth Management Plan

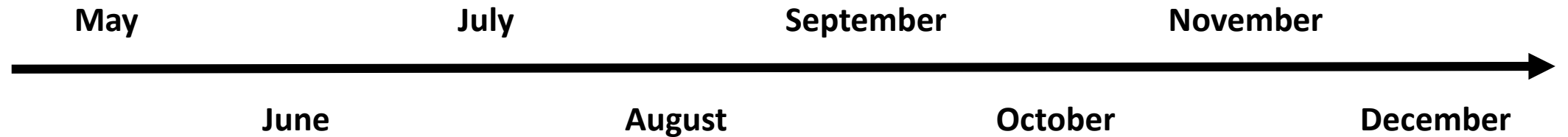
Plans to manage the growth of charter schools over the next five years, including projections regarding new schools, expansions of existing schools and renewals of existing schools. Aligned to and reflective of the Needs Assessment



Strategic Authorizing Practices

Taken together the Needs Assessment and Growth Management Plan will inform school authorizing and accountability practices to directly respond to the needs of Nevada students.

2019 Development Timeline



Needs Assessment

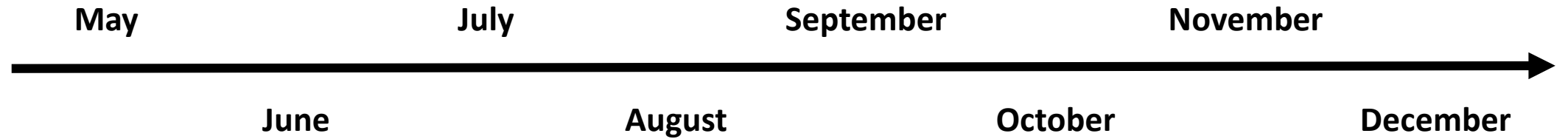
Develop Initial Needs Assessment

