



Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

Academic Performance Framework Technical Guide

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Notes on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework

Due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on education, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) received waivers for the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 school years for certain assessment and accountability requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), resulting in the lack of Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school star ratings in those years. For the 2021-22 school year, the NDE plans to issue NSPF index scores without corresponding NSPF star ratings.

Prior iterations of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) Academic Performance Framework (Framework) required SPCSA schools to receive an NSPF star rating to receive an SPCSA Academic Framework rating. The lack of both NSPF and SPCSA Academic Framework ratings over the past two years have hindered the ability of the SPCSA to effectively monitor the academic performance of SPCSA-authorized schools.

Therefore, the SPCSA Academic Framework has been revised regarding its rating requirements—an Academic Framework rating may now be issued by the Authority to an SPCSA-authorized school when the school either (1) receives an NSPF star rating or (2) in years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings, receives an NSPF index score that otherwise meets NSPF requirements to receive an NSPF star rating.

The SPCSA is committed to reviewing data provided through the NSPF and the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. These changes are intended to enable the SPCSA to fulfill its obligation and responsibility to provide Academic Performance Framework results for SPCSA-sponsored schools.

Overview of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

Created in 2011, the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) is a governmental agency of the State of Nevada and the statewide charter school sponsor. The SPCSA authorizes public charter schools across the state and is responsible for oversight and monitoring of those schools, ensuring positive academic outcomes for students and strong stewardship of public dollars.

The SPCSA Academic Performance Framework

Framework Purpose

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) [388A.273](#) requires each charter school sponsor to adopt a performance framework that must be incorporated in a charter contract to include academic, finance, and organization components. Accordingly, the SPCSA has established Academic, Financial, and Organizational Frameworks. Per statute, the academic component of the framework must address charter school: (1) academic achievement and proficiency, including academic growth; (2) disparities in academic achievement and proficiency; and (3) graduation rates as well as college and career readiness (where relevant). The Academic Performance Framework (Framework) meets these requirements and provides charter school boards and leaders, as well as the public, with clear expectations, fact-based oversight, and timely feedback while ensuring charter autonomy.

Framework History

The current version of the Framework was designed by SPCSA staff during 2019 and early 2020 with significant stakeholder input from SPCSA charter school leaders and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Accountability team. The first iteration of the Framework (for the 2018-19 school year) was informational only and released to school leaders in March 2020. For the 2019-20 school year, the Framework report design was updated; notably, due to COVID-19 and a lack of Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school star ratings, schools did not receive an overall 2019-20 Framework rating. The lack of NSPF ratings in the 2020-21 school year again prohibited publication of overall 2020-21 Framework ratings. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, Framework ratings may be issued by the Authority in situations where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings.

Framework Principles

The Framework is comprised of Measures categorized under Indicators. A school earns points based on their performance in the Measures, according to point attribution tables (PATs). Points earned for Measures are totaled under their respective Indicators, which are then summed to generate a final score worth a possible 100 points. This total Framework score corresponds to one of four academic performance levels: Exceeds Standard, Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Below Standard. The table below outlines point ranges corresponding to these performance levels.

| Score Range | Performance Level |
|-------------|------------------------|
| ≥80 | Exceeds Standard |
| ≥50 and <80 | Meets Standard |
| ≥20 and <50 | Does Not Meet Standard |
| <20 | Below Standard |

