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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: State Public Charter School Authority Board
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2020-21 SPCSA Sponsor Survey Results
DATE: May 21, 2021

Background

Each year, SPCSA staff identify projects and initiatives to take on for the upcoming school year. This year, in order to inform the SPCSA's priorities for the 2021-22 school year, we sought feedback from all charter school leaders about their experience working with the SPCSA as a charter school sponsor. The survey was open from March 24, 2021 through April 9, 2021 and covered four topics: Communications, Authorizing, School Support, and Grants. A copy of the survey questions is attached to this memorandum for reference.

Survey Results

The survey was completed by 19 of the 37 charter holders sponsored by the SPCSA. A summary of results by topic is provided below:

Communications

Overall, the results show that schools are satisfied with communication with the SPCSA, and many respondents commented that communication has improved. For example, 89% believe that the SPCSA Update email on Wednesday provides useful and timely information. When asked how the SPCSA can improve communication, the topic that came up most frequently was communication regarding compliance submissions and deadlines. This includes both streamlining communication about compliance submissions, as well as ensuring sufficient time for schools to complete information and document requests.

Authorizing

Survey results show that the vast majority of respondents believe the SPCSA is clear when communicating about accountability expectations. Additionally, the SPCSA ask those respondents who recently participated in the amendment process, renewal process, or a site evaluation to rate their experience. Overall, respondents reported a positive experience with each of these Authorizing functions. Additionally, 89% of those schools that had received a site evaluation this school year indicated that they agree or strongly agree with the statement that “the final site evaluation report provided to me and my school community was helpful and informative.”

School Support

Overall, 84% of respondents indicated that the technical support (e.g. targeted trainings, school requested, parent complaints) provided by the SPCSA School Support Team has benefited their school/campus. When asked about support on specific topics or programs, respondents were most satisfied with support with emergency management, serving English learners, serving students with disabilities, and SafeVoice. Additionally, respondents indicated that their school team could benefit from additional training in a variety of areas with the most popular topics being serving English learners, serving students with disabilities, comprehensive and targeted support and intervention, and SafeVoice.

Grants

While the responses indicate that 84% of respondents agree or strongly agree that “overall, the SPCSA provides sufficient support and technical assistance on the grant application process,” survey data indicates that a number of respondents do not believe that the SPCSA’s grant reimbursement process is efficient. Additionally, a number of open-ended responses indicate that improving the grant administration process is an important priority from the perspective of schools. When asked about training on grants, respondents generally indicated interest in additional training. The topics that are of highest interest include the grant application needs assessment, grant application use of evidence-based interventions, and grant application required plans and stakeholder collaboration.

Additionally, the SPCSA sought feedback on our new Risk-Based Monitoring approach. Over 70% of respondents indicated that the risk assessment tool was clear and easy to use, and that they understand their schools risk rating. However, some respondents indicate that they are not clear on next steps regarding risk-based monitoring and that communication in this area could be improved.

Next Steps

As SPCSA staff plan for the upcoming school year, we will take this survey data into account. This includes but is not limited to using the survey data to inform annual agency-wide initiatives, training calendars, and communication. We look forward to seeking feedback from sponsored schools again next year.

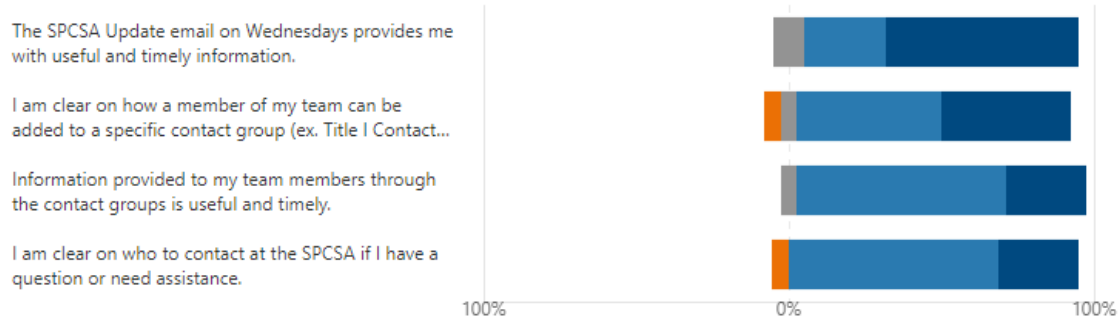
Survey Data

Data for multiple choice questions can be found below:

3. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree



4. Which of the following do you regularly use to keep track of upcoming compliance and reporting deadlines?

[More Details](#)

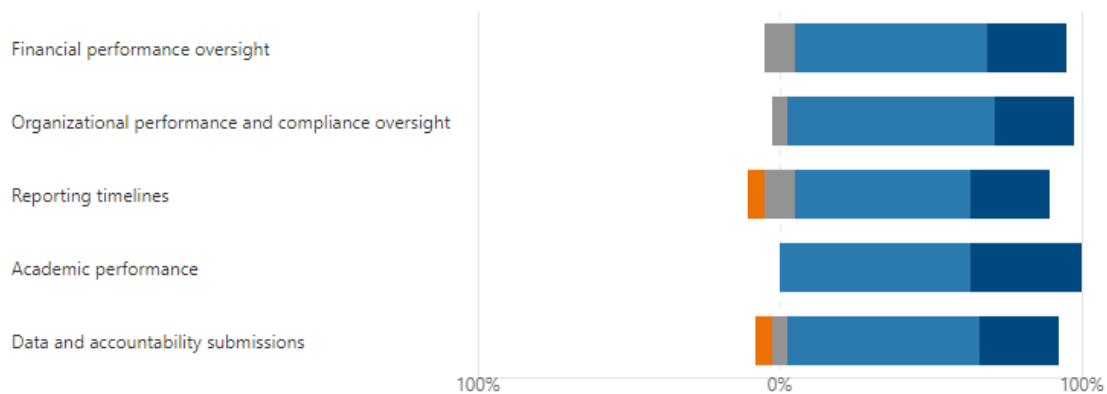
- SPCSA reporting requirements... 4
- Logging into Epicenter 13
- Epicenter automated reminder... 10



6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. The SPCSA is clear when communicating its accountability expectations for schools in the areas of:

[More Details](#)

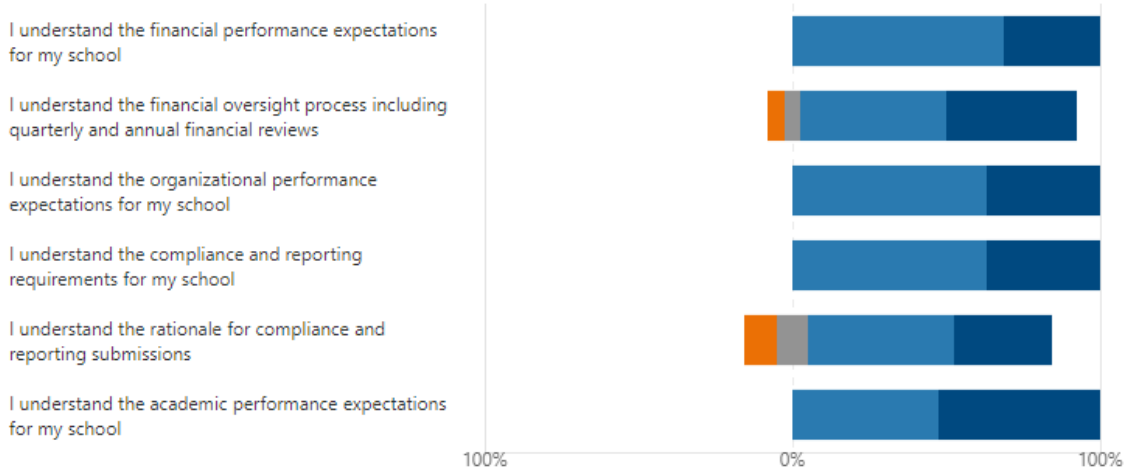
■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree



7. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree



8. Did your school request an amendment to your charter contract since July 1, 2020?

[More Details](#)

Yes 5
No 14



9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the amendment process:

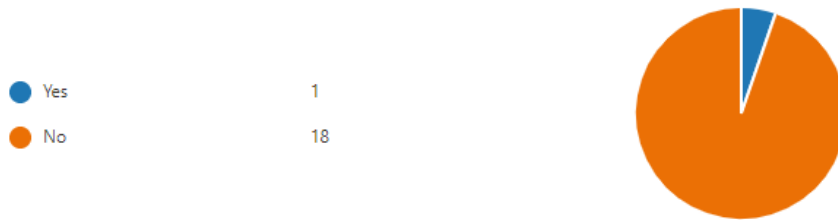
[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree



