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COVID-19 UPDATE – JULY 2020

Emergency Programs of Distance Education – Spring 2020

Each SPCSA-sponsored charter school that was not already approved to provide a full-time program of distance education submitted a request to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) 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. Distance Education continued through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Reopening for the 2020-21 School Year

At the June 26, 2020 meeting of the State Public Charter School Authority, the Authority approved a motion prescribing the process for SPCSA-sponsored schools to approve and submit their re-opening plans. Following that decision, SPCSA staff sent a memo to schools outlining the [Process for Approval of Re-Opening Plans](#). As part of the *Process for Approval of Re-Opening Plans*, schools must submit their plans to the SPCSA via epicenter, following approval by their governing bodies. Within five business days of receipt, SPCSA staff will review re-opening plans to confirm that they meet the minimum requirements established by NDE. SPCSA staff developed a [checklist](#) that will be used to review re-opening plans. This *checklist* was distributed to schools as tool to use to ensure that their plans meet the minimum requirements.

- As of Friday, July 17, fourteen charter holders have submitted re-opening plans to the SPCSA. SPCSA staff have already begun reviewing these and overall the plans are detailed and meet the minimum requirements set forth by the Nevada Department of Education.
- While the plans address a range of re-opening scenarios, among plans that have been submitted, most put forth a hybrid model (combined in-person and distance education) as the likely re-opening approach for the 2020-21 school year.
- SPCSA staff have worked with the Nevada Department of Education to establish a process by which these re-opening plans are tracked and subsequently submitted, along with applicable attachments, to the NDE.
- In addition to schools posting their plans to their websites, all re-opening plans for SPCSA-sponsored charter schools will be posted to the SPCSA website.
- Staff anticipate that all plans will be received and reviewed no later than August 7, 2020.