

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**Melissa Mackedon**  
*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**

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director  
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 6.c.iii: Recommendations for Discovery Charter School Based on  
2022-2023 Academic Performance  
**DATE:** December 8, 2023

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As the Authority is aware, the Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results for the 2022-2023 school year. All public schools in the state of Nevada are issued a star rating when all data points are available.

Additionally, all SPCSA-sponsored charter schools are evaluated on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework (Framework), pursuant to [NRS 388A.273](#). The Framework provides additional metrics for charter school academic achievement and proficiency, including academic growth; disparities in academic achievement and proficiency; and graduation rates, as well as college and career readiness, when applicable.

Any school(s) demonstrating underperformance that has the potential to trigger revocation proceedings in the next 3-5 years should academic performance not improve should be issued a formal Notice to ensure the school and its governing board are aware of the concerns ([NRS 388A.300](#) and [388A.330](#)). Underperformance is defined by [NAC 388A.350](#) as any school receiving a rating below 3 stars in the NSPF or schools that have not consistently complied with the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. As a reminder, the Authority has three levels of intervention when schools do not meet academic standards. These levels are as follows:

- Notice of Concern
- Notice of Breach
- Notice of Intent to Terminate

The academic performance of Discovery Charter School Sandhill for the last five school years is provided below, as available.

- For the 2018-19 school year, NSPF index scores and star ratings were calculated, but SPCSA Academic Performance Framework (Framework) ratings are unavailable. They were informational only and not released publicly.
- For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, NSPF index scores, NSPF star ratings, and SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings were not calculated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the 2021-22 school year, only NSPF index scores, not NSPF star ratings, were calculated. SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings were calculated.

The 2022-23 academic performance of the elementary school program at Discovery Charter School Sandhill did not meet the three-star NSPF or the Meets Standard on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework threshold.

Discovery Charter School Sandhill	2018-2019 Index Score	2018-2019 Star Rating	2021-2022 Index Score	2021-2022 Framework	2022-2023 Index Score	2022-2023 Star Rating	2022-2023 Framework
Elementary School	27.78	2	37	33.2— Does Not Meet Standard	40	2	47— Does Not Meet Standard

Due to the elementary program earning a rating of less than 3-stars for the 2018-19 school year, the Authority issued a Notice of Concern to Discovery Charter School regarding the elementary school program at the Sandhill campus at the October 4, 2019, meeting.

Because of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPCSA staff strongly recommends the Board take no action regarding Discovery Charter School. This would mean that the elementary program at the Sandhill campus of Discovery Charter School would remain under a Notice of Concern. SPCSA staff will require the Sandhill campus of Discovery Charter School include an academic goal that measurably impacts academic performance in their School Performance Plan. Those goals and progress reports will be provided to the SPCSA board.

Additionally, per [NRS 388A.367](#), any school rated 1- or 2- stars is required to mail a written notification to the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled that includes information on the school’s star rating and a list of other public schools to which a pupil may transfer if the charter school closes or adopts changes which a parent or legal guardian finds unacceptable. The school must also post a notification on their website. 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 notification so as to provide all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss actions and solicit feedback for continued academic growth and improvement. Staff will monitor compliance with these statutory requirements.