

Steve Sisolak
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: New Schools and Campuses that Opened in August 2022
DATE: August 29, 2022

Background

At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, five new charter schools and three new campuses of existing charter schools opened¹:

New Schools

- Battle Born Academy
- pilotED – Cactus Park Elementary
- Sage Collegiate Public Charter School
- Strong Start Academy
- Young Women’s Leadership Academy

New Campuses

- Coral Academy – Cadence
- Nevada State High School – North Las Vegas
- Pinecrest Academy Virtual

Each new school or campus was required to complete the [SPCSA’s Pre-Opening Process](#) as well as satisfy any school-specific conditions to demonstrate readiness to open and serve students.

¹ Detailed information regarding these new schools and campuses can be found in Appendix A.

Successes

- **Pre-Opening Complete:** All new schools and campuses received a notice of approval or conditional approval of the pre-opening conditions on or before the first day of school.
- **Successful Opening:** Each of the new school and campuses successfully opened and is currently serving students.

Challenges

- **Facilities:** Of the eight new schools and campuses, three had to begin the school year in a temporary location or portables due to delays in facility renovations. The majority of schools were not able to provide permitting and approvals such as a certificate of occupancy 30-days prior to the start of the school year as is required under NRS 388A.360. SPCSA staff worked with schools to accommodate delays, which in some cases led to the school having to push back the first day of school.
- **Enrollment:** Enrollment Audits conducted in June showed that three of the five new schools were less than 50% enrolled. Unofficial enrollment data from August suggests enrollment challenges have continued as two new school remain less than 50% enrolled and two new schools remain less than 75% enrolled. New school campuses also appear to face challenges with enrollment as two of the three new campuses remain less than 75% enrolled.
- **Last-Minute Preparations:** Despite starting the pre-opening process in November with most of the new schools, many schools were completing pre-opening requirements the last week before school began. While certain items inherently need to be completed during the final weeks, such as staffing directories and final health authority approvals, other items could have been completed well in advance, such as employee handbooks and special education policies and manuals, could have been completed much earlier. While these items were ultimately completed, the need for school leaders to prioritize these items during the final weeks of preparation diverted their attention from other time-sensitive tasks.

Next Steps

SPCSA staff will be sending a survey to new schools and campuses to gather their feedback on the pre-opening process. This information will inform revisions to the pre-opening process which will be shared with the Authority this fall.

APPENDIX A

School	Type	Approval	Approved Enrollment for 22-23	Approved Enrollment at Full Scale	Grade Levels for 22-23	Grade Levels at Full Scale
Battle Born Academy	New School	4/23/21	240	540	K-1; 5-6	K-8
Coral Academy – Cadence	New Campus	2/26/21	1850	1850	K-8	K-12
Nevada State High School – North Las Vegas	New Campus	6/26/20*	100	170	11-12	11-12
pilotED – Cactus Park Elementary	New School	11/5/21	351	486	K-4	K-5
Pinecrest Academy Virtual	New Campus	2/15/22	80	170	6-10	6-12
Sage Collegiate Public Charter School	New School	11/6/20*	224**	588	K-5	K-8
Strong Start Academy	New School	1/28/22	180	360	K-2	K-5
Young Women’s Leadership Academy	New School	11/5/21	110**	600	6; 9	6-12

**Deferred opening by one year*

***Amended after initial approval*