10. Did your school undergo a charter contract renewal since July 1, 2020?

[More Details](#)



11. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the renewal process:

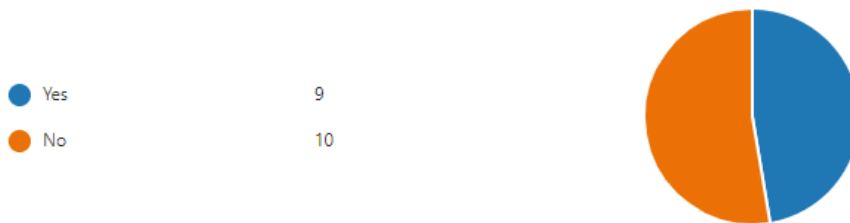
[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree



12. Did your school receive a site evaluation since July 1, 2020?

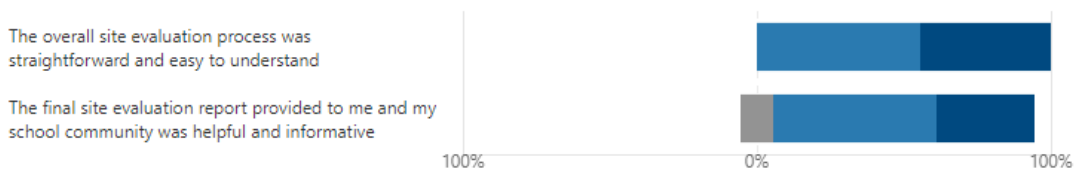
[More Details](#)



13. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the site evaluation process:

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

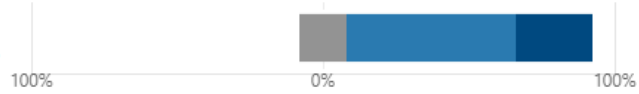


14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

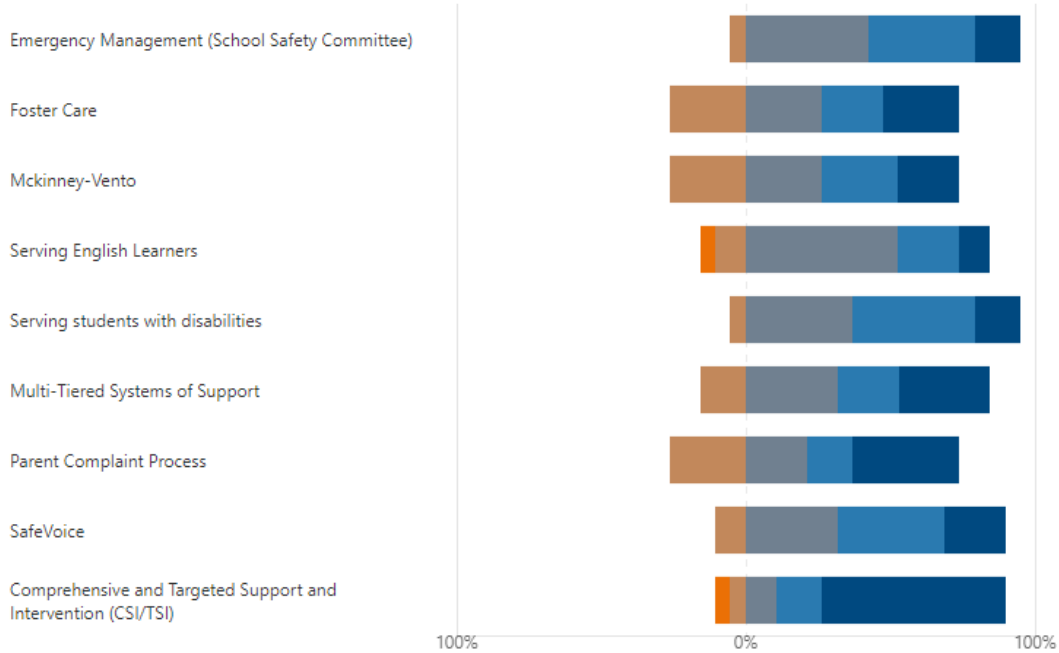
Overall, the technical support (e.g. targeted trainings, school requested, parent complaints) provided by th...



