

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



2020 Renewal Report for Silver Sands Montessori Charter  
School

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

Issued June 25, 2020

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## 1. **School Overview**

a. Address: 1841 Whitney Mesa Drive  
Henderson, Nevada 89014

b. Campus Location: Clark County

c. Governing Board Members

- i. President – Kristofor Jacobson
- ii. Vice President – John Fukuda
- iii. Treasurer – Kimberley Patai
- iv. Member – Sharon Groesbeck
- v. Member – Donna Brooks
- vi. Member – Lorraine Kucik
- vii. Member – Mayumi Coffman

*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 School Performance Framework (NSPF) during the current charter term.*

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

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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            | 50   | 49         | 50         | 50         | 50         |
| 1            | 33   | 47         | 52         | 41         | 44         |
| 2            | 46   | 33         | 41         | 43         | 39         |
| 3            | 42   | 45         | 31         | 38         | 41         |
| 4            | 28   | 36         | 39         | 28         | 32         |
| 5            | 26   | 23         | 34         | 30         | 26         |
| 6            | 23   | 22         | 25         | 25         | 26         |
| 7            | 25   | 22         | 25         | 21         | 22         |
| 8            | 19   | 22         | 22         | 22         | 23         |
| 9            | 0  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 10           | 0  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 11           | 0  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 12           | 0  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>292</b>   | <b>299</b> | <b>319</b> | <b>298</b> | <b>303</b> |

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

*The Authority Board has issued the following Notices to Silver Sands Montessori charter school:*

*a. Academic*

*The Authority Board has issued the following Academic Notices to Silver Sands Montessori:*

- i. A Notice of Concern for the middle school due to a 2-star rating. This notice was issued on February 16, 2018 and the minutes of the February 16, 2018 Authority Board meeting are attached as Appendix C.*

*b. Financial*

*The Authority has not issued any Financial Notices to Silver Sands Montessori during this charter term.*

*c. Organizational*

*The Authority has not issued any Organizational Notices to Silver Sands Montessori during this charter term.*

### **3. Summary of the Overall Performance of Silver Sands Montessori Charter School**

Silver Sands Montessori charter school 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 3-star program while the middle school was rated as a 5-star program.

As noted in the NSPF guidance document, 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. 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 5-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 Silver Sands Montessori charter school for the 2018 – 2019 school year is included as Appendix A within this report.

Prior to the 2018 – 2019 school year, Silver Sands Montessori received ratings for the 2017 – 2018 school year, earning a 4-star rating for the elementary school and a 4-star rating for the middle school according to the NSPF. The guidance document for the NSPF indicates that a 4-star school demonstrates satisfactory to strong academic performance for all students. Further, the school is successfully promoting academic progress for all student groups as reflected in closing opportunity gaps. The school does not fail to meet expectations for any group on any indicator.

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 Silver Sands Montessori on December 11, 2019. SPCSA staff found many positive takeaways during the evaluation, including was evidence of the mission taking place at the school in terms of students being engaged, comfortable, and respecting one another. SPCSA staff identified a high level of respect from student to student in the form of students working in groups, or pairs to complete learning assignments. Students were calm, focused, and comfortable within all classrooms. The environment provided by the school was enhanced by dedicated staff that show tremendous respect for students and developing their love of learning.

The evaluation team also identified some areas of growth for the school to prioritize, including modifying the student enrollment and lottery process, and monitoring the achievement levels of all students in order to have a positive trending trajectory of student achievement. In addition, Silver Sands Montessori should continue to work on the Special Education policies, review them annually and update them based upon students or changes to the law. It should be noted that while site evaluations are an 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 Silver Sands Montessori 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 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 performance data as evidenced by both the Nevada School 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.