



Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

2020 Charter Renewal Application
Per [NRS 388A.285](#) and [NAC 388A.415](#)

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

Charter school authorizers are responsible for evaluating current charter schools' performance and achievement levels in the process of deciding whether to renew a school's charter. A strong renewal process is critical to protect charter school autonomy, students, and stakeholders and ensures schools are held to high standards.

In the following pages, we provide guidance around and outline the timeline for the renewal process with the hopes of making the process as seamless and smooth for schools and our Authorization team.

Please read through the renewal application and guideline carefully and reach out to **Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing** at **702.486.8271** or **mmodrcin@spsca.nv.gov**, with any questions.

All of us at the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority are excited to work with each of you and support the work schools are doing on behalf of Nevada students.

RENEWAL TIMELINE

Renewal Stage	Date (Fall)	Action
Optional Renewal Orientation	Mid – May/early June	Schools up for renewal will be invited to join an orientation to answer general questions, address common concerns, and learn more about the renewal process.
Renewal Report from the SPCSA	No later than June 30, 2020	SPCSA staff will provide each school up for renewal a copy of a summarizing performance report for the current charter term.
Letter of Intent	- Guidance provided on July 13 - Due no later than Sept 1	Schools complete this critical first step and submit a notice of intent to apply for charter renewal.
Release of renewal application and decision criteria	- Released no later than July 31 - Due by October 15 @ 5 p.m.	Schools complete the formal renewal application process, submitting required documents and evidence to support a renewal.
Staff Review of Renewal Application	Mid-October through mid-November	Staff reviews schools' applications and supporting documents, including previously conducted site evaluations, to provide an informed, evidence-based recommendation to SPCSA Board.
Staff Recommendation to the Authority ¹	Delivered at an Authority Board Meeting within 60 days of renewal submission or by a mutually agreed upon date	Staff submits recommendation to SPCSA Board based on thorough review. The Authority will discuss and make a decision about schools' renewal in an open meeting.

REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS

The completed renewal application and all required documents must be submitted as a Word document and a signed PDF into the Charter Renewal Application section in Epicenter by 5 pm PT on the due date. Note that changes contemplated within this section of the renewal application may constitute an amendment under NAC 388A.330. SPCSA staff and the Authority will work with individual schools to accommodate these amendment requests should circumstances arise.

1. **Executive Summary** [Limited to 5 pages]

Provide a written Executive Summary that includes the following:

¹ There are additional steps and provisions within [NAC 388A.415](#) should the Executive Director of the SPCSA recommend non-renewal, or if the Authority chooses to non-renew or deny a renewal application for a school.

- Mission Statement for next charter term. Note that a change may require separate Authority approval.
- Key Design Elements of your school
 - What do you do plan to do and why?
- Proposed changes for the next charter term and rationale
 - Speak to programs, structure, and principles²

2. Renewal Application

A. Application Form

Complete the provided template application (pg. 6 of this form) for the following:

- Academic Performance
- Operational Overview
- Financial Performance
- Organizational Performance
- Next Charter Term

B. Written Narrative [Limited to 5 pages]

Provide any written narrative that addresses the enrollment, retention, attendance, discipline, faculty/staff retention, and other relevant information to support the data provided in the Application Form.

C. Required Supporting Documents

Please upload with your renewal application the following documents:

- Proposed calendar for the first year of the new charter term
- Daily schedule for all grade levels

3. Academic Plans for the Proposed Charter Term

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

Please include a written narrative describing the academic vision and plans for the next charter term. This should include detailed descriptions of key design elements, programs, structures, principles, that are remain unchanged as well as those that may be changing. For any proposed changes, please provide a rationale. This section should also include a description of any academic improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement as well as a description of the proposed Restorative Discipline plan for the upcoming term and plans to monitor for potential disproportionate discipline practices. Finally, please also provide a description of how the school plans to address the opportunity gaps for students attending the school, this may include plans to close gaps in proficiency and/or growth between different student groups (ex. race/ethnicity, FRL, EL, IEP).