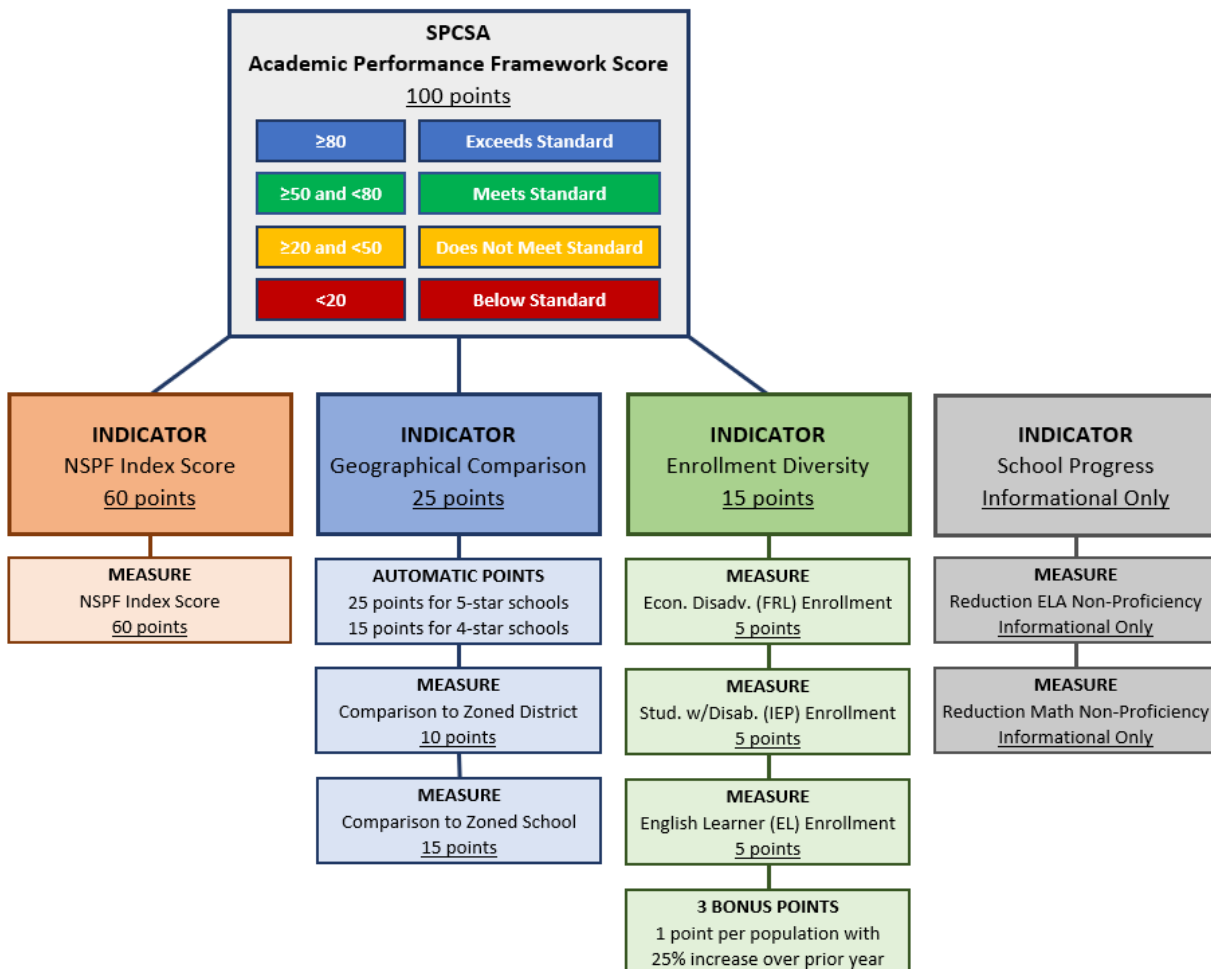
The SPCSA may issue an Academic Framework performance level rating to a school when they either:

1. Receive a star rating in that year’s Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), or
2. In years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding NSPF star ratings, receive an NSPF index score that would typically result in an NSPF star rating (i.e. the school meets NSPF rating requirements that would typically lead to an NSPF star rating. See page 8 of the NDE [NSPF Technical Manual](#) for more information).

Framework Overview

The Framework incorporates the corresponding school year NSPF release under the NSPF Index Score Indicator (60 points), as the NSPF includes key performance measures that address Framework requirements outlined in [NRS 388A.273](#), such as academic achievement and proficiency, academic growth, English Learner (EL) growth, opportunity gaps, and graduation rates. The Framework also contains the Geographical Comparisons Indicator (25 points), which includes Measures that compare charter school NSPF performance to that of the zoned school and district (also known as a local education agency or LEA), as well as the Enrollment Diversity Indicator (15 points), which includes measures that compare charter school enrollment rates of economically disadvantaged students (FRL), students with disabilities (IEP), and English Learners (ELs) to its zoned LEA. The School Progress Indicator, which reflects reductions in Math and ELA non-proficiency, is currently informational only (i.e. does not earn points).

The graphic below provides an overview of the Framework.



Framework Calculations and Reporting

The SPCSA does not round data. NSPF index scores are truncated by the NDE to one decimal place, and one decimal place is maintained throughout NSPF-related measures in the Framework. Enrollment rates for the Enrollment Diversity Measures are calculated and truncated to the tenth, and rate differences between the charter and zoned LEA maintain one decimal place for (1) the purposes of associating the difference with the point-earning category on the point attribution table (PAT) and (2) display on the Framework reports. Non-proficiency rates under the School Progress Indicator are also calculated and truncated to the tenth for purposes of reporting. As an example, a calculation resulting in a number such as 9.99 is truncated to 9.9 for both (1) awarding points and (2) reporting; it is not rounded to 10.

