

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



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

Issued June 25, 2020

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## 1. School Overview

a. Address: 4131 E. Bonanza Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89110

b. Campus Location: Clark County

c. Governing Board Members

- i. Chair – Kerry Roberts
- ii. Vice Chair – Pamela Cates
- iii. Treasurer – Nathan Reynoso
- iv. Secretary – Miriam Sotelo
- v. Member – Cheryl Adler-Walls
- vi. Member – Adam Johnson
- vii. Member – Jerry Keller
- viii. Member – *vacant*
- ix. Member – *vacant*

*Board Member information based on Epicenter Board Center*

d. Academic Data Overview<sup>1</sup>

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

<b>Contract Year</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>NSPF Rating</b>
4	2018-19	Equipo Middle: 5 Stars Equipo High: 4 Stars
3	2017-18	Equipo Middle: 3 Stars Equipo High: Not Rated
2	2016-17	Equipo Middle: 2 Stars Equipo High: N/A
1	2015-16	Equipo Middle: Not Rated Equipo High: N/A

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<sup>1</sup> 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	134	107	118	122	108
7	100	143	123	113	109
8	66	106	162	113	111
9	78	67	130	149	137
10	52	83	89	120	136
11	0	53	91	73	104
12	0	0	46	63	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>761</b>

## **2. Summary of Issued Notices and Identified Deficiencies**

*The Authority Board has issued the following Notices to Equipo Academy:*

*a. Academic*

The Authority Board has issued the following Notices to Equipo Academy:

- i.* A Notice of Concern on February 16, 2018 for the middle school due to a 2-star rating during the 2016 – 2017 school year. The minutes of this Board meeting can be found as Appendix C.

*b. Financial*

The Authority Board has issued the following Notices to Equipo Academy:

- i.* A Notice of Concern on April 30, 2018 due to financial underperformance during the 2016 – 2017 school year.

*c. Organizational*

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

### **3. Summary of the Overall Performance of Equipo Academy**

Equipo Academy currently offers instruction at the middle and high school levels, grades 6-12, at one campus. According to the NSPF ratings for the 2018 – 2019 school year, the middle school was rated as a 5-star program while the high school was rated as a 4-star program.

As noted in the NSPF guidance document, a 4-star high school program 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. A 5-star middle school program recognizes a superior school that exceeds expectations for all students and subgroups on every indicator category with little or no exception according to NSPF guidance. A copy of the NSPF reports for Equipo Academy for the 2018 – 2019 school year is included as Appendix A within this report.

Prior to the 2018– 2019 school year, Equipo Academy received a rating for the 2017– 2018 school year at the middle school level, earning a 3-star rating according to the NSPF. 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. Subgroups meet expectations for academic achievement or growth with little exception; however, no group is far below standard. The school did earn a 2-star rating as a result of the 2016-2017 school year at the middle school level, but has demonstrated improvement since that time.

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

The organizational health and performance of the school has been strong over the current charter term. The school has exhibited some difficulty in submitted required documentation in a timely manner, but the school has not received any notices regarding organizational performance.

Finally, SPCSA staff conducted a site evaluation of Equipo Academy on February 26, 2019. SPCSA staff found many positive takeaways during the evaluation, including a positive school culture, strong schoolwide procedures, a governing board that felt informed and a warm, welcoming learning environment for students. SPCSA staff also identified some areas of growth for the school to prioritize, including the need for formal governance training for the governing board, increasing rigor and higher-level questioning during daily instruction and developing the school leader and the capacity of staff. 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 Equipo Academy 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 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 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (2019) allows the Authority to renew charter schools for variable lengths, from three to ten years.