15. How satisfied are you with the support provided in the following areas (if your school has not participated in a specific program, please select N/A):

[More Details](#)

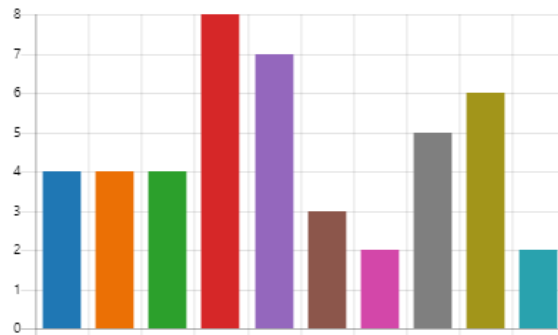
Very dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very satisfied N/A



16. Select the topic(s) in which your school team could benefit from additional training:

[More Details](#)

- Emergency Management (Sch... 4
- Foster Care 4
- McKinney-Vento 4
- Serving English Learners 8
- Serving students with disabilit... 7
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Supp... 3
- Parent Complaint Process 2
- SafeVoice 5
- Comprehensive and Targeted ... 6
- Other 2



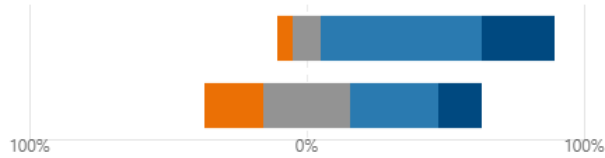
18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

Overall, the SPCSA provides sufficient support and technical assistance on the grant application process.

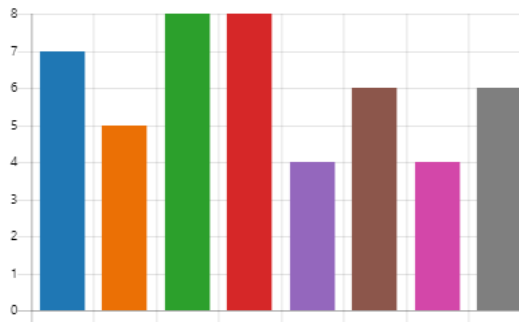
The reimbursement request process is efficient.



20. Select the topic(s) in which your school team could benefit from additional training:

[More Details](#)

- Grant application written com... 7
- Grant application written com... 5
- Grant application written com... 8
- Grant application written com... 8
- Grant application budget deta... 4
- Grant application budget deta... 6
- Grant application budget deta... 4
- Other 6



21. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding your school's financial and programmatic grant risk-based monitoring:

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree
 ■ N/A

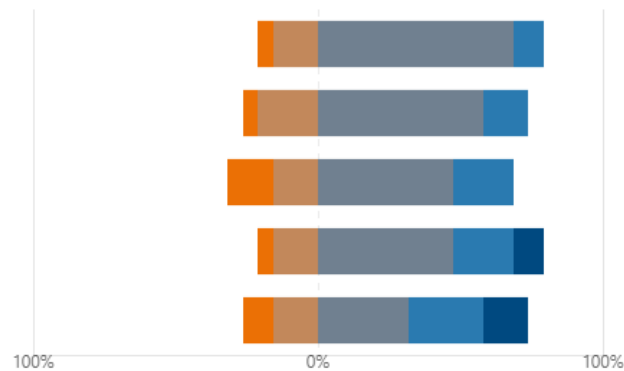
The risk assessment rubric tool was clear and easy to use.

I understand why my school received the risk rating (low, moderate, high) that we received.

I am clear on the next steps regarding monitoring for my risk level.

Follow up communication regarding moderate and high risk monitoring was timely.

Scheduling moderate and high risk monitoring calls was efficient.



Appendix A: Survey Questions

2020-21 SPCSA Sponsor Survey

Each year, SPCSA staff identify projects and initiatives to take on for the upcoming school year. This year, initiatives included the development of the Grant Management System to be rolled out this spring, the creation of formal performance reports

(https://charterschools.nv.gov/Performance_Reports/Performance_Reports/

(https://charterschools.nv.gov/Performance_Reports/Performance_Reports/) for academic, financial and organizational performance that are now available to the public, and many others. A summary of the SPCSA's initiatives and progress to date can be found here:

https://charterschools.nv.gov/Performance_Reports/Performance_Reports/

(https://charterschools.nv.gov/Performance_Reports/Performance_Reports/).

This year, in order to inform the SPCSA's priorities for the 2021-22 school year, we are seeking feedback from charter school leaders about their experience working with the SPCSA as a charter school sponsor. We look forward to hearing your feedback as we work to continuously improve our work in service of Nevada's students.