4. Organizational Viability and plans for the Proposed Charter Term

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

² Proposed changes may require separate approval by the Authority as required by statute, regulation or the charter contract.

Please include a written narrative describing the current Governing Board's capacity, skills, and qualifications for continued successful implementation of the school's design, as well as a growth plan for adding/replacing board members that support the school's success. This section should also include a description of any organizational improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement.

B. Required Supporting Documents

Please upload with your renewal application the following documents:

- Current resumes for all Governing Board members
- Board Member Information Sheet / Roster (see page 7 of this application). Note that only names, contact information and Board leadership information are required. Information provided in this section should match Epicenter.
- Board Member Assurance Statement & Signature (see page 9 of this application)

5. Fiscal Soundness and Plans for the Proposed Charter Term

A. Written Narrative [Limited to 10 pages]

Please include a written narrative describing the current fiscal state of the school and plans during the upcoming charter term to ensure it remains financially viable. This section should also include a description of any financial improvements that the charter school has undertaken or plans to implement.

Please upload with your renewal application the following school board-approved documents:

- Budget for the current and upcoming fiscal year (FY22 and FY23)³

6. Additional Information from the Governing Board Supporting Renewal

Please provide any information or data that the governing body of the charter school determines supports the renewal of the charter contract. This information must include:

- If applicable, external evaluations or academic data submitted within this section must be independently audited and verified by the person performing the evaluation as required by [NAC 388A.415](#).
- Agenda and draft minutes for the meeting where the governing body voted to approve the submission of the renewal application

OVERSIGHT

SPCSA staff will include any Site Evaluations and/or Site Visit Summaries in the recommendation and provide documentation collected during visits to the Board as part of the renewal process.

Renewal decisions for schools operating under written charters are based on historic performance data as evidenced by both the NSPF Performance Framework as well as the SPCSA Performance Framework. Historical anecdotes or unsolicited data, e.g. leadership

³ There is no template for the budget as part of the renewal applications. Should there be questions, or if incomplete information submitted, SPCSA staff will reach out to the applicant for additional information.

changes or past programmatic adjustments, may be included in the report but will be given less weight when considered by the Authority in making renewal decisions. Additionally, renewal decisions will be based on the overall financial and organizational health of the public charter school. Evidence from both the financial framework and financial audits will be used to assess the overall financial health of a school. The Epicenter platform will be used to inform the assessment of the organizational health of a school, and to help determine whether or not the school is compliant under local, state and federal law.

Schools which are contemplating material amendments, e.g. changes to the mission statement, grade levels served, enrollment, facilities expansion, academic program, instructional delivery, management agreement, etc. will be permitted to submit such amendment requests in the event that the school is renewed based on past performance. Schools are permitted to draft such amendment requests during the renewal process for filing immediately following the renewal decision.

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the content is accurate and reflects information provided by NDE and the SPCSA. Any discrepancies between the data submitted and data previously provided by NDE or the SPCSA will result in a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

Schools are required to submit the agenda and draft minutes for the meeting where the governing body voted to approve the submission of the renewal application into the appropriate areas in Epicenter prior to filing the renewal application, as called for in Section 6 of this application template. Failure to submit the agenda and draft minutes into the appropriate areas in Epicenter prior to filing the renewal application will result in the return of the renewal application and a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff. The inclusion of the agenda and draft minutes with the renewal application will result in the return of the renewal application and a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

ACCESSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

All charter school applications and renewals are required to be ADA compliant as described by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (refer to 29 U.S.C. 794d). This statute requires access to and use of Federal executive agencies' and information technology (ICT) by individuals with disabilities. Compliance with Section 508 is mandatory for all entities receiving federal funds-including the SPCSA and its charters.

