

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



2020 Renewal Report for Alpine Academy
Per [NRS 388A.285](#) and [NAC 388A.415](#)

Issued June 25, 2020

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL REPORT CONTENTS

1. School Overview
 - a. Address
 - b. Location
 - c. Governing Board Composition
 - d. Academic Data Overview
 - e. Enrollment History
2. Summary of Issued Notices and Identified Deficiencies
 - a. Academic
 - b. Financial
 - c. Organizational
3. Summary of the Overall Performance of the Charter School
4. Requirements for the Renewal Application
5. Criteria to be used to make a determination regarding renewal

Appendix A: Nevada School Performance Framework Reports

Appendix B: Site Evaluation Report – March 3, 2020

Appendix C: Notice of Concern – July 14, 2017

1. School Overview

a. Address: 605 Boxington, Suite 112
Sparks, NV 89434

b. Campus Location: Washoe County

c. Governing Board Members

- i. President – Justin Vance
- ii. Director – Douglas Goodman
- iii. Director – Melissa Hilburn
- iv. Director – Kathy King
- v. Director – Adam Larson
- vi. Director – Denise Quirk
- vii. Director – Arlene Savala

Board Member information based on Epicenter Board Center

d. Academic Data Overview¹

The following data was compiled from the ratings generated by the Nevada State Performance Framework (NSPF) during the current charter term.

Contract Year	School Year	NSPF Rating
4	2018-19	3 Stars
3	2017-18	4 Stars
2	2016-17	Not Rated
1	2015-16	Not Rated

¹ For schools applying for a third charter term, NAC 388A.415(10) provides that the State Public Charter School Authority will give the academic performance of pupils a greater weight than that assigned to it on the first renewal. SPCSA staff will include academic performance data for any previous charter term for the Authority's consideration.

e. Enrollment History

The following data was compiled from the Validation Day for the last five school years, or the years within the current charter contract.

Grade Level	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Pre-K	0	0	0	0	0
K	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0
9	34	16	27	31	20
10	32	43	34	24	32
11	22	27	45	23	29
12	32	25	27	35	22
Total	120	111	133	113	103

2. Summary of Issued Notices and Identified Deficiencies

a. Academic

The Authority Board has not issued any Academic Notices to Alpine Academy this charter term.

b. Financial

The Authority has issued the following Notices to Alpine Academy:

- i. A Notice of Concern on July 14, 2017 due to financial underperformance during the 2016 fiscal year. This Notice is attached as Appendix C.

c. Organizational

The Authority Board has not issued any Organizational Notices to Alpine Academy this charter term.

3. Summary of the Overall Performance of Alpine Academy

Alpine Academy currently offers instruction at the high school level, grades 9-12, at one campus. According to the NSPF ratings for the 2018 – 2019 school year, Alpine Academy was rated as a 3-star program.

As noted in the NSPF guidance document, a 3-star high school program identifies a school that has met the state’s standard for performance. Students meet expectations for academic achievement or show progress with little exception; however, no group is far below standard. A copy of the NSPF report for Alpine Academy for the 2018 – 2019 school year is included as Appendix A within this report.

Prior to the 2018 – 2019 school year, Alpine Academy received ratings for the 2017 – 2018 school year, earning a 4-star rating for the high school according to the NSPF. The guidance document for the NSPF indicates that a 4-star school identifies a commendable school that has performed well for all students and subgroups. A 4-star school demonstrates satisfactory to strong academic performance for all students. Further, the school’s graduation rate meets expectations. The school has not performed below the 3-star level during the current charter term.

With regards to the financial performance and viability of the school, the Authority issued a Notice of Concern in 2017 due to financial underperformance during the 2015 – 2016 school year. Additionally, SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Ongoing Concern be issued in 2018 due to continued financial concerns, but the Authority elected to table this agenda item on June 28, 2018²

The organizational health and performance of the school has been strong over the current charter term. The school has not received any notices regarding organizational performance.

Finally, SPCSA staff conducted a site evaluation of Alpine Academy on March 3, 2020. SPCSA staff found many positive takeaways during the evaluation, including high levels of student engagement, strong communication techniques utilized during instruction, and an overall inclusive mindset and positive climate existing at the campus. SPCSA staff also identified some areas of growth for the school to prioritize, including leadership development and identifying and participating in board governance and training. It should be noted that while site evaluations are important accountability tool, SPCSA staff places a stronger emphasis on student results and performance. A one-day site evaluation does not eclipse the annual performance rating for a school that captures the work of an entire academic year. See Appendix B for more details on the Alpine Academy site evaluation.

² The Authority directed staff to overhaul the financial performance framework during the June 28, 2018 meeting.

4. Requirements for the Renewal Application

Applicants for renewal will receive an application template to populate and return to Authority staff between October 1 – October 15, 2020. This template will be provided to schools no later than July 31, 2020.

Schools which are contemplating material amendments, e.g. changes to the mission statement, grade levels served, enrollment, facilities expansion, academic program, instructional delivery, management agreement, etc. will be permitted to submit such amendment requests in the event that the school is renewed. Schools are permitted to draft such amendment requests during the renewal process for filing immediately following the renewal decision but the SPCSA Board will not give weight to such materials or testimony related to any contemplated changes during the renewal process. The inclusion of amendment materials will result in the return of the renewal application and a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the content is accurate and reflects information provided by NDE and the SPCSA. Any discrepancies between the data submitted and data previously provided by NDE or the SPCSA will result in a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

Schools are required to submit the agenda and draft minutes for the meeting where the governing body voted to approve the submission of the renewal application into the appropriate areas in Epicenter prior to filing the renewal application. Failure to submit the agenda and draft minutes showing a school board's approval will result in the return of the renewal application and a request for resubmission of a compliant and complete application from SPCSA staff.

5. Criteria to be used for Making a Renewal Decision

As stated on the previous page, renewal decisions for schools operating under written charters are based on historic academic performance data as evidenced by both the Nevada State Performance Framework as well as the SPCSA Performance Framework. Historical anecdotes or unsolicited data, e.g. leadership changes or past programmatic adjustments, may be included in the report but will be given less weight when considered by the Authority in making renewal decisions. Additionally, renewal decisions will be based on the overall financial and organizational health of the public charter school. Evidence from both the financial framework and financial audits will be used to assess the overall financial health of a school. The Epicenter platform will be used to inform the assessment of the organizational health of a school, and to help determine whether or not the school is compliant under local, state and federal law. It bears repeating, however, that historical academic performance will be given the greatest weight.

For schools applying for a third charter term, [NAC 388A.415\(10\)](#) provides that the State Public Charter School Authority will give the academic performance of pupils a greater weight than that assigned to it on the first renewal. SPCSA staff will include academic performance data for any previous charter term for the Authority's consideration.

Finally, it is noteworthy that SB 451 from the 80th Legislative Session (2019) allows the Authority to renew charter schools for variable lengths, from three to ten years.