Framework Indicators and Measures

Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Index Score Indicator: 60 points

The NSPF Index Score Indicator contains one Measure of the same name. The number of points a school earns in this measure is 60% of their NSPF adjusted index score from the corresponding school year's NSPF release. For example, if a school's NSPF score was 90, the school would earn $90 * 0.6 = 54$ points in this Measure. NSPF Indicator scores are calculated and truncated to one decimal place.

Below are measures included in the NSPF, by level. Points displayed are on the NSPF scale of 100 possible points and do not directly correspond to the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. For more information on the NSPF, see the most recent NDE [NSPF Procedures Manual](#) or [NSPF Technical Manual](#).

Elementary School NSPF Measures

| INDICATOR/MEASURES | POINTS |
|---|-----------|
| Academic Achievement Indicator | 25 |
| Pooled Proficiency Measure | 20 |
| Read-by-Grade-3 Measure | 5 |
| Growth Indicator | 35 |
| Math Median Growth Percentile (MGP) Measure | 10 |
| ELA MGP Measure | 10 |
| Math Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) Measure | 7.5 |
| ELA AGP Measure | 7.5 |
| English Language Proficiency Indicator | 10 |
| WIDA AGP Measure | 10 |
| Closing Opportunity Gaps Indicator | 20 |
| Math Closing Opportunity Gaps Measure | 10 |
| ELA Closing Opportunity Gaps Measure | 10 |
| Student Engagement Indicator | 10 |
| Chronic Absenteeism Measure | 10 |

Middle School NSPF Measures

| INDICATOR/MEASURES | POINTS |
|---|-----------|
| Academic Achievement Indicator | 25 |
| Pooled Proficiency Measure | 25 |
| Growth Indicator | 30 |
| Math Median Growth Percentile (MGP) Measure | 10 |
| ELA MGP Measure | 10 |
| Math Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) Measure | 5 |
| ELA AGP Measure | 5 |
| English Language Proficiency Indicator | 10 |
| WIDA AGP Measure | 10 |
| Closing Opportunity Gaps Indicator | 20 |
| Math Closing Opportunity Gaps Measure | 10 |
| ELA Closing Opportunity Gaps Measure | 10 |
| Student Engagement Indicator | 15 |
| Chronic Absenteeism Measure | 10 |
| Academic Learning Plans Measure | 2 |
| 8 th Grade Credit Requirements (NAC 389) Measure | 3 |

High School NSPF Measures

| INDICATOR/MEASURES | POINTS |
|--|-----------|
| Academic Achievement Indicator | 25 |
| Math Proficiency Measure | 10 |
| ELA Proficiency Measure | 10 |
| Science Proficiency Measure | 5 |
| Graduation Rates Indicator | 30 |
| 4-year Adjusted Cohort Grad. Rate Measure | 25 |
| 5-year Adjusted Cohort Grad. Rate Measure | 5 |
| English Language Proficiency Indicator | 10 |
| WIDA Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) Measure | 10 |
| College and Career Readiness Indicator | 25 |
| Post-Secondary Preparation Participation Measure | 10 |
| Post-Secondary Preparation Completion Measure | 10 |
| Advanced/College Career Ready Diploma Measure | 5 |
| Student Engagement Indicator | 10 |
| Chronic Absenteeism Measure | 5 |
| 9 th Grade Credit Sufficiency Measure | 5 |

Geographical Comparisons Indicator: 25 points

The Geographical Comparisons Indicator contains two Measures that compare a charter school’s NSPF performance to the NSPF performance of its zoned district and zoned school(s). A charter school that receives a 5-star NSPF rating (or, in years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings, an NSPF index score that is associated with a 5-star NSPF rating AND meets NSPF requirements to otherwise receive a rating) in the most recent NSPF automatically earns 25 points in the Geographical Comparisons Indicator. In these cases, comparison results are calculated but not earned on top of the automatic points. A school that receives a 4-star NSPF rating (or, in years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings, an NSPF index score that is associated with a 4-star NSPF rating AND meets NSPF requirements to otherwise receive a rating) in the most recent NSPF automatically earns 15 points. In these cases, the school receives the higher of the automatic points or comparison points.

Comparison to Zoned District Measure: 10 points

This Measure compares a charter school’s NSPF adjusted index score to that of its zoned district. For example, if a school is located in Las Vegas and serves students from Las Vegas, its zoned district is the Clark County School District.

