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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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State Charters see increase in 4 and 5-Star schools, decrease in 1-Star schools

Carson City – September 16, 2019 – Student academic performance in schools sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) continued to improve during the 2018-19 school year. Data released today by the Nevada Department of Education as part of the Nevada School Performance Framework show a continuation of gains made previously.

The SPCSA saw the percentage of 4 and 5-Star schools, those designated as exceeding state standards and designated as “commendable” or “superior” schools, increase from 53% in the 2017-18 School year to 64% in the most recent ratings for the 2018-19 school year. In addition, the number of 1-Star schools, those schools that have not met standards, declined from eight in 2017-18 to three in 2018-19. “The State Public Charter School Authority puts a strong emphasis on accountability for results and we are seeing that focus pay off for students,” said Melissa Mackedon, Vice Chair of the SPCSA.

The SPCSA’s Title I schools, those schools that qualify for additional funding due to serving a large population of students in poverty, showed similar improvement in performance with 44% earning 4 and 5-Star ratings and only one Title I designated school earning a 1-Star ratings.

“While national and statewide data show that students in poverty have historically performed behind their peers academically, many SPCSA schools are demonstrating that these students can perform at or above state standards,” said Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director of the SPCSA. “The SPCSA is focused on expanding schools in communities with higher levels of poverty to enable equitable access for all children,” added Feiden.

In particular, the following Title I schools were designated as 4 or 5-Stars for the 2018-19 school year, demonstrating that they have exceeded state standards:

- Mater Academy Bonanza Middle School
- Mater Academy Mountain Vista Elementary School
- Mater Academy Mountain Vista Middle School
- Mater Academy Northern Nevada Middle School
- Equipo Academy Middle School
- Equipo Academy High School
- Democracy Prep at Agassi Middle School
- Nevada Prep Middle School

“I’m so incredibly proud of everyone involved in this journey at Mater Academy,” said, Renee Fairless, Principal of Mater Academy Mountain Vista. “Our students showed incredible growth this year. This is

proof that when you work hard and your students are invested in their progress, great things happen,” added Fairless.

In addition, several other key indicators showed positive progress in the most recent ratings:

- On the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) for students in grades 3 through 8, the percent of students on grade level (proficient) increased in both math and English language arts (ELA)
 - 59.9% of students were proficient in ELA in the 2018-19 school year compared to 57.3% in the 2017-18 school year
 - 48.5% of students were proficient in math in the 2018-19 school year compared to 44.6% in the 2017-18 school year
- In addition, students qualifying for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) saw significant increases in proficiency on the SBAC
 - 46% of FRL students were proficient in ELA in the 2018-19 school year compared to 41% in the 2017-18 school year
 - 34.3% of FRL students were proficient in math in the 2018-19 school year compared to 27.2% in the 2017-18 school year
- Similarly, students designated as English learners (EL) showed positive progress in proficiency on the SBAC
 - 25.7% of EL students were proficient in ELA in the 2018-19 school year compared to 19.3% in the 2017-18 school year
 - 23% of EL students were proficient in math in the 2018-19 school year compared to 16.9% in the 2017-18 school year
- In addition, students identifying as Hispanic showed an increase in proficiency compared to last year
 - 50.8% of Hispanic students were proficient in ELA in the 2018-19 school year compared to 47.2% in the 2017-18 school year
 - 38.2% of Hispanic students were proficient in math in the 2018-19 school year compared to 33% in the 2017-18 school year
- The percent of students chronically absent (absent for 10% or more of the school year) declined from 10.6% in the 2017-18 school year to 8% in the 2018-19 school year
- In addition, the percent of students meeting their Adjusted Growth Percentile (AGP) on the WIDA assessment used to determine progress in English language acquisition increased to 47.5% in the 2018-19 school from 37.4% during the 2018-19 school year
- None of the SPCSA-sponsored charter schools received a participation warning or participation penalty

Formed in 2011, Nevada’s State Public Charter School Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and a statewide charter school sponsor. The SPCSA authorizes public charter schools across the state and is responsible for oversight and monitoring of those schools to ensure positive academic outcomes for students and strong stewardship of public dollars.

For more information, press only:

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