School Information

1. Charter Holder *

- Alpine Academy
- Amplus Academy
- Beacon Academy of Nevada
- Coral Academy of Science
- Democracy Prep
- Discovery Charter School
- Doral Academy
- Doral Academy of Northern Nevada
- Elko Institute for Academic Achievement
- Equipo Academy School
- Explore Academy
- Founders Academy
- Freedom Classical Academy (FKA- ALA-NLV)
- Futuro Academy
- Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS)
- Honors Academy of Literature
- Imagine School at Mountain View
- Leadership Academy of Nevada
- Learning Bridge Charter School
- Legacy Traditional School
- Mater Academy
- Mater Academy of Northern Nevada
- Nevada Connections Academy
- Nevada Prep

- Nevada Rise
- Nevada State High School
- Nevada State High School - Meadowood
- Nevada State High School - Sunrise
- Nevada Virtual Academy
- Oasis Academy
- Pinecrest Academy of Nevada
- Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada
- Quest Academy
- Signature Preparatory
- Silver Sands Montessori
- Somerset Academy of Las Vegas
- Sports Leadership and Management Academy

2. Name of individual completing this survey *

Communications

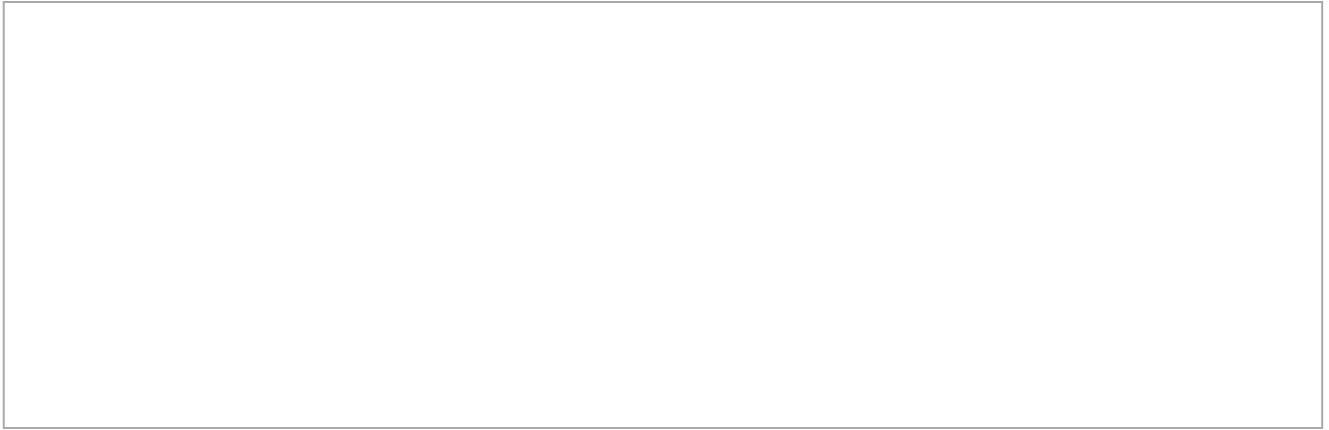
3. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
The SPCSA Update email on Wednesdays provides me with useful and timely information.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am clear on how a member of my team can be added to a specific contact group (ex. Title I Contacts, Grant Contacts, Financial Officers, SPED Contacts, Assessment and Accountability, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information provided to my team members through the contact groups is useful and timely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am clear on who to contact at the SPCSA if I have a question or need assistance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Which of the following do you regularly use to keep track of upcoming compliance and reporting deadlines? *

- SPCSA reporting requirements Outlook Calendar
- Logging into Epicenter
- Epicenter automated reminder emails

5. How can the SPCSA improvement communication with schools? *



Authorizing

6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

The SPCSA is clear when communicating its accountability expectations for schools in the areas of: *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Financial performance oversight	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organizational performance and compliance oversight	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reporting timelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic performance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data and accountability submissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I understand the financial performance expectations for my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the financial oversight process including quarterly and annual financial reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the organizational performance expectations for my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the compliance and reporting requirements for my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the rationale for compliance and reporting submissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the academic performance expectations for my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Did your school request an amendment to your charter contract since July 1, 2020? *

- Yes
- No

9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the amendment process:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
The amendment form was easy to understand and navigate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication throughout the process was clear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The amendment process was fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The amendment process is aligned to the SPCSA Strategic Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Did your school undergo a charter contract renewal since July 1, 2020?