The steps to calculate points for this Measure are as follows:

1. Find the zoned district for the charter school using the charter school’s physical address.
 - a. Exception: Certain schools (such as virtual schools) serve students from across the state. In this case, the zoned district is the state.
2. Find the difference between the charter school NSPF adjusted index score and the zoned LEA average NSPF adjusted index score for the relevant level (elementary, middle, or high school).
 - a. Only rated schools (or, in years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings, schools that receive an NSPF index score that meets NSPF requirements to otherwise receive an NSPF rating) are used in the calculation of the district’s average (elementary/middle/high) NSPF index score by level. District averages are calculated and truncated to one decimal place.
 - b. Difference = charter school NSPF score – zoned district (elementary/middle/high) NSPF score.
3. Award points associated with the difference in the point attribution table (PAT) below.

| Geographical Comparison Indicator Comparison to Zoned District Measure (10 points possible) Point Attribution Table | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Difference in Index Score | Points | Difference in Index Score | Points |
| ≥25.0 | 10 | <8.3 and ≥4.9 | 4 |
| <25.0 and ≥21.6 | 9 | <4.9 and ≥1.6 | 3 |
| <21.6 and ≥18.3 | 8 | <1.6 and ≥-1.6 | 2 |
| <18.3 and ≥14.9 | 7 | <-1.6 and ≥-5.0 | 1 |
| <14.9 and ≥11.6 | 6 | <-5.0 | 0 |
| <11.6 and ≥8.3 | 5 | | |

Comparison to Zoned School Measure: 15 points

This Measure compares an SPCSA school’s NSPF adjusted index score to that of its zoned district school. The zoned district school is the school zoned for the physical address of the charter school for the relevant school year.

The steps to calculate points for this Measure are as follows:

1. For the relevant school year, find the zoned district school for the charter school using the charter school’s physical address and district zone search tools/maps and/or mapping websites.
 - a. Exception: Certain schools (such as virtual schools) serve students from across the state. In this case, the zoned school is the state.
 - b. Some schools have more than one zoned school. In these cases, the zoned school NSPF adjusted index scores are averaged, if available, for step #2. Averages are calculated and truncated to one decimal place.
2. Find the difference between the charter school NSPF adjusted index score and the zoned school NSPF adjusted index score.
 - a. Differences are only calculated when the zoned school has an NSPF rating (or, in years where the NDE releases NSPF index scores without corresponding star ratings, the

zoned school has an NSPF index score that meets requirements to otherwise receive an NSPF rating).

- b. Difference = charter school NSPF score – zoned school NSPF score.
3. Award points associated with the difference in the PAT below.

| Geographical Comparison Indicator Comparison to Zoned School Measure (15 points possible) Point Attribution Table | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Difference in Index Score | Points | Difference in Index Score | Points |
| ≥25.0 | 15 | <9.9 and ≥7.8 | 7 |
| <25.0 and ≥22.8 | 14 | <7.8 and ≥5.7 | 6 |
| <22.8 and ≥20.6 | 13 | <5.7 and ≥3.5 | 5 |
| <20.6 and ≥18.5 | 12 | <3.5 and ≥1.4 | 4 |
| <18.5 and ≥16.4 | 11 | <1.4 and ≥-0.7 | 3 |
| <16.4 and ≥14.2 | 10 | <-0.7 and ≥-2.8 | 2 |
| <14.2 and ≥12.1 | 9 | <-2.8 and ≥-5.0 | 1 |
| <12.1 and ≥9.9 | 8 | <-5.0 | 0 |

Enrollment Diversity Indicator: 15 points (3 bonus points available)

The Enrollment Diversity Indicator contains three measures, worth five points each, that compare a charter school to its zoned district regarding Economically Disadvantaged Student (FRL), Students with Disabilities (IEP), and English Learner (EL) enrollment rates. Charter schools are compared to district rates for their school level—elementary (grades K-5), middle (grades 6-8), or high (grades 9-12). As an example, the FRL rate for an elementary charter school (K-5) located in Clark County is compared to the FRL rate for the Clark County School District’s K-5 population. Points in these Measures are earned based on the difference between charter school and district rates.

The source of charter school and state/district enrollment rates is the NDE October 1 validation day file for the corresponding school year. SPCSA charter school enrollment rates are calculated by assigning students to NSPF school codes in the validation day file. Depending on grade levels served, a school’s NSPF school code is its state school code appended with “.1” for elementary grades (K-5), “.2” for middle school grades (6-8), or “.3” for high school grades (9-12). Only grades K-12 are included in enrollment rates, as these grades are the only ones that can be assigned to NSPF school codes. Rates are calculated and truncated to one decimal place. The state and district enrollment rates, by level (elementary, middle, and high), are provided by the NDE; if these data indicate a population rate less than 5%, enrollment data from the [Nevada Report Card](#) are used to calculate the difference if possible. Student group counts (n-sizes) are not a factor in these Measures, but for privacy reasons, rates and differences are displayed as ranges on school reports.

