



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702)486-8895 • Fax (702)486-5543

COVID-19 UPDATE – MAY 2020

Emergency Programs of Distance Education

Each SPCSA-sponsored charter school that is not already approved to provide a full-time program of distance education submitted a request to the Nevada Department of Education for an Emergency Program of Distance Education under Emergency Directive 005. NDE approved each of these requests and SPCSA-sponsored charter schools began offering distance education no later than March 23, 2020, or, for those that were on a scheduled spring break, immediately following spring break.

- *Grading* – Pursuant to guidance from NDE, schools can determine how to handle grading policies during the period of distance education. As an example, some schools have opted to grade on a pass/fail scale during this period.
- *Graduation and Promotion Ceremonies* – Schools were provided guidance in early May about graduation and promotion ceremonies. Ultimately, schools must comply with any Emergency Directives and were encouraged to develop contingency plans. Many schools have come up with creative ways to approach graduation and promotion ceremonies.
- *Summer School* – Under the Governor’s order, school buildings remain closed. So, schools have been encouraged to plan assuming that summer school will be virtual. We will continue to keep schools informed of any changes that may allow for in-person summer school.
- *Next School Year* – The Nevada Department of Education will be releasing information regarding the approach to re-opening schools. The SPCSA will work with schools to provide additional resources and information as needed following NDE’s information.
- *Fiscal Impacts* – The Governor’s office has indicated that statewide budget cuts for the current year (FY19-20) will be up to 4%. Next year (FY20-21) is expected to be between 6-14%. Schools have been encouraged to plan for the potential of significant budget cuts. Once information on specific funding cut levels is available, we will share it with schools. The SPCSA has received initial information about our allocation from NDE under the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and has provided initial information about allocations to schools.

Student Engagement

Within the Request for an Emergency Program of Distance Education, schools confirmed that at minimum, each student would be contacted by a licensed teacher or licensed substitute teacher at least once per week for attendance purposes. Below is a summary of attendance for the first seven weeks of Distance Education:


Week	Attendance Rate
March 23 – March 27	97.77%
March 30 – April 3	97.96%
April 6 – April 10*	99.10%
April 13 – April 17	98.14%
April 20 – April 24	98.09%
April 27 – May 1	97.58%
May 4 – May 8	96.64%

**most schools were on spring break during the week of April 6 to 10*

Highlighting Positive Stories


MAKING HOMEWORK

Sharing the stories of educators and students



To kick off teacher appreciation week, Mater Academy made sure to show their staff how much they are appreciated! Administrators delivered succulents with signs that said “Thank you for helping our students grow.” They also posted signs outside of their residences letting them know how much they are missed. Mater teachers have been working hard to continue students education.

To ensure that students would continue their learning from home, Mater Academy staff was trained on March 16th how to properly conduct a virtual classroom through Zoom. Since the training, teachers have created a weekly schedule to keep students engaged. Mater Academy is piloting Colegia, a platform that provides an extra layer of online security for students. It allows students to easily access all of their educational websites including Zoom.



Published May 8, 2020

sted **for** HOME MEANS NEVADA.

Learn More: <http://charterschools.nv.gov/>