



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Patrick Gavin, Executive Director  
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 8: Recommendations to Issue Notices of Concern Based on the  
2017 – 2018 Nevada School Performance Framework Results and Participation  
Rates  
**DATE:** September 28, 2018

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As the Authority is aware, the Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework results for the 2017 – 2018 school year. All public schools in the state of Nevada are issued a star rating when all data points are available. The 2017 – 2018 school year is also the first year that high school ratings will be released after the ratings freeze during the 2014 – 2015 school year and it is the first year that all charter school campuses received separate ratings.

Additionally, the State of Nevada is required to “annually measure the achievement of not less than 95 percent of all students, and 95 percent of all students in each subgroup of students who are enrolled in public schools...” (ESSA 1177-35(E)). These subgroups are as follows:

| <b><u>State of Nevada ESSA Subgroups</u></b> |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native                | Two or More Races               |
| Asian  | White/Caucasian                 |
| Black/African American                       | IEP                             |
| Hispanic/Latino                              | Economically Disadvantaged (ED) |
| Pacific Islander                             | English Learner (EL)            |

The following schools earned a 1 or 2-star rating based on the final ratings released on September 14, 2018 and/or received a participation warning or penalty due to not meeting the thresholds described above:

| <b><u>Elementary Schools</u></b>   | <b><u>2017 – 2018<br/>Index Score</u></b> | <b><u>2017 – 2018 Star<br/>Rating</u></b> |
|--|---|---|
| Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas – Centennial Hills*                           | 81  | 4-star                                    |
| Freedom Classical Academy (f.k.a. American Leadership Academy – North Las Vegas) | 28.5                                      | 2-star                                    |
| Learning Bridge Charter School   | 44.11                                     | 2-star                                    |
| Legacy Traditional Schools – North Valley  | 34.5                                      | 2-star                                    |
| Mater Academy of Nevada – Bonanza  | 21.5                                      | 1-star                                    |
| Mater Academy of Northern Nevada   | 15  | 1-star                                    |
| Somerset Academy of Las Vegas – North Las Vegas                                  | 40  | 2-star                                    |

| <b><u>Middle Schools</u></b>   | <b><u>2017 – 2018<br/>Index Score</u></b> | <b><u>2017 – 2018<br/>Index Score</u></b> |
|--|---|---|
| Equipo Academy*  | 50.5                                      | 3-star                                    |
| Freedom Classical Academy (f.k.a. American Leadership Academy – North Las Vegas) | 47.5                                      | 2-star                                    |
| Leadership Academy of Nevada*  | 36.11                                     | 2-star                                    |
| Legacy Traditional Schools – North Valley  | 43.67                                     | 2-star                                    |
| Sports Leadership and Management of Nevada (SLAM NV)                             | 47.5                                      | 2-star                                    |

Schools with an asterisk above received a participation warning or penalty. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires 95 percent participation on the state Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments. Given the requirement to measure ELA and Mathematics participation for all students and each of the ten subgroups over two content areas, there are twenty-two (22) distinct participation measures (11 Mathematics and 11 ELA) determined for each school. Schools must meet participation requirements for all measures.

Participation on the State assessments is important because it helps ensure equal access to educational opportunity as well as enable meaningful measurement of academic performance. To ensure that this high standard continues, Nevada has established three levels of participation rate penalties for schools that test fewer than 95% of its eligible student population:

| <b><u>Participation Penalties and Impact</u></b> |  |
|--|--|
| Participation Warning                            | Schools failing to meet the overall and subgroup participation rate of 95 percent and failing to meet the average calculated participation rate of 95 percent over the most recent two or three years for the first year will be identified as failing this important metric. No points are deducted for a participation warning.  |
| Participation Penalty                            | If the school fails to meet overall and subgroup participation rate of 95 percent and fails to meet the average calculated participation rate of 95% over the most recent two or three years <u>for a second consecutive year</u> , the Academic Achievement Indicator will be reduced by 9 index points, up to the maximum possible points for the Indicator. The subgroup(s) identified as not meeting the 95% requirement in the year the Participation Penalty is determined do not have to be the same subgroup identified in the previous year.  |
| Continuing Participation Penalty                 | If a school fails to meet the overall and subgroup participation rate of 95 percent and fails to meet the average calculated participation rate of 95 percent over the most recent two or three years <u>for a third consecutive year</u> , the school will be identified as and subjected to a “Continuing Participation Penalty.” Schools designated as such will earn zero points for the Academic Achievement Indicator. The subgroup(s) identified as not meeting the 95% requirement in the year the school is determined to have a Continuing Participation Penalty do not have to be the same subgroup identified in the previous years. |

Per [NRS 388A.367](#), low performing schools are required to notify the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in a qualifying public charter school. Additionally, qualifying schools are required to post written notification of this performance according to the statewide system of accountability on their website, as well as the scores of neighboring zone traditional public schools. 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 notice so as to provide all stakeholders and opportunity to discuss actions and solicit feedback for continued growth and improvement based on the statewide accountability rating system.

Given the above performance deficiencies and the requirements of [NRS 388A.367](#), staff recommends that the SPCSA Board delegate to Staff the authority to monitor the requirements of [NRS 388A.367](#). This includes ensuring that all parents and guardians are notified, notice is posted on the school's website, and a public hearing is held by the school within 30 days of the required notice being sent.

*Recommendation: Approve SPCSA Staff Recommendation to Issue Notices of Concern and monitor the implementation of [NRS 388A.367](#).*