New Charter School Application Report and Recommendation August 25, 2023



Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence

GENERAL INFORMATION

Proposed School Name	Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence
Proposed EMO/CMO	Not Applicable
Proposed Mission and Vision	 Mission: Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence's (DBAE) mission is to give students a space to cultivate creativity, become change-makers, achieve academic excellence, and broaden their perspectives through providing quality performing arts and arts-integrated education for K-8th grade students in North Las Vegas. Vision: Students at the Do & Be Arts School of Excellence will create the world they envision.
Proposed Grade Configuration	Opening: K-2,6 Full Scale: K-8
Proposed Opening	August 2024
Proposed Location	Clark County; 89030, 89031, 89032, 89081
Proposed Zip Codes to be Served	89030, 89031, 89032, 89081

PLANNED ENROLLMENT

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
K	70	70	70	70	70	70
1	70	70	70	70	70	70
2	70	70	70	70	70	70
3		70	70	70	70	70
4			70	70	70	70
5				70	70	70
6	70	70	70	70	70	70
7		70	70	70	70	70
8			70	70	70	70
9						
10						
11						
12						
Total	280	420	560	630	630	630

CONTENTS

1	Overview and Recommendation	3
2	Meeting the Need	5
3	Academic Plan	8
4	Operations Plan	14
5	Financial Plan	20
6	Application Process Details	22
Арре	endix A	24

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SPCSA conducts a rigorous review of new charter school applications. This process includes the submission to the SPCSA of a written notice of intent to submit a new charter school application 90 days prior to the submission of the new charter school application; the submission to the SPCSA of the actual new charter school application between April 15 and April 30 of each year; the review of the new charter school application by the SPCSA – including the review of the new charter school application by outside reviewers and a capacity interview with the applicant team. The application is rated against the SPCSA's new charter school application evaluation rubric and, as stated in the evaluation rubric, an applicant must Meet the Standard in all four, or five, if applicable¹, main sections of the application and evaluation process to be recommended for authorization. If an application Meets the Standard in all but one section, and Approaches the Standard in the one remaining section, the application and proposed new charter school may be recommended for authorization. If an application and proposed new charter school may be addressed through conditions. In addition, as part of the review process, the SPCSA seeks input from the board of trustees of the school district in which the proposed charter school will be located. The input provided by the school district is posted along with other relevant materials for this application for consideration by the SPCSA board.

Finally, it is important to note that there is also an opportunity for an unsuccessful new charter school applicant to resubmit its charter school application, as well as an opportunity for an unsuccessful applicant to appeal the denial of its application. For more details regarding the SPCSA's application process, please see Appendix A.

The review committee and SPCSA staff determined that four of the four main sections of the application Meet the Standard as outlined in the new charter application evaluation rubric.

Application Section	Rating
Meeting the Need	Meets the Standard
Academic Plan	Meets the Standard
Operations Plan	Meets the Standard
Financial Plan	Meets the Standard

Details regarding the rating for each component of the application can be found in Section 1.3 of this report. Based on these ratings and the findings summarized within the remainder of this report, the SPCSA staff's recommendation is to approve the Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence charter school application.

¹ Charter Management Organizations applying for sponsorship directly, as well as Committee to Form applicants that propose to contact with a Charter Management Organization (CMO) or Educational Management Organization (EMO) are required to complete the Addendum section of the application and therefore will be rated in five main sections. All other applicants are not required to complete the Addendum section and are only rated on four main sections.

1.2 PROPOSED MOTION

Proposed motion: Approve the Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence application as submitted during the 2023 Application Cycle, with the conditions as permitted by NAC 388A.410 and as outlined below, based on a finding that the Applicant has met the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3) in that the Applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the SPCSA that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school.

- 1. By January 15, 2024, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2024-25 school year;
- 2. Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools.

Pursuant to NAC 388A.410, all conditions set forth above must be met for the school to open for the 2024-25 school year.

1.3 SUMMARY OF APPLICATION SECTION RATINGS

Rating options for each section are Meets the Standard; Approaches the Standard; Does not Meet the Standard. A detailed description of each rating option can be found in Appendix A.

