



# Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

## Federal Grant Monitoring

August 2020

# What grants does the SPCSA administer?

## Federal Grants

1. **Title IA** for schools with students who are economically disadvantaged
2. **Title I 1003a** for school improvement grants
3. **Title IIA** for educator development
4. **Title III – LEP** for students with limited English proficiency
5. **Title III – IMM** for students who are immigrants
6. **IDEA – B** for special education
7. **IDEA – b** for early childhood special education
8. **ESSER** for support in response to COVID-19
9. **CRF** also for support in response to COVID-19

## State Grants

1. Pre-Kindergarten
2. Zoom
3. Victory
4. New Nevada Education Funding Plan
5. Great Teaching & Leading, NV Ready Technology, Teacher Incentives, and other measures in AB309 of the 2019 legislative session

# What are the SPCSA's federal oversight responsibilities?

## Our Role

AB78 from the 2019 legislative session made the SPCSA the local education agency (LEA) for our schools.

This has clarified increased oversight responsibilities, including over federal grants.



## Our Responsibilities according to Federal Law

As the LEA and according to 2 CFR § 200.331, we are a pass-through entity for our charter schools. Our responsibilities include:

**Ensuring grant subawards are identified** for our schools

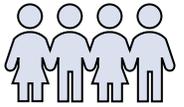
**Evaluating the risk of noncompliance** of each of our schools under federal statutes, rules, and regulations

**Monitoring our schools** to ensure they use grants as authorized

**Ensuring our schools are audited** for their grant use

**Supporting and taking enforcement action** when necessary to help our schools comply with federal statutes, rules, and regs

# Why do we monitor how our schools use their grants?



## Student Services & Well-Being

Federal grants exist to:

- ✓ Advance equity
- ✓ Propel programmatic innovation
- ✓ Support educator development
- ✓ Improve student outcomes



## Sound Financial Stewardship

Federal grant funds are available because of taxpayers.

As public charter schools, our schools use taxpayer dollars to educate their students.

To be faithful stewards of federal funds, our schools have an obligation to comply with requirements tied to those funds.



## Legal Compliance

Federal grant compliance amounts to legal compliance.

As public charter schools, our schools have an obligation to comply with local, state, and federal requirements.

# How do we monitor?

Less Intensive  
Activities

More Intensive  
Activities

<b>Desk Reviews</b>	<b>Action Items &amp; Technical Support</b>	<b>On-Site Monitoring</b>	<b>Corrective Action Plans</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of documentation related to each school's use of federal grants</li><li>• Review of documentation related to programming funded by grants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendations for schools and action items to help schools improve</li><li>• Recommendations aligned to (a) federal grant use and compliance and (b) program planning and execution</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visits to school sites</li><li>• On-site activities include additional document review, interviews with staff, and programming observations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal plans with directives that schools must execute by certain deadlines</li></ul>

# What are we looking for when we monitor grants?

## Examples of Financial Matters We Monitor

- School-level policies and procedures for administering grants
- Expending funds on the appropriate services (e.g., utilizing IDEA funds for special education and not some other matter)
- Experienced staff overseeing federal grant expenses
- Timely submissions of applications for federal grants

## Examples of Programmatic Matters We Monitor

- Student populations related to specific grants (e.g., whether the school has an increase in students who are language learners and the implications for Title III programming)
- Programmatic proposals and offerings that are aligned to the purpose and goals of federal grants
- Clear, student-centered goals for federally funded programming

# What does it mean to monitor based on risk?

## How do we monitor based on risk?

- Through risk monitoring, we categorize schools into levels of risk.
- Using those levels, we determine how much and what type of compliance monitoring a school requires.
- Schools that present more risk (e.g., schools that have less experienced grant staff or that are new to federal grants) may require additional monitoring.

## Why do we monitor based on risk?

- With limited resources, we need to prioritize our work to support and monitor schools that need the most help.
- Categorizing and monitoring schools based on risk tiers allows us to prioritize our time.

# When will schools get more information about risk assessment and monitoring in the coming year?

- Schools will receive more information about our federal grant monitoring practices in September.
- We plan to hold a webinar for schools to review our monitoring processes with them.
- Soon after that, we will share each school's risk tier with them.

