



# Site Evaluations 2020-2021 School Year

Presentation to SPCSA Board

June 25, 2021





# Overview

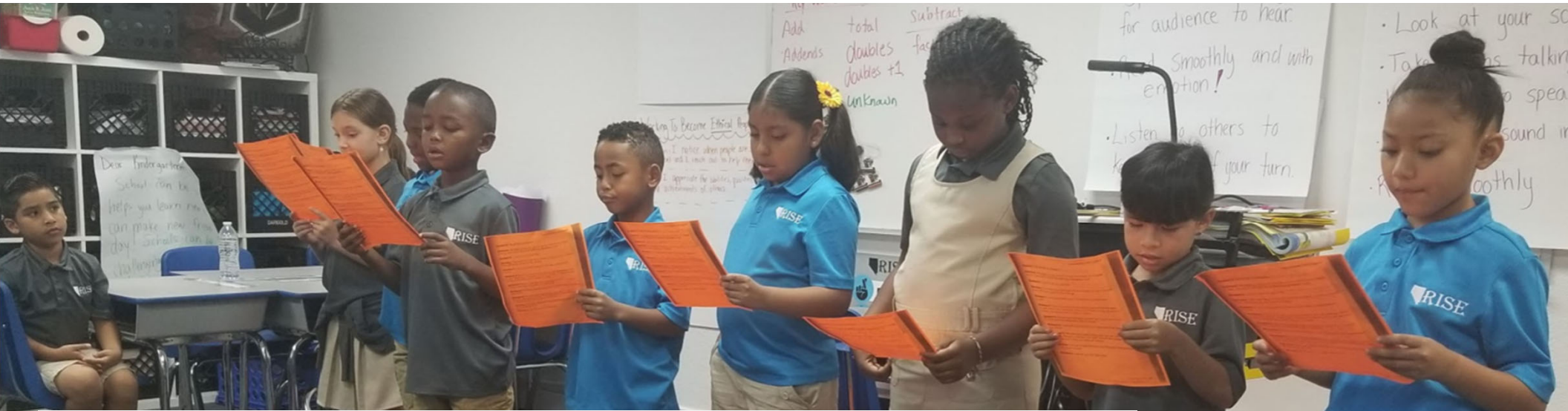
- Review of Site Evaluation Purpose and Focus
- Summary for the 2020-2021 School-Year
- Highlights
- Moving Forward

# Site Evaluation Purpose



- To gather formal and anecdotal evidence
- Monitor schools
- Document progress toward goals outlined in schools' charter
- To ensure accountability as a state authorized, public school





## Focus of Site Evaluations

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- Academic Performance
- Organizational effectiveness of the school
- Adherence to the approved charter and charter contract with the Authority

# Site Evaluations

## Are not:

- Critiques of the school model
- Micromanagement opportunities
- Affronts to school autonomy

## Are:

- An opportunity to triangulate reports and data with qualitative information
- An opportunity to build/strengthen relationships with operators
- Opportunities to 'look under the hood'
- Help schools 'tune-up' practices to fulfill charter and meet needs of all students
- Checks on the 'what'
- Alignment between implementation and charter contract