	Application Section	Rating
Meeting the Need		Meets the Standard
	Mission and Vision	Meets the Standard
	Targeted Plan	Meets the Standard
	Parent and Community Involvement	Meets the Standard
Academic Plan ²		Meets the Standard
	Transformational Change	Meets the Standard
	Curriculum and Instructional Design	Meets the Standard
	Promotion and Graduation Requirements	Meets the Standard
	Driving for Results	Meets the Standard
	At-Risk Students and Special Populations	Meets the Standard
	Professional Development	Meets the Standard
	School Culture	Meets the Standard
	Student Discipline	Meets the Standard
	School Calendar and Schedule	Meets the Standard
Operations Plan		Meets the Standard
	Board Governance	Meets the Standard
	Leadership Team	Meets the Standard
	Staffing Plan	Meets the Standard
	Human Resources	Meets the Standard
	Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Meets the Standard
	Incubation Year Development	Meets the Standard
	Services	Meets the Standard
	Facilities	Approaches the Standard
Financial Plan		Meets the Standard

² The Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence proposal did not contemplate Distance Education or Dual Credit Partnerships. Therefore, the corresponding sections of the rubric were not scored.

2.1 SECTION RATINGS

Meeting the Need		Meets the Standard
	Mission and Vision	Meets the Standard
	Targeted Plan	Meets the Standard
	Parent and Community Involvement	Meets the Standard

2.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overall, the Meeting the Need section was rated as Meets the Standard. All three sections were determined to Meet the Standard as articulated in the new charter application evaluation rubric.

The Mission and Vision section was rated as Meets the Standard. In the written application, the Applicant described a clear, measurable, and compelling mission statement that explained the role of the school in meeting the needs of the community and intended student population. Additionally, the mission and vision are reflected throughout the whole application and was also evident during the capacity interview. The Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence educational model includes three components: Arts Integration, Visual and Performing Arts, and Project-Based Learning. Prior to the capacity interview, the review team had some questions regarding goals of the proposed school and how they would be measured, but during the capacity interview the Committee to Form was able clearly describe schoolwide goals aligned to core components of the school model.

The Targeted Plan section was rated as Meets the Standard. In both the written and application and during the capacity interview, the Applicant was able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the community and students to be served, including the demographics and educational needs of the intended student population. This was done through clear, comprehensive explanations of how the proposed model would meet identified community needs. The Committee to Form was able to describe, in detail, how and why this proposed school would improve upon the educational choices in the identified zip codes. The Applicant also provided data that showed both a need for the proposed school and a thorough understanding of the area in which the school would primarily serve.

The Parent and Community Involvement section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Committee to Form provided intentional and thoughtful strategies for engaging with community members, families, and parents representative of the community to be served. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence provided evidence of several community partnerships which align with the mission of the school. Some partnerships included BTR BREAKIN which is an arts-based physical fitness model, Solutions of Change which provides mental health and wellness treatments and Pride Tree LV. After the submission of the written application, the Committee to Form continued to engage potential community partners, and during the capacity interview described a number of additional partnerships including The Better Movement Foundation, The Pearson Center, The West Las Vegas Arts Center, The Smith Center, and Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. During the capacity interview, the Committee to Form was also able to outline a thoughtful plan to proactively engage parents, community members, and other neighborhood partners if the school were to be approved and operating.

For these reasons, as well as those detailed within the rubric criteria below, the review committee and SPCSA staff rated the Meeting the Need section as Meets the Standard.

2.3 RUBRIC CRITERIA

The tables below provide details regarding each rubric criterion and whether it was determined to Meet the Standard. The criterion for which "No" is selected was either rated as Approaches the Standard or Does Not Meet the Standard as described in the new charter school application evaluation rubric and summarized in Appendix A.

2.3.1 Mission and Vision: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Clear, measurable, and compelling mission statement which explains the role of the school in meeting the needs of the community	🛛 Yes
and intended student population, and which is reflected throughout the application.	🗆 No
Vision describes success (beyond graduation) for students if the school fulfills its mission.	🖾 Yes
	🗆 No
Committee to Form/CMO aims to achieve outcomes that they demonstrate will improve the long-term quality of life of all	🛛 Yes
students served, including students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, at-risk	🗆 No
students, and students above or below grade level.	
School's plan, in alignment with the mission and vision, satisfies at least one statutory purpose:	🛛 Yes
Improving the academic achievement of pupils.	🗆 No
 Encouraging the use of effective and innovative methods of teaching. 	
 Providing an accurate measurement of the educational achievement of pupils. 	
Establishing accountability and transparency of public schools.	
Providing a method for public schools to measure achievement based upon the performance of the schools, AND/OR	
Creating new professional opportunities for teachers.	