**Update Needs Assessment
with new data**

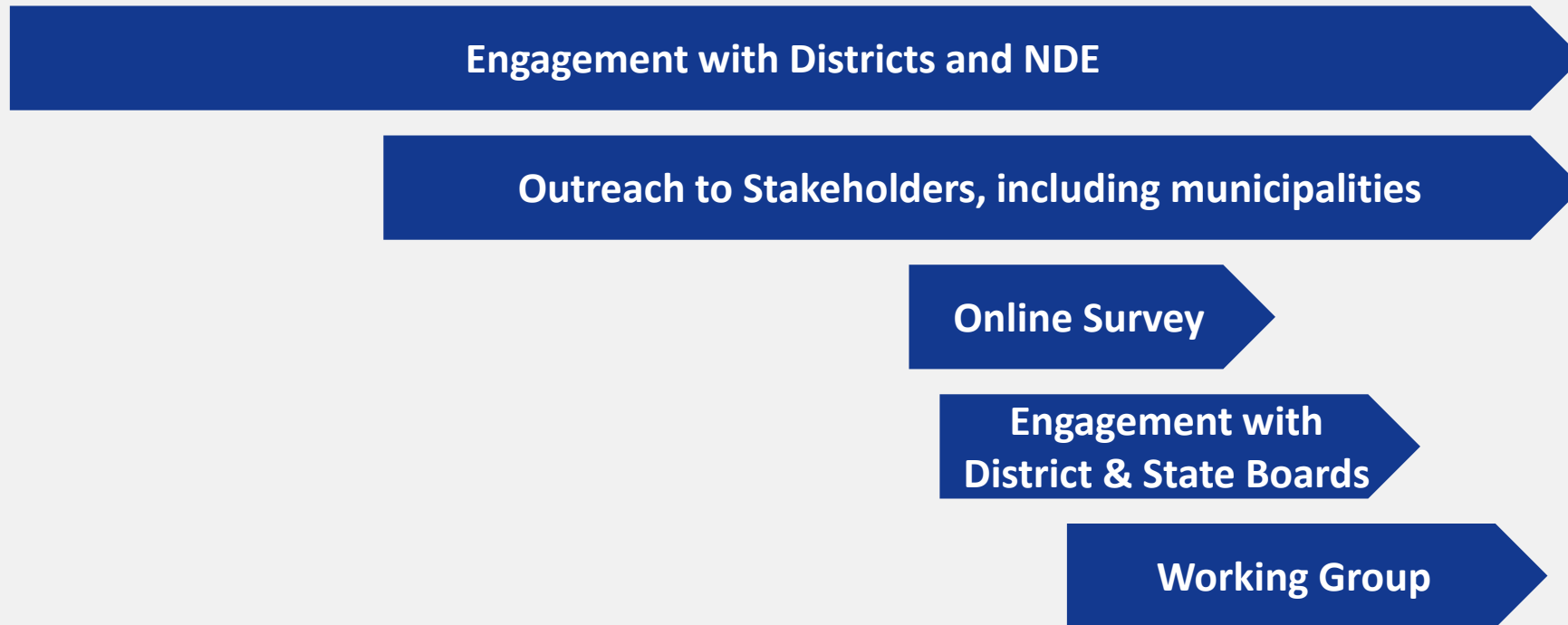
Growth Management Plan

Develop Growth Management Plan

2019 Stakeholder Engagement Timeline



Stakeholder Engagement



Definitions of Need

1. Demographic Needs

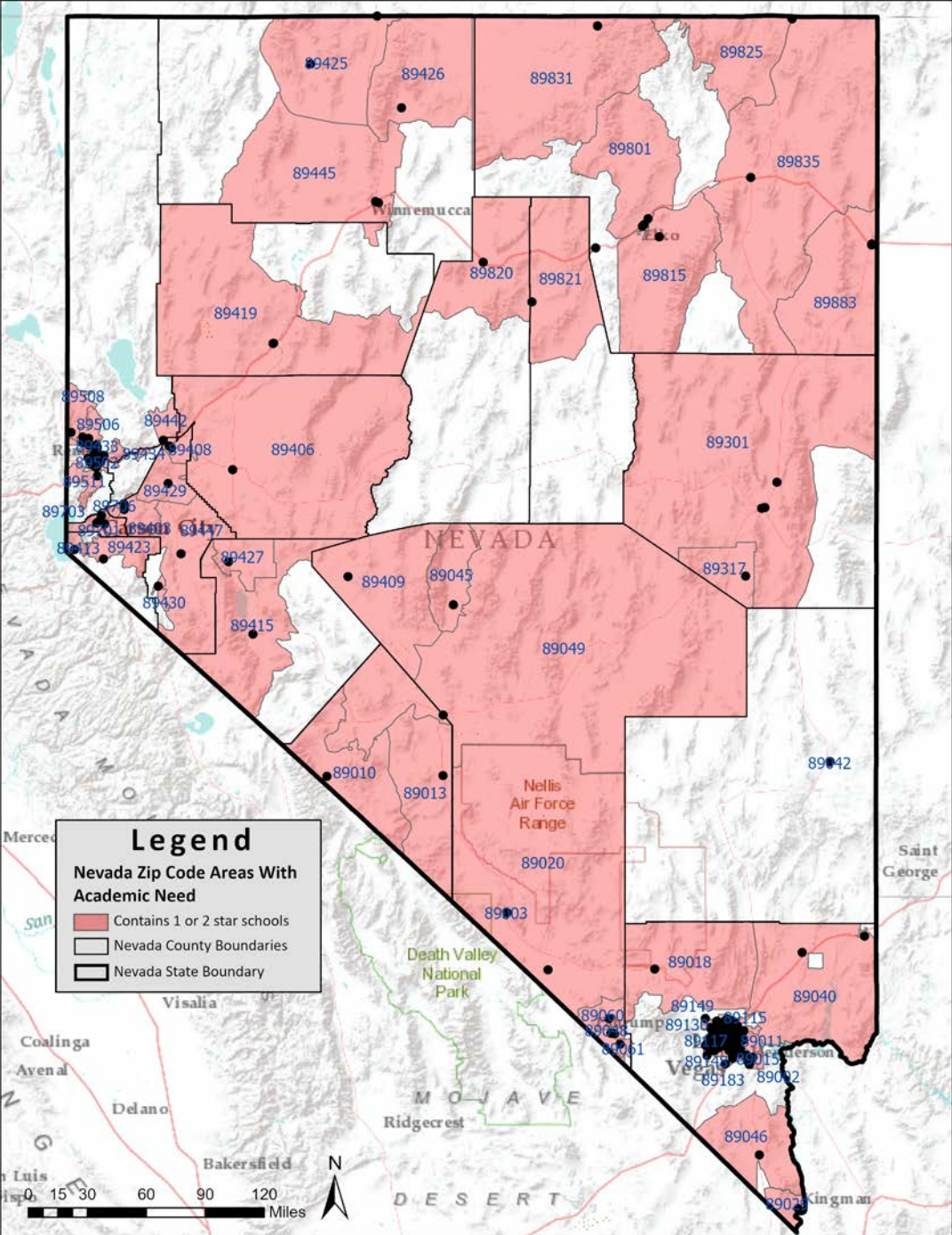
- A. Student groups that underperform according to graduation rate, the ACT Assessment, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (both Math and ELA) for the last three years present a demographic need; these student groups may benefit from the creation of high-quality school options focused on meeting their needs;