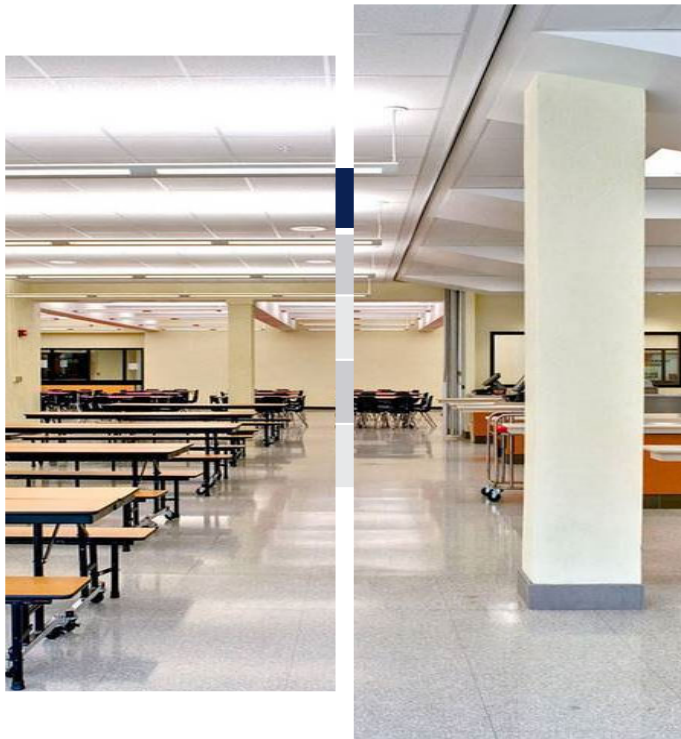


# 2020-2021 Summary



- All schools with a charter contract in years 1,3, or 5 were evaluated as scheduled in a virtual format, except 3 which were conducted in a hybrid format.
- A total of 42 Site Evaluations were conducted during this school year.
- Evaluations took place between September 2020 and April 2021
- Out of all 42 reports, the average time for each site evaluation report to be sent to each school leader was about 5 weeks.
- All reports are available at SPCSA website for public access.

# Highlights: Pandemic Teaching and Learning



- What began as crisis teaching in March 2020 became intentional teaching.
- Educators learned how to plan for and implement distance learning.
- School teams learned that what began as a scramble to provide technology, turned into a focus on **STUDENT LEARNING!**

# Highlights: Site Evaluation Focus Group - Staff



## From:

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- Classroom learning
- Access to tech for some
- Traditional classroom rules
- Six- hour school day
- Teaching and learning as usual
  
- Some technology-based programs

## To:

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- On-line learning from home
- Access to tech for all
- Virtual classroom rules
- Shorter day/bite sized learning
- Staff providing kind, flexible support
  
- Many options including Zoom, Nearpod, Moodle, and Go Guardian





# Highlights: Site Evaluation Focus Group - Family

## Positive Trends Reported

- Technology provided
- Communication between home and school outstanding
- Appreciation for the skill and planning that a virtual classroom requires.
- An acknowledgement for how well teachers “know” their child.
- Overwhelming gratitude for teacher office hours, willingness to communicate in the evening/weekends.
- An on-going thanks for school leaders.

# Highlights: Site Evaluation Focus Group - Student



## Ups and Downs

- An appreciation for in-person learning
- Students enjoy working in groups, chatting on-line, and participating in discussions
- An ability to participate in interactive activities in and out of the classroom
- Extra events the schools planned such as on-line concerts, holiday parades, school videos of success
- Missed seeing their friends and happy to return
- Frustration when technology “freezes”

# Moving Forward

The Site Evaluation team will review information from school leader surveys and consider changes to improve this process further.

The team is excited to resume our practice of conducting site evaluations in person this coming school year.

We will provide additional information on this at the August meeting.



# Moving Forward



- Our team put together a “Best Practices” work group in collaboration with 4 charter school leaders, experts from NDE curriculum, Title I, and ELL departments as well as a few members from our team.
- We have designed and will publish a newsletter template. The first publication will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This newsletter will go out to charter schools every other month and contain highlights/best from a variety of charter schools all authorized by SPCSA.
- The purpose of this newsletter is to share the outstanding and best practices that occur within the walls of our charters each day and as observed during site evaluations.

# Moving Forward

## A Sneak Peek – Best Practices

- Title: “Chartering Innovative Paths in Education
- June 2021: Somerset Academy: Lone Mountain





# Moving Forward



JUNE 2021  
ISSUE 1

## CHARTERING INNOVATIVE PATHS IN EDUCATION

Nevada State Public Charter School Authority



A College Prep School

### Student Engagement

By Cesar Tiu, Principal, Somerset Academy Lone Mountain

#### Somerset Academy Lone Mountain Demographics

Somerset Academy Lone Mountain is one of the seven charter schools that is sponsored by the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority. The school serves 996 students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Somerset Academy Lone Mountain's mission is LEAD (Love learning, Excel in all we do, Achieve goals together, and Do what is right). Student enrollment is made up of 3.1% Asian, 37.6% Hispanic, 43.7% White, 7.6% African American, 6.9% Two or more races, .8% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, .3% American Indian/Alaska Native. Approximately 23.3% qualify for FRL (Free and Reduced Lunch), 10.9% IEP (Individualized Education Plan), and 5.1% EL (English Learners).

#### House System

The school's house system plays an important role in increasing the level of student engagement. Students have the opportunity to earn house points and teachers attend the activities on a daily basis.

**FEATURED CHARTER SCHOOL**

Somerset Academy of Las Vegas  
Lone Mountain Campus

4491 N. Rainbow Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89108  
702-685-9150

[www.somersetloneMountain.org](http://www.somersetloneMountain.org)

# Thank you!

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