2.3.2 Targeted Plan: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the community and students to be served, including the demographics and	🖾 Yes
educational needs of the intended student population, as well as the current school options within the community.	🗆 No
The proposed educational model is clearly described and addresses a need(s) related to student outcomes in the identified	🖾 Yes
community that is either shown to exist with data or is in response to demonstrated demand for a particular school model.	🗆 No
Clear, comprehensive explanation of how the proposed model meets identified community needs.	🖾 Yes
	🗆 No
Demonstrates a commitment to meeting at least one of, and preferably multiple, academic, or demographic needs identified in	🛛 Yes
the SPCAS's Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment:	🗆 No
 Demographics: Applicants meeting this need will propose a school model that includes demonstrated capacity, credible plans, and thorough research and analysis in order to intentionally enroll and serve the following student groups, each of which has been identified as historically underperforming based on data provided by the NDE: students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL), English language learners (ELLs), students with disabilities (those with an Individual Education Program, or IEP), students in foster care, and students experiencing homelessness. Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to support these student groups in making rapid academic growth and achieving academic performance above the state average. Applicants intending to enroll and serve student groups that have historically underperformed can be most impactful when they alleviate barriers to access, such as by providing meals through the National School Lunch Program, providing student transportation, proactively translating written communication to commonly spoken languages, and offering robust social work and counseling services. 2a. Academic Need: Geographies with 1- and 2-star schools that continue to have an index score below 50: Applicants meeting this need will propose a school model that includes demonstrated capacity, credible plans, and thorough research and analysis to intentionally provide access to 3-, 4- and 5-star schools in zip codes where a significant 	
 percentage of students are attending a school that Received a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating for the 2018-19 school year, AND Continues to have an NSPF index score below 50 as of the 2021-22 school year. Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to effectively meet the needs of students who will transfer from 1- or 2- star schools that continue to have an index score below 50 in order to drive rapid academic growth and achieve academic performance above the state average. Additionally, applicants meeting this need will provide intentional plans for partnering with the community and building on identified community assets to meet the needs of students within the community. Simply adding a school option in a community with 1- or 2-star schools that continue to have an index score below 50 will not inherently lead to effectively meeting the community needs. Rather, schools must establish trust with the community by working in partnership to intentionally meet the needs of students and community. Alternative 3-, 4- or 5-star school options in communities where a significant percentage of students are attending a 1- or 2-star school that continues to have an index score below 50 can be most impactful when there are limited or no public charter school options available in the community. 2b. Academic Need: Students at risk of dropping out of school: Applicants meeting this need will propose a public charter school model that includes demonstrated capacity, credible plans, and thorough research and analysis to enroll and prevent at-risk students from dropping out of school and put them on track for success. Models may include but are not limited to programs designed for student groups that are most at-risk of dropping out or programs aimed at enabling credit-deficient students to get back on track to graduate. Applicants should demonstrate a strong understanding of 	

grade-level appropriate indicators for successful high school completion, such as early literacy, attendance, and credit sufficiency and plans to enable students to successfully meet these milestones. Public charter schools aimed at enrolling and preventing at-risk students from dropping out of school can be most impactful when they offer a unique academic experience for students and/or are closely aligned to Nevada's priorities for workforce and economic development. *Pursuant to <u>NRS 388A.249(2)</u>, the SPCSA must consider the degree to which the proposed charter school will address the needs identified in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment as part of the application review. Additionally, in accordance with <u>NRS 388A.249(3)</u> the SPCSA may only approve an application to form a charter school if, in addition to meeting other requirements, the proposed charter school will address one or more of the needs identified in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment.*

