

STATE OF NEVADA

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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Patrick Gavin
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 8 —Consideration and possible issuance of notice pursuant to NAC 388.330(e)
DATE: January 27, 2017

Background:

Nevada Connections Academy (NCA) was approved by the State Board of Education in 2007 and was renewed by the Authority in 2013. It currently operates pursuant to a written charter. The written charter expires in 2019.

For each of the preceding five years, NCA’s graduation rate has been below 60 percent.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Graduation Rate	26.5%	36.08%	33.91%	37.19%	35.63%	40.09
Rank in State	99/106	98/110	100/111	110/117	110/117	110/120
Position from Bottom	8 th lowest in state	13 th lowest in the state	11 th lowest in the state	8 th lowest in the state	8 th lowest in the state	10 th lowest in the state
Percentile Rank	7 th	12 th	10 th	7 th	7 th	8 th

While the school saw a graduation rate increase between 2011 and 2012 in its performance relative to the rest of the state, moving from the 7th percentile to the 12th, the school declined back to the 7th percentile in both 2014 and 2015.

On [September 23, 2016](#), the State Public Charter School Authority [voted](#) to direct staff to issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke the Written Charter of Nevada Connections Academy pursuant to [NRS](#)

[388A.330](#) and [NAC 386.330](#) based on having a graduation rate for the preceding school year that is less than 60 percent. This was based on the 2014-15 academic year. The Authority has not yet held a public hearing regarding the September 23, 2016 notice. NCA has contested the validity of this proceeding through two lawsuits in Carson City. This is an ongoing legal matter and the Authority has been advised to limit its commentary regarding this matter.

On December 15, 2016, the Department released official graduation rates for all public schools for the 2015-16 academic year. NCA's graduation rate was 40.09%. This performance level is below the 60 percent level specified in statute. Consequently, the school is eligible to receive a Notice pursuant to NRS 388A.330(e).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends:

- 1) Authority should direct staff to Issue a Notice of Intent pursuant to [NRS 388A.330\(e\)](#) and [NAC 386.330](#) based on having a graduation rate for the preceding school year that is less than 60 percent.