

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



2020 Renewal Report for Elko Institute for Academic
Achievement

Per [NRS 388A.285](#) and [NAC 388A.415](#)

Issued June 25, 2020

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1. School Overview

a. Address: 1031 Railroad Street, Suite 107
Elko, NV 89801

b. Campus Location: Elko County

c. Governing Board Members

- i. President – Dennis Zimmerman
- ii. Vice President – Layla Miguel
- iii. Treasurer – Rama Paris
- iv. Member – Nathan Mildren
- v. Member – Sharon E. Owen
- vi. Member – Monique Sorenson
- vii. Member – Hiliary Wilson

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	Elementary: 2 Stars Middle: 5 Stars
3	2017-18	Elementary: 3 Stars Middle: 5 Stars
2	2016-17	Elementary: 3 Stars Middle: 4 Stars
1	2015-16	Elementary: Not Rated Middle: 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	18	20	18	22	22
1	20	21	21	22	22
2	22	21	21	21	22
3	18	20	22	22	22
4	22	20	22	22	22
5	22	21	20	22	22
6	22	17	18	22	22
7	19	22	17	22	22
8	15	10	14	14	22
9	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0
Total	178	172	173	189	198

2. Summary of Issued Notices and Identified Deficiencies

a. Academic

The Authority Board has issued the following Notices to Elko Institute for Academic Achievement:

- i.* A Notice of Concern on October 4, 2019 for the elementary school due to a 2-star rating. This Notice is attached as Appendix C.

b. Financial

The Authority has not issued any Financial Notices to Elko Institute for Academic Achievement this charter term.

c. Organizational

The Authority has not issued any Organizational Notices to Elko Institute for Academic Achievement this charter term.

3. Summary of the Overall Performance of Elko Institute for Academic Achievement

Elko Institute for Academic Achievement currently offers instruction at the elementary and middle school levels at one campus. According to the NSPF ratings for the 2018 – 2019 school year, the elementary school was rated as a 2-star program while the middle school was rated as a 5-star program.

As noted in the NSPF guidance document, a 2-star elementary school program identifies a school that has partially met the state’s standard for performance. Students and subgroups often meet expectations for academic performance or growth but may have multiple areas that require improvement. A 5-star school recognizes a superior school that exceeds expectations for all students and subgroups on every indicator category with little or no exception. A five-star school demonstrates superior academic performance and growth with no opportunity gaps. Additionally, the school does not fail to meet expectations for any group on any indicator. A copy of the NSPF report for Elko Institute for Academic Achievement for the 2018 – 2019 school year is included as Appendix A within this report.

Prior to the 2018 – 2019 school year, Elko Institute of Academic Achievement received ratings for the 2017 – 2018 school year, earning a 3-star rating for the elementary school and a 5-star rating for the middle school according to the NSPF. Additionally, the school had not received any ratings below 3-stars in this contract term. The guidance document for the NSPF indicates that a 3-star school identifies an adequate school that has met the state’s standard for performance. The all-students group has met expectations for academic achievement or growth, and subgroups meet expectations for academic achievement or growth with little exception; however, no group is far below standard.

With regards to the financial performance and viability of the school, the Authority has not issued any Notices during this charter term. SPCSA staff finds the school to be in Good Standing within this framework.

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 Elko Institute for Academic Achievement on May 22, 2019. SPCSA staff found many positive takeaways during the evaluation, including a strong school culture and community, a profound emphasis on student-centered instruction, and a campus that stresses student safety despite some building challenges. SPCSA staff also identified some areas of growth for the school to prioritize, including an effort to increase rigor and higher-level questioning within classrooms as well as increasing the consistency of objective communication to students and developing the Leader in Me Program. 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 Elko Institute for Academic Achievement site evaluation.

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 School Performance Framework (NSPF) 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](#) 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.