2.3.3 Parent and Community Involvement: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Demonstrates ties to and/or knowledge of the identified community and explains how the proposed school will build upon	🖾 Yes
community assets.	🗆 No
Intentional and thoughtful strategies for engaging with community members, families, and parents representative of the	🖾 Yes
community to be served. Illustrates, with examples, that parents, neighborhood, and community members representative of the	🗆 No
community to be served helped shape the school proposal.	
Outlines a thoughtful plan to proactively engage parents, community members, and other neighborhood partners from the time	🖾 Yes
that the school is approved and once the school is operating.	🗆 No
Describes meaningful opportunities for all parents to contribute to the school community and be active partners, including parents	🖾 Yes
of students with disabilities and English language learners.	🗆 No
Adheres to state laws regarding parent and family volunteers, ensuring that there are no volunteering requirements as a condition	🖾 Yes
of enrollment.	🗆 No
Identifies key supporters, partners, or resources that are directly tied to the stated outcomes of the school, including community	🖾 Yes
partners that are located in and/or serve the identified zip codes. Partnerships are evidenced by specific letters of commitment	🗆 No
outlining the accountabilities of both parties and clear, measurable, time-specific deliverables from the partner which are clearly relevant to the needs of the identified population, and do not reflect a paid vendor relationship.	

3.1 SECTION RATINGS

Academic Plan ³	Meets the Standard
Transformational Change	Meets the Standard
Curriculum and Instructional Design	Meets the Standard
Promotion and Graduation Requirements	Meets the Standard
Driving for Results	Meets the Standard
At-Risk Students and Special Populations	Meets the Standard
Professional Development	Meets the Standard
School Culture	Meets the Standard
Student Discipline	Meets the Standard
School Calendar and Schedule	Meets the Standard

3.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overall, the Academic Plan was rated as Meets the Standard. All nine sections were determined to Meet the Standard as articulated in the new charter application evaluation rubric.

The Transformational Change section was rated as Meets the Standard. The narrative provided a compelling, wellarticulated, theory of change which was further demonstrated by the Committee to Form during the capacity interview. The Applicant was able to demonstrate key features of the proposed school and how they would be implemented in a cohesive and coherent manner. Evidence of the implementation of the proposed model was given in both the written application and during the capacity interview. The Applicant explained how participation in the arts can help students to build valuable skills and lay the groundwork for long-term success. Additionally, the Applicant was able to demonstrate how the arts integration and project-based learning, would lead to a four or five-star school by driving student engagement. During the capacity interview, the Applicant expanded on the goals outlined in the academic plan and how they align to state assessment requirements and connect to distinguishing features including arts integration, visual learning, and project-based learning.

The Curriculum and Instructional Design section was rated as Meets the Standard. Prior to the capacity interview, the review team had concerns around how the curriculum could be adapted for an arts-integrated model. Specifically, the review team had questions about how the chosen curriculum would align with state standards while also ensuring fidelity to the model. During the capacity interview, the Applicant provided robust examples of how the arts would be integrated into lessons, using the curriculum as a foundation. The Committee to Form also explained how the instructional model and learning environment would align with the proposed mission and vision of the school. Additionally, the Applicant was able to provide logical plans for delivering the required courses to all students including those with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, at-risk students, and students above or below grade level to build the knowledge base necessary to access rigorous instruction.

The Promotion and Graduation section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant was able to clearly describe promotion and retention policies which demonstrated high expectations for students. Additionally, the systems and structures for supporting students who are at-risk, over-aged, and performing below grade level were detailed in the responses to the clarifying questions provided prior to the capacity interview. For example, the Applicant proposed several systems and structures to support students at risk for retention, dropping out, or not meeting graduation requirements which include: timely warning systems to monitor attendance and behavior, as well as academic

³ The Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence proposal did not contemplate Distance Education or Dual Credit Partnerships. Therefore, the corresponding sections of the rubric were not scored.

performance, allowing teachers early intervention opportunities; individualized learning plans for each student which will include customized educational strategies designed to meet the unique needs and goals of each student; and support plans for students academics and social-emotional needs. Each of the systems demonstrates high expectations for all students and are aligned with the overall mission and vision of the school.

