Steve Sisolak
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO:	SPCSA Board
FROM:	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Strategic Initiatives for the 2021-22 School Year
DATE:	July 30, 2021

The State Public Charter School Authority's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan lays out three goals for the agency:

1) Provide families with access to high quality schools
2) Ensure that every SPCSA student succeeds - including those from historically underserved student groups, and
3) Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools

To achieve these goals, the agency continues to focus on four primary strategies:

- **Proactive Oversight:** Conduct ongoing oversight and engagement with SPCSA-sponsored schools and their boards to clarify performance and compliance expectations, provide transparency about successes and failures, and take swift action when either performance or compliance fall short.
- **Strategic Growth:** Clarify standards for SPCSA-sponsored charter schools wishing to expand. Within the context of the SPCSA Needs Assessment and Growth Management plan, work with community leaders to synthesize and communicate local educational needs to encourage new school applications that are responsive to local communities.
- **Expanded Support:** In collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education, expand the services, supports, resources, and technical assistance that the SPCSA provides to schools as a Local Educational Agency to help schools better meet the needs of students from all backgrounds.

- **Recognize Progress:** Encourage operational and proposed SPCSA-sponsored schools to increase diversity by facilitating the dissemination of best practices and reward schools that show strong academic results with students from historically underserved student groups.

For the 2021-22 School Year, staff have identified two agency-wide initiatives, aligned to the strategies outlined above, that will put us on a trajectory to reach our strategic goals.

Annual Reporting and Document Management

This initiative seeks to re-evaluate and re-tool the SPCSA's processes and systems for collecting data, information, and reports and disseminating data, information and reports to meet statutory and regulatory requirements as a charter school sponsor and local educational agency (LEA). With the growth of the SPCSA's portfolio and various changes to statute and regulation, we have outgrown current processes and systems. This has led to frustration and confusion from schools, inconsistent and inefficient review of information, and gaps in collection and dissemination of information. At the completion of this initiative, the SPCSA will have clear, consistent documentation on all reporting requirements, this includes any templates, resources and rubrics needed to ensure consistency as well as protocols for regular updates and revisions. Additionally, schools will receive clear and consistent communication regarding compliance/reporting requirements. Finally, SPCSA and school staff will have user-friendly, intuitive, and efficient process and software application for soliciting, collecting, reviewing, approving an accepting information, documents, and reports.

Library of Resources

Through this initiative, the SPCSA will develop a library of resources that is constantly accessible to schools, which includes guidance documents, manuals, FAQs and training videos. The initiative will include:

- Determining topics that will be covered and specific content/resources to develop based on staff and school input
- Developing the initial set of content
- Evaluating and selecting a technology option for 24/7 accessibility to schools (this may be simple such as a google folder, or complex, such as purchased software)
- Developing a system for ongoing feedback from users and annual improvement to the resource library
- Developing a rollout plan to shift staff and school behavior so that the library is regularly used

At the completion of this initiative, schools (and prospective schools) will rely on a library of resources which is available and accessible to schools at all times. This library will include guidance documents, manuals, FAQs and training videos to address a majority of questions, which will free up staff time to focus on other core components of our work. Staff will still need to answer questions and provide technical assistance to schools, but these activities will focus on

the more nuanced and complex issues, rather than the basics. In addition, the SPSCA will have a method for regularly reviewing the content of the library of resources and making revisions. This will ensure systematic, long-term management of high-quality content.