

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: SPCSA Staff
SUBJECT: Executive Director Hiring Process
DATE: August 25, 2023

As you know, the Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Authority, Rebecca Feiden, recently submitted her resignation to Governor Lombardo, effective September 8, 2023. Pursuant to NRS 388A.190, when the Executive Director of the SPCSA resigns, Governor Lombardo appoints a replacement from three names submitted by the SPCSA Board. To be eligible for appointment under NRS 388A.190, any candidates for the position of Executive Director of the SPCSA must be (1) at least 21 years of age, and (2) possess a demonstrated understanding of charter schools and a commitment to using charter schools to strengthen public education in this State. While these are the minimum eligibility requirements to become the Executive Director of the SPCSA, NRS 388A.196 sets out the duties and responsibility of the Executive Director of the SPCSA, and NRS 388A.150 outlines the purpose of the SPCSA, which, as outlined below, the Executive Director of the SPCSA oversees and manages.

Pursuant to NRS 388A.196, the Executive Director of the SPCSA is expected to:

- Execute, direct, and supervise all administrative technical, and procedural activities of the SPCSA;
- Organize the State Public Charter School Authority in a manner which will ensure the efficient operation and service of the State Public Charter School Authority;
- Ensure that the autonomy provided to charter schools in this State pursuant to state law and regulations is preserved; and
- Perform such other duties as are prescribed by law or the State Public Charter School Authority.

Additionally, the purpose of the SPCSA – as overseen by the SPCSA’s Executive Director, is as follows:

- Authorize charter schools of high-quality throughout this State with the goal of expanding the opportunities for pupils in this State, including, without limitation, pupils who are at risk;
- Provide oversight to the charter schools that it sponsors to ensure that those charter schools maintain high educational and operational standards, preserve autonomy and safeguard the interests of pupils and the community;
- Serve as a model of the best practices in sponsoring charter schools and foster a climate in this State in which all high-quality charter schools, regardless of sponsor, can flourish.

While NRS 388A.190 sets out the minimum qualifications for an applicant to be eligible to serve as the Executive Director of the SPCSA, the following criteria may be useful in evaluating candidates. These criteria are based on the statutory duties and responsibilities of the SPCSA’s Executive Director, as well as the statutory purpose of the SPCSA, which the Executive Director of the SPCSA oversees.

1. The applicant has experience, or shows the aptitude to excel at running, overseeing, and organizing a statewide, executive branch agency such as the SPCSA.
2. The applicant understands the autonomy that charter schools are provided, but is also committed to the accountability that public charter schools are subject to.
3. The applicant is committed to authorizing (meaning approving new charter school applications) high-quality charter schools throughout the State.
4. The applicant is committed to expanding educational opportunities to all students in Nevada, including students that are at risk.
5. The candidate is committed to and demonstrates the expertise to ensuring rigorous oversight of SPCSA-sponsored charter schools to ensure SPCSA-sponsored provide charter school students with high educational and operational standards.
6. The candidate is committed to ensuring that the SPCSA continues to serve as a model of best practices in sponsoring and authorizing public charter schools for local school district charter school sponsors, university and college sponsors, and municipal charter school sponsors.