The Driving for Results section was rated as Meets the Standard. While several of the academic goals and targets listed in the narrative were not time bound, in response to clarifying questions and during the capacity interview the Applicant was able to further define these goals and provide additional detail that allowed the review team to have a clear understanding of how the school would monitor educational outcomes for students over time. Additionally, the assessment plan was sufficiently detailed to demonstrate collection and analysis of individual student, student cohort, special populations, and school level data (interim, annual, year-over-year), and included a clear process for setting and monitoring academic goals. The application and capacity interview also demonstrated that internal assessment selections would provide sufficiently rich data for evaluation of the education program and would also be aligned with the overall model, mission, and vision of the school. The Applicant explained that their mission-specific academic goals span three key areas: academic proficiency and content-specific proficiency, performing arts excellence, and projectbased learning. With academic proficiency, the Applicant expects students to attain grade-level reading proficiency and show appropriate growth in reading and math. For content specific proficiency, the Applicant expects students attending the school will show appropriate proficiency and growth against ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies standards. The Applicant noted that students will show proficiency and participation in the performing arts through scores on their performing arts assessments. With project-based learning, the Applicant expects students attending the school to participate in project-based learning to drive academic mastery and growth in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and presentation. The Applicant also provided some evidence that there was a logical plan for using assessment data to drive key decisions aimed at improving academic outcomes and that the organizational and financial goals were aligned to the SPCSA's Performance Frameworks. Besides mandatory SBAC and MAP testing, the school will use Aimsweb Plus to assess student learning needs and ensure progress throughout the school year. Additionally, with the MAP assessments, Aimsweb plus will be used to inform instruction and identify areas where students need additional support. There were still minor questions regarding how all the assessments and elements will be incorporated together and drive key decisions aimed at improving academic outcomes.

The At-Risk and Special Populations section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant provided a clear and research-based process for identifying at-risk students and their needs, including those with academic and behavioral needs. The Applicant was also able to clarify the Special Education program that would be implemented at the school and explain how these students would be included as part of the arts integration and project-based learning. However, the structures and plan for students that need Tier 2 and 3 interventions to receive pull-out small group instruction for reteaching while being able to access the general academic curriculum still needs further development. The Committee to Form was able to describe how the school's response to early signs of behavioral and/or social emotional needs will be met with positive interventions and restorative justice practices. The school will utilize differentiated support for each student in collaboration with parents, teachers, and with support, as needed, from other school staff. The school's proposed Response to Intervention system will differentiate planning for each student according to the significance of their need and is supported by research. The Applicant proposes to use a response to intervention model that will serve as an early intervention tool to quickly identify, monitor, and intervene for at-risk students that need additional academic support, preventing long-term challenges. Members of the Committee to Form showed a strong track record of success serving a wide range of students with disabilities, English language learners, homeless and migrant students, and intellectually gifted students. Regarding English language learners, the Applicant described processes for identifying English language learners that were well-defined, including administration of placement assessments and communications to parents and teachers.

The Professional Development section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant proposes having each Wednesday be a half day for students which will allow staff to have continuous professional development throughout the school year. During the capacity interview, the Committee to Form described professional development

opportunities throughout the school year that will effectively support the academic programs. There was a clear identification of the individuals who would be responsible for professional development and the Applicant described how the professional development would support all teachers in meeting the needs of special populations including students with disabilities and English language learners while still staying true to the model of the school.

The School Culture section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Committee to Form clearly understood, and was able to explain to the review team, the culture in which they wished to establish at the school. From the proposed board through the school leader, down to the school level, it was clear to the review team that appropriate and effective strategies to support a school climate would allow for fulfillment of the school's stated mission and vision, as well as the academic goals. The Applicant's culture goals focus on promoting growth mindsets; fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion; integrating visual and performing arts in the curriculum; and engaging students in hands-on, real-world projects that enhance problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills. Additionally, the Applicant presented research-based, and age-appropriate, strategies to support students' social and emotional needs.

The School Discipline section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant described the proactive use of restorative justice practices, however the review team still had questions regarding suspensions and expulsions. In response to clarifying questions, it appeared that the governing board would be making suspension decisions, which may be an overstep of the separation of school practices and oversight. Overall, restorative justice practices were woven throughout the application and appear to be central to the approach for engaging with and supporting student growth. Additionally, the Applicant was able to explain a clear designation of staff responsible for implementing the discipline plan and goals for student behavior which were measurable, but as noted previously, additional clarification regarding the suspension and expulsion process is needed.