2020 WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER

School Name & Contact Info	Name: Address: Phone: Website:	
School Leader Name & Contact Info	Name: Title: Contact info:	
Governing Board Names & Contact Info <i>Add rows/names as may be necessary</i>	Chair/President	Name: Email: Phone:
	Vice Chair/Vice President	Name: Email:
	Treasurer	Name: Email:
	Secretary	Name: Email:
	Member	Name: Email:
	Member	Name: Email:
	Member	Name: Email:
	Member	Name: Email:

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE⁴

2019 NSPF Rating <i>Complete campus boxes as may be applicable</i>	Campus 1 (name)	Campus 2 (name)	Campus 3 (name)	
	Campus 4 (name)	Campus 5 (name)	Campus 6 (name)	
2018 NSPF Rating <i>Complete campus boxes as may be applicable</i>	Campus 1 (name)	Campus 2 (name)	Campus 3 (name)	
	Campus 4 (name)	Campus 5 (name)	Campus 6 (name)	
2017 NSPF Rating	Elementary School Rating	Middle School Rating	High School Rating	
2015 NSPF Rating (Frozen from 2014)	Elementary School Rating	Middle School Rating	High School Rating	
CSI or TSI Identification	Please list any years in which your school was identified as a CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) or TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) school by NDE.			
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
NDE-Validated Four-Year Graduation Rate				

⁴ For schools applying for a third charter term, NAC 388A.415 provides that the State Public Charter School Authority will give the academic performance of pupils a greater weight than that assigned to it on the first renewal. SPCSA staff will include academic performance data for any previous charter term for the Authority’s consideration.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

CURRENT YEAR ENROLLMENT & DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS							
Total Student Enrollment [as of first day of school 2020] =							
Gender		Ethnicity / Race					
Female	Male	White	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	Mixed Race	Other
Special Populations				Students on Waitlist			
Students w/disabilities (number)	ELLs (number)	Homeless Students (number)	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility (number)	Number of Students on Waitlist		Percentage of Waitlist Students w/Preference Status	
Staff Retention				Discipline Data			
Number of Instructional Staff	Total Number of Staff	Percentage returning staff 2019-20	Percentage returning staff 2020-21	Number of out of school suspensions		Number of expulsions	
Year-to-Year Mobility [Student Retention from Oct. 1 to Oct. 1] ⁵							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018		2018 - 2019	

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

SPCSA Authority Academic Programmatic Audit Findings				
2019		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2018		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2017		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2016		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2015		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SPCSA Authority Financial Programmatic Audit Findings				
2019		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2018		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2017		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2016		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2015		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach

ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

SPCSA Authority Organizational Programmatic Audit Findings				
2019		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2018		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2017		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2016		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach
2015		Good Standing	Notice of Concern	Notice of Breach

⁵ To calculate student retention, subtract the number of students from year 2 not returning from year 1, and divide this result by the total number of students in year 1. For example, if there were 5 students in year 1, and 1 student did not return in year 2, the retention calculation would be: (5-1)/5, or 80%.

NEXT CHARTER TERM

Current Enrollment Cap & Grade Spans for next charter term						
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Planned Total Enrollment						
Planned Grade Spans						

Note: the enrollment cap and grade span information provided above should match current levels approved by the Authority, including previously approved amendments (such as expansions/new campuses) that have yet to take effect.

Should the school propose a change in the enrollment cap or grade configuration during the upcoming charter term, please outline this change and provide a short rationale and additional information for the proposed change. Note that a change to the enrollment cap or grade configuration requires separate Authority approval.)

BOARD MEMBER ASSURANCE STATEMENT

I certify that the governing body of this charter school has voted that the school and its staff will adhere to the renewal process expectations outlined in the Renewal Guidelines. The information provided in this charter renewal application is true and correct. I also certify that the governing body of this charter school understands that any academic, financial, or organizational performance data collected during the period of the current charter term which is analyzed and reported following a renewal vote may be considered by the Authority in making performance and accountability decisions in the subsequent charter term.

Signature of Head of School: _____

Date: _____

Signature of President/Chair of Governing Body: _____

Date Governing Body voted to approve application for renewal: _____