Economically Disadvantaged (FRL) Enrollment Rate Measure: 5 points

The difference between a charter school’s FRL enrollment rate and the zoned district’s corresponding (elementary, middle, high) FRL enrollment rate is calculated. Schools that serve the state are compared to state rates. For SPCSA schools and zoned districts that participate in CEP or have an FRL rate over 64%, an FRL rate of 64% is used for this comparison.¹ Points are earned per the relevant PAT below, based on the difference calculated.

¹ CEP schools must have ≥40% of students directly certified for FRL without the use of household applications, i.e., via programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). To reimburse schools for meals, the US Department of Agriculture uses a 1.6 multiplier to estimate the percent of FRL-eligible students that would be comparable to the FRL percentage at a non-CEP school. Therefore, SPCSA staff established a placeholder of 64% by multiplying the minimum percentage of students who would have to be directly certified (40%) by the USDA multiplier (1.6).

Students with Disabilities (IEP) Enrollment Rate Measure: 5 points

The difference between a charter school’s IEP enrollment rate and the zoned district’s corresponding (elementary, middle, high) IEP enrollment rate is calculated. Schools that serve the state are compared to state rates. Points are earned per the relevant PAT below, based on the difference calculated.

English Learner (EL) Enrollment Rate Measure: 5 points

The difference between a charter school’s EL enrollment rate and the zoned district’s corresponding (elementary, middle, high) EL enrollment rate is calculated. Schools that serve the state are compared to state rates. Points are earned per the relevant PAT below, based on the difference calculated.

Bonus for 25% Improvement in Enrollment Rates: 3 Points Possible, Up to Indicator Maximum

A school earns one bonus point, up to three bonus points total, for each population with a 25% or more increase in enrollment rate over the prior year’s rate. For example, if a school’s EL enrollment was 12% last year, an EL enrollment of $12 + (12 * 0.25) = 15\%$ must be achieved to receive the EL bonus point. If a school has 0% enrollment for a population in the prior year, enrollment must reach 5% to receive the bonus for that population. Bonus points are added to the Indicator total, up to the maximum Indicator total (15); for example, if a school receives the maximum Indicator points and meets one or more bonus point criteria, that school will only receive the maximum Indicator points possible (15).

| Enrollment Diversity Indicator FRL, IEP, and EL Enrollment Rate Measures (5 points possible each) Point Attribution Tables | | | | | |
|--|--------|---|--------|--|--------|
| FRL Enrollment Measure | | IEP Enrollment Measure | | EL Enrollment Measure | |
| FRL Enrollment Rate Difference Charter vs. District | Points | IEP Enrollment Rate Difference Charter vs. District | Points | EL Enrollment Rate Difference Charter vs. District | Points |
| ≥0 | 5 | ≥0 | 5 | ≥0 | 5 |
| <0 and ≥-10 | 4 | <0 and ≥-2.5 | 4 | <0 and ≥-5 | 4 |
| <-10 and ≥-23 | 3 | <-2.5 and ≥-5 | 3 | <-5 and ≥-10 | 3 |
| <-23 and ≥-37 | 2 | <-5 and ≥-7.5 | 2 | <-10 and ≥-15 | 2 |
| <-37 and ≥-50 | 1 | <-7.5 and ≥-10 | 1 | <-15 and ≥-20 | 1 |
| <-50 | 0 | <-10 | 0 | <-20 | 0 |

School Progress Indicator: Informational Only

The School Progress Indicator has two Measures: Reduction in Math Non-Proficiency and Reduction in ELA Non-Proficiency. These Measures are currently informational only and therefore points are not attached to performance. Current and prior year state assessment data are utilized to determine the year over year percent change in non-proficiency.

The steps to calculate performance for this Measure are as follows:

1. Using proficiency rates from the two most recent NSPF releases, calculate the percent non-proficiency by subtracting the proficiency rate from 100.
 - a. Example: if proficiency is 40%, non-proficiency rate is $100 - 40 = 60\%$.
2. Calculate the percent change in non-proficiency between the two years.
 - a. Example: if non-proficiency rate is 60% the prior year and 55% the current year, percent change is $(\text{prior} - \text{current}) / \text{prior}$; in this case, $(60 - 55) / 60 = 8.3\%$ change in the positive direction (a reduction).