The School Calendar and Schedule was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant provided a calendar and schedule that would support implementation of the academic program. Additionally, the Applicant outlined meaningful goals for student attendance and plans to monitor and intervene to prevent students from becoming chronically absent. Plans to prevent chronic absenteeism are rooted in Performing Arts Excellence, which the school believes will connect to student attendance because students will have to meet attendance requirements in order to perform or present projects they have been working on. The Applicant will need to further clarify its policies for student attendance and truancy and ensure that polices both comply with state laws and are customized to the charter school.

For these reasons, as well as those detailed within the rubric criteria below, the review committee and SPCSA staff rated the Academic Plan as Meets the Standard.

3.3 RUBRIC CRITERIA

The tables below provide details regarding each rubric criterion and whether it was determined to Meet the Standard. The criterion for which "No" is selected was either rated as Approaches the Standard or Does Not Meet the Standard as described in the new charter school application evaluation rubric and summarized in Appendix A.

3.3.1 Transformational Change: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Compelling, well-articulated theory of change and clear educational strategy aligned to the mission and critical to the school's success.	⊠ Yes □ No
 Ambitious, yet achievable plan to further the SPCSA's strategic goals: Provide families with 4- or 5-star school. Ensure that every SPCSA student succeeds - including those from historically underserved student groups. 	⊠ Yes □ No
Provides a specific description of how the proposal will be implemented to ensure fidelity to the model.	⊠ Yes □ No
Demonstrates that the key features of the proposed school can be implemented together in a coherent and cohesive manner that will drive towards meeting the proposed mission and vision.	⊠ Yes □ No

Distinguishing features of the proposed school are supported by compelling evidence of success in schools implementing similar programs while serving similar student populations or a demonstration of rationale for the feature that is supported by a logic Inc. No model and plans to study effectiveness.

3.3.2 Curriculum and Instructional Design: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Describes instructional model and learning environment that align to the proposed mission and vision, academic program, and	🖾 Yes
instructional strategies. Instructional model and learning environment will engage students in ways that are culturally responsive	🗆 No
and relevant.	
Identifies curricula for all core academic subjects and demonstrates that they align to the Nevada Academic Content Standards.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No
Includes a logical plan for delivering required courses including arts, computer education and technology, health, and physical	🖾 Yes
education.	🗆 No
Demonstrates that instructional strategies are well suited to the identified student population and will enable effective	🛛 Yes
differentiation.	🗆 No
Demonstrates how the instructional model and curriculum will enable all students, including students with disabilities, English	🛛 Yes
language learners, economically disadvantaged students, at-risk students, and students above or below grade level to build the	🗆 No
knowledge base necessary to access rigorous instruction.	
If the school intends to include a career and technical education program, the application outlines a logical plan that is aligned	🗆 Yes
with the school's mission, vision, instructional model, and goals for student growth as well as the State's requirements for career	🗆 No
and technical education.	🖾 N/A

3.3.3 Promotion and Graduation Requirements: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Describes promotion and retention policies for all grades to be served, demonstrating high expectations for all students.	⊠ Yes □ No
Structures are in place to support students at risk of dropping out, including those who are over age for their grade, those needing to access credit recovery options, and those performing significantly below grade level.	⊠ Yes □ No
If proposing a high school program, clearly articulates high school graduation requirements which align with Nevada Graduation Requirements and will ensure that students graduate college and career ready.	□ Yes □ No ⊠ N/A

