



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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

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**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Patrick Gavin, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 6 - Assembly Bill 49 Star Rating Notifications  
**DATE:** January 26, 2018

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As you probably know, AB 49 – a product of the 2017 Legislative session – made significant changes to NRS Chapter 388A and most, but not all, of the changes included in AB 49 became effective on July 1, 2017. For purposes of this Agenda Item, the most significant new requirement imposed by AB 49 relates to the Department of Education’s recently-released “Star Ratings.”

Under AB 49, low performing charter schools are required to provide notice to parents and legal guardians regarding the school’s poor performance, and certify to the Authority that the charter school has complied with the notice requirement. Specifically, charter schools are now required to mail a written notice to all parents or legal guardians of every pupil enrolled in the charter school upon the occurrence of certain events:

- If the school is rated in the lowest 5 percent by the Department of Education under its statewide system of accountability (i.e., annual star ratings);
- If the school receives one of the two lowest ratings – a one or two-star school – by the Department of Education under its statewide system of accountability (i.e., annual star ratings);
- If the charter school requests an amendment to its written charter or charter contract to (1) relocate, (2) close a campus or eliminate a grade level, or (3) reduce enrollment as a result of an academic, financial, or organizational issue;
- The sponsor issues a notice of intent to revoke the school’s written charter or charter contract, or
- The school’s written charter is revoked or the charter contract is terminated.

The notice must be mailed out within 5 business days after the occurrence of any of these events, and the school must also post the notice on its website. The notice must also include a list of other schools that the charter school's pupils may enroll in if the pupil or parent or legal guardian so chooses.

If the school is required to send out an AB 49 notice, the school must also certify compliance with the AB 49 notification requirements to the charter school's sponsor within 10 days of sending out the required notice. Finally, the charter school must also hold a public hearing within 30 days of sending out the required notice in order to "discuss a plan to correct any issues which caused the issuance of the notice and to solicit suggestions to improve the performance of the charter school." SPCSA Staff has informed schools that received AB 49 notices that this requirement can be satisfied by placing AB 49 on its agenda for its next-scheduled board meeting and taking public comment during that agenda item.

The following SPCSA-sponsored charter schools recently received AB 49 notices:

1. Nevada Virtual Academy (Based on 1 Star Elementary School performance)
2. Nevada Connections Academy (Based on 1 Star Elementary School performance)
3. Equipo Academy (Based on 2 Star Middle School performance)
4. Quest Preparatory Academy (Based on 1 Star Elementary and 2 Star Middle School performance)
5. Silver Sands Montessori (Based on 2 Star Middle School performance)
6. Discovery Charter School (Based on 2 Star Elementary School performance)
7. Founders Academy Las Vegas (Based on 2 Star Elementary School performance)
8. Mater Academy – Las Vegas (Based on 2 Star Elementary School performance)

Quest Preparatory Academy's elementary school was also in the bottom 5%. The following high schools had a graduation rate below 60%: Nevada Connections, Beacon Academy, and Argent Preparatory.