

October 15, 2019

**Via Electronic Mail**

Ryan Herrick  
General Counsel  
State Public Charter School Authority  
1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543  
rherrick@spcsa.nv.gov

**Re: Nevada Connections Academy/Notice of Breach  
Our File No. 100837.0001**

Ryan:

I am enclosing the Declaration of Alyssa Walters in which she confirms her independent audit and verification of the data that is included in the renewal application submitted today by Nevada Connections Academy.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeremy J. Nork  
of Holland & Hart LLP

JJN/mh

Enclosure

13691350\_v1

1  
2 **BEFORE THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**  
3 **STATE OF NEVADA**

4 In Re:

5 Nevada Connections Academy Renewal  
6 Application  
7

8 **DECLARATION OF ALYSSA WALTERS**

9 I, Alyssa Walters, hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

10 1. I am currently the Director of Efficacy and Research for Connections Education  
11 LLC ("CE"). I make this declaration in support of Nevada Connections Academy ("NCA")  
12 relative to data described herein that is included in NCA's charter renewal application.  
13

14 2. The matters set forth in this declaration are based on my own personal knowledge.  
15 If called upon to testify, I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein.

16 3. I have worked in research and assessment for the past 23 years with the last 16 in  
17 K-12 public education. Currently, I serve as the Director of Efficacy and Research for Connections  
18 Education. In prior positions I have worked as a Research Scientist at ETS, a Program Evaluator  
19 at the U.S. Army Research Command, Director of Research for Catapult Learning, and Senior  
20 Policy Research Analyst and research consultant at Denver and Philadelphia Public School  
21 Districts. I have a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Texas, a Master of  
22 Education from Texas State University, and a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degree  
23 in Social Psychology from the University of Florida.  
24

25 4. Over the past 3+ years in my role as Director of Efficacy and Research for CE, I  
26 have focused on impact evaluations and learning analytics as well as accountability measures that  
27 track school performance and progress. Pursuant to this responsibility, I independently audited  
28

1 and verified the following data included in NCA's renewal application:

- 2 • NCA's Attendance Rate (95.0% in 2014-2015, 90.0% in 2015-2016, 93.8% in  
3 2016-2017, 92.2% in 2017-2018, 96.5% in 2018-2019);
- 4 • NCA's Staff Retention Rate (74.2% in 2014-2015, 77.9% in 2015-2016, 87.3% in  
5 2016-2017, 87.8% in 2017-2018, 88.1% in 2018-2019);
- 6 • State Test Improvement in 2018-2019 among NCA Students Scoring in the Lowest  
7 Performance Level in 2017-2018 (10.9% in Math and 26.4% in English Language  
8 Arts); and
- 9 • Math State Test Proficiency in 2018-2019 by Number of Years Enrolled at NCA  
10 (20.1% for new students, 20.2% after two years, 24.4% after three years, 26.5%  
11 after 4 years and 38.5% after five years).

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Colorado that the  
2 foregoing is true and correct and was executed this 15th day of October, 2019, in Denver,  
3 Colorado.  
4

5   
6 ALYSSA WALTERS  
7

8  
9 State of Colorado  
County of Denver

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before

10 me on this 15th day of October 20 19

by Alyssa Walters

11 who is personally known to me or has produced

CO DRIV. Lic as identification

12   
Notary's Signature