3.3.4 Driving for Results: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
 All academic goals and targets are expressed in SMART terms (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) and demonstrate a commitment to ensuring the success of all students including students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, at-risk students, and students above or below grade level. Mission-specific academic goals explicitly complement or supplement, but do not replace, the SPCSA's performance standards. All such indicators, measures, and metrics are rigorous, valid, reliable, and objectively verifiable. Annual performance and growth goals align to the Nevada School Performance Framework and/or the Authority Performance Framework and will put the school on a trajectory to meet SPCSA performance standards. Quarterly performance targets can be used to develop a plan for monitoring and reporting academic performance gaps and a process for using data to support instruction and inform professional development. 	⊠ Yes □ No
Sound plan for measuring and reporting academic performance and progress of students and monitoring for disparities in academic performance between student groups.	⊠ Yes □ No
Explanation of corrective actions that will be taken if the school fails to meet achievement outcomes at the classroom, cohort, special population and/or school-wide level (throughout the year or at end of year), including the party responsible for implementing these actions.	⊠ Yes □ No
Internal assessment selections will provide sufficiently rich data for evaluation of the education program, are valid and reliable, and are fully align with state assessments, Nevada Academic Content Standards, and the curriculum as presented.	⊠ Yes □ No
The assessment plan is sufficiently detailed to demonstrate collection and analysis of individual student, student cohort, special populations, and school level data (interim, annual, year over year), including a clear process for setting and monitoring ambitious academic goals.	⊠ Yes □ No
Logical plan for using assessment data to drive key decisions aimed at improving academic outcomes.	□ Yes ⊠ No
Organizational and financial goals are aligned to the SPCSA's Performance Frameworks.	⊠ Yes □ No

3.3.5 At-Risk Students and Special Populations: Meets the Standard

	Meets the	
Criteria	Standard?	
At Risk Students		
Provides a clear and research-based process for identifying at-risk students and their needs, including those with academic and		
behavioral needs.	⊠ Yes □ No	
Outlines the methods according to which the school will remediate academically underperforming students, including the system		
according to which the school will track progress, facilitate teacher collaboration, and the research supporting the school's	□ Yes ⊠ No	
remediation strategy.	<u> </u>	
The school's Response to Intervention system differentiates planning for each student according to the significance of their need,	🖾 Yes	
providing a continuum of programs, strategies, and supports that corresponds with the needs identified for each student and is	🗆 No	
supported by research.	_	
Presents a reasonable plan and identifies the parties responsible for communicating with parents regarding remediation needs.	🖾 Yes	
	🗆 No	
Demonstrates that the school's response to early signs of behavioral and/or social emotional needs will be met with positive	🖾 Yes	
interventions and restorative justice practices. The school will utilize differentiated support for each student in collaboration with	□ No	
the students' parents, teachers, and with support, as needed, from other school staff.		
Special Populations		
Demonstrates the Committee to Form or CMO's track record of success serving a wide range of students with disabilities (mild,	🛛 Yes	
moderate, and severe), English language learners, homeless and migrant students, and intellectually gifted students.	🗆 No	
Clear demonstration and understanding of Nevada and federal laws and regulations governing services for special populations.	🖾 Yes	
	□ No	
For students with disabilities:	⊠ Yes	
Provides a logical plan to screen all students and to ensure that struggling students are evaluated for special education		
services early and accurately.		
 Presents a plan for student evaluation and developing IEPs that contain rigorous goals and instructional plans that are 		
suitable to meet those students' goals.		
 Presents a monitoring plan that will enable relevant staff to track the progress of all students with IEPs towards the 		
goals articulated in their respective plans.		
 Demonstrates that the school will be able to provide all special education and related services needed either by the 		
staff listed on their organization chart or identified external groups with whom they can contract to provide needed		
services. Specifies full Nevada licensure for all special education teachers/coordinators.		
 Articulates requirements and processes for monitoring services to students in need and plans to exit students who 		
attain sufficient progress.		
 Articulates process for monitoring compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to serving students with 		
disabilities.		
• For middle and high schools, presents a logical and thorough plan for developing and implementing transition plans.		
For English language learners	🖾 Yes	
Processes for identifying English language learners are well-defined, including administration of placement assessments	□ No	
and communications to parents and teachers.		
Indicates full Nevada licensure for all English language learners teachers/coordinators.		
• Describes the specific services that will be provided for students within and outside the classroom, including curriculum		
and instruction and exposure to co-teaching.		
Articulates requirements and processes for monitoring services to students in need and plans to exit students who		
attain sufficient progress.		
For intellectually gifted students, demonstrates that the school will extend their learning offerings such that those students have		
access to unique, tailored opportunities. The proposed staffing structure demonstrates sufficient staffing and teacher support to		
implement the plan.		
For homeless/migrant students:	🗆 Yes	
• Presents a logical and systematic method according to which the school will identify homeless and/or migrant students.	🖾 No	
• Clear plan to assess and meet the needs of students and identified as homeless and/or migrant.		