2. Academic Needs

- A. Geographies with 1 and 2 star schools: In zip codes with a 1- or 2-Star school, students are enrolling in schools that are, based on definitions from the Nevada Department of Education's Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), inadequate and the addition of a 3, 4 or 5-Star school would provide an alternative for these students;
- B. Students at risk of dropping out: Despite a rapidly improving graduation rate, nearly one in five students does not graduate high school in four years, with certain student groups persistently graduating at lower rates than their peers;

Data and Maps

The needs assessment contains detailed data regarding the identified needs, including maps and tables of zip codes with 1- and 2-star schools.



Implications for Authorizing

<p>Applicant does not meet either an academic need or a demographic need.</p> <p>Applicant may need to revise their academic plan or pick a new location in order to qualify for a recommendation - even if their application otherwise meets the standards set forth by the SPCSA in its application rubric.</p>	<p>Applicant meets one or more academic needs OR one or more demographic needs.</p> <p>Applicant may be recommended for approval contingent upon the details of their application and may be subject to additional contract conditions, so long as their application otherwise meets the standard set forth by the SPCSA in its application rubric.</p>	<p>Applicant meets one or more academic needs AND one or more demographic needs.</p> <p>Applicant will be recommended for approval so long as their application otherwise meets the standards set forth by the SPCSA in its application rubric.</p>
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—————▶ **Likelihood applicant is approved**

Growth Management Plan

Section One: Growth Management Plan Context

- A. History of Public Charter Schools in Nevada
- B. History of the SPCSA
- C. SPCSA Transition to Strategic Growth

Section Two: The Nevada State Public Charter School Authority Today

- A. Current Educational Models within the State Public Charter School Authority
- B. State Public Charter School Authority School Performance
- C. Demographics of Students Attending State Public Charter School Authority Schools

Section Three: The Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment

Section Four: The Future of State Public Charter School-Authority Sponsored Schools

- A. Five-year Strategic Goals
- B. Planning for Future Growth
 - I. Stakeholder Engagement in Planning
 - II. Potential Renewal of Existing Schools
 - III. Approved Expansions of Existing Schools
 - IV. Potential Future Expansions of Existing Schools
 - V. New Schools Approved to Open
 - VI. Potential Future New Schools

Section Five: The Future of State Public Charter School Authority Operations & Practices

Focus on Equity: Five-year Strategic Goals

1. Provide Families with Access to High-Quality Schools
 - *Star Ratings*
2. Ensure that every SPCSA student succeeds - including those from historically underserved student groups
 - *Growth*
 - *Proficiency*
 - *Graduation Rate*
3. Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools
 - *New seats established through board action (ex. new school, new campus)*
 - *Vacant seats at existing schools*

Planning for the Future

Potential Renewal of Existing Schools

- Number of contracts up for renewal
- Percent at or above a 3-star rating

Expansions

- 4 Approved
- Data on number of charter holders considering varying types of expansion

New Schools

- 3 Approved
- Data on historical approval rates and projected future approval rate

The Future of State Public Charter School Authority Operations & Practices

- Assessment of current Policies, Procedures, Capacity and Financial Resources that will support achieving our five-year goals
- Proposal on new Policies, Procedures, Capacity and Financial Resources to support achieving our five-year goals

Implementation in Recent Application Cycle

- 9 applications received for locations in 3 counties (Clark, Nye, Washoe)
- Solicited and received input from local school districts
 - Online input form on SPCSA website
 - Notification to local municipalities and request for input
- Staff review of applications in accordance with NRS 388A.249
- Board approval of 2 applications
 - Las Vegas Collegiate
 - Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada (with additional conditions intended to enable enrollment of a population representative of Washoe county)
- Up to 5 applicants may resubmit by January 22, pursuant to NRS 388A.255

Focus on Equity: Major Milestones Since the Legislative Session

1. Conducted initial **Needs Assessment** and published updated version with data released by NDE in fall of 2019
2. Developed first Five-year **Growth Management Plan**
3. Developed **Five-year Strategic Plan** aligned to Growth Management Plan
4. Approved **two of nine new school applicants**, including one with additional conditions aimed at achieving representative enrollment
5. Approved first **weighted lottery policy** at one SPCSA-sponsored school to provide students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch a higher likelihood at being selected through the lottery