- Yes
- No

11. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the renewal process:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
The renewal process was explained to my team in a clear and timely manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The renewal application template was straightforward and easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication throughout the process was clear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The renewal process was fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Did your school receive a site evaluation since July 1, 2020? *

- Yes
- No

13. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the site evaluation process:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
The overall site evaluation process was straightforward and easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The final site evaluation report provided to me and my school community was helpful and informative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

School Support

14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: *

Strongly
Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

Overall, the technical support (e.g. targeted trainings, school requested, parent complaints) provided by the SPCSA School Support Team has benefited my school/campus.

15. How satisfied are you with the support provided in the following areas (if your school has not participated in a specific program, please select N/A): *

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	N/A
Emergency Management (School Safety Committee)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foster Care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mckinney-Vento	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving English Learners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving students with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent Complaint Process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SafeVoice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Intervention (CSI/TSI)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Select the topic(s) in which your school team could benefit from additional training: *

- Emergency Management (School Safety Committee)
- Foster Care
- McKinney-Vento
- Serving English Learners
- Serving students with disabilities
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Parent Complaint Process
- SafeVoice
- Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Intervention (CSI/TSI)
-

Other

17. How can the SPCSA School Support Team best meet your technical support needs? *

Grants

18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall, the SPCSA provides sufficient support and technical assistance on the grant application process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The reimbursement request process is efficient.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Please explain your response regarding the efficiency of the reimbursement process above. *

20. Select the topic(s) in which your school team could benefit from additional training: *

- Grant application written components: needs assessment
- Grant application written components: justification
- Grant application written components: use of evidence-based interventions
- Grant application written components: required plans & stakeholder collaboration
- Grant application budget details: narrative
- Grant application budget details: supporting detail for amounts requested
- Grant application budget details: reconciling allocation with total request
-

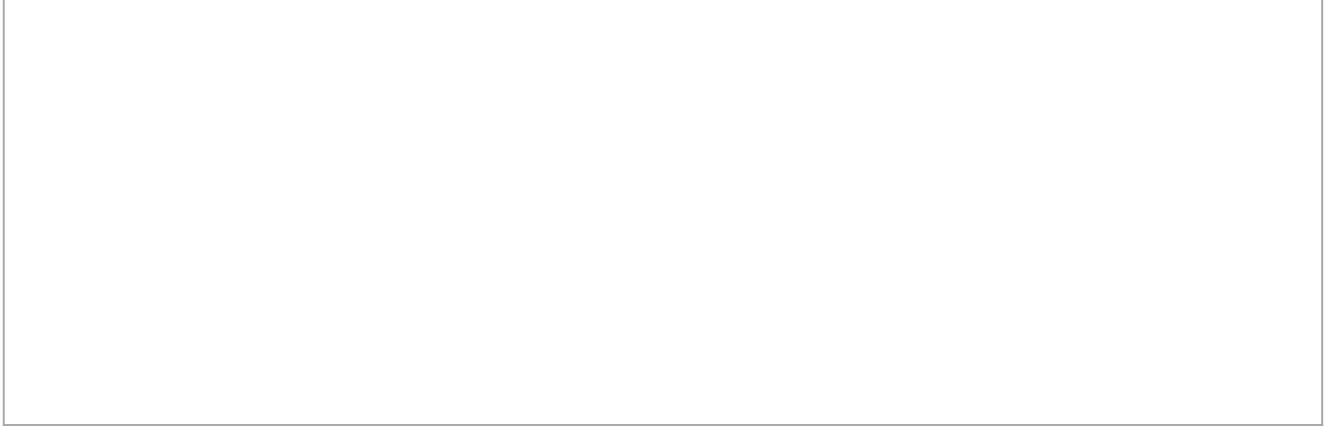
Other

21. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding your school's financial and programmatic grant risk-based monitoring: *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
The risk assessment rubric tool was clear and easy to use.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand why my school received the risk rating (low, moderate, high) that we received.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am clear on the next steps regarding monitoring for my risk level.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow up communication regarding moderate and high risk monitoring was timely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scheduling moderate and high risk monitoring calls was efficient.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. What changes would you recommend regarding the Risk Assessment and Monitoring process to improve efficiency and effectiveness. *

23. Overall, how can the SPCSA make improvements to support grant administration efforts in your school? *

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide their feedback on how the SPCSA can improve its grant administration efforts in their school.

Additional Feedback

24. Please provide any additional feedback that can help the SPCSA to continue to improve our work.

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