3.3.6 Professional Development: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Clearly describes professional development that will be offered during the incubation year to effectively support the academic	🖾 Yes
program, including the topics to be covered and any specialized components of the educational model.	🗆 No
Provides a summary of professional development opportunities throughout the school year to effectively support the academic	🛛 Yes
program, including topics and structures.	🗆 No
Explains teacher coaching plans that will effectively support teacher development, including responsible parties.	🛛 Yes

State Public Charter School Authority

New Charter School Application Report and Recommendation - Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence Page 12 of 27

	🗆 No
Demonstrates how professional development will support all teachers in meeting the needs of special populations including	🖾 Yes
students with disabilities and English language learners.	🗆 No
Clear identification of the persons or organizations responsible for professional development. If professional development is to be	🖾 Yes
provided by contracted third party, the third party has appropriate expertise.	🗆 No
Cost of any third party provided professional development is reflected in the budget.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No

3.3.7 School Culture: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Appropriate and effective strategies to support a school climate that will allow for fulfillment of the school's stated mission and vision, as well as the school's stated academic goals.	⊠ Yes □ No
Describes a concrete plan for norming social/cultural expectations at the start of each year as well as for students who enter mid- year.	⊠ Yes □ No
Provides plans to establish a culture of high expectations with students/families and teachers/staff and promote a positive school culture.	⊠ Yes □ No
Presents well-defined goals around school culture and plans to monitor progress.	⊠ Yes □ No
Presents research-based and age-appropriate strategies to support students' social and emotional needs.	⊠ Yes □ No
Dress code and/or uniform policy is age-appropriate, and the applicant articulates how the proposed school will ensure that uniform requirements do not create a barrier for economically disadvantaged students.	⊠ Yes □ No

3.3.8 Student Discipline: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Presents sound policies for student discipline, suspension, and expulsion including procedures for due process which align to	🛛 Yes
Nevada statutes and regulations.	🗆 No
Describes the proactive use of restorative justice practices, including prior to suspensions or expulsions.	🗆 Yes
	🖾 No
Clear designation of staff responsible for implementing the discipline plan, including maintenance of student records and data.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No
A plan to ensure that certain student populations are not disproportionately impacted by discipline policies, including protection	🛛 Yes
of the rights of students with disabilities.	🗆 No
Goals for student behavior are clear and measurable. There is a plan, and designated personnel, for monitoring and reporting	🛛 Yes
related to behavior goals as well as ongoing maintenance of discipline records.	🗆 No

3.3.9 School Calendar and Schedule: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Proposed Calendar and schedule meets or exceeds applicable statutory and regulatory requirements:	🖾 Yes
Minimum of 180 (or equivalent) days of instruction.	🗆 No
 43,200 minutes of classroom instruction/year for grades k-2. 	
• 54,000 minutes of classroom instruction/year for grades 3-6.	
• 59,400 minutes of classroom instruction /year for grades 7-12.	
Minimum of 120 hours of instruction for High School courses.	
Calendar and schedule support implementation of the academic program.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No
Alignment between teacher and student schedules.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No
Outlines meaningful goals for student attendance and plans to monitor and intervene to prevent students from becoming	🛛 Yes
chronically absent.	🗆 No
Presents sound policies for student attendance and truancy including procedures for due process that comply with state laws and	🗆 Yes
are customized to the charter school.	🛛 No

4.1 SECTION RATINGS

Operations Plan		Meets the Standard
	Board Governance	Meets the Standard
	Leadership Team	Meets the Standard
	Staffing Plan	Meets the Standard
	Human Resources	Meets the Standard
	Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Meets the Standard
	Incubation Year Development	Meets the Standard
	Services	Meets the Standard
	Facilities	Approaches the Standard

4.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overall, the Operations Plan was rated as Meets the Standard. Seven of the eight sections were determined to Meet the Standard as articulated in the new charter application evaluation rubric.

The Board Governance section was rated as Meets the Standard. Upon the initial review of the application, the review team had questions regarding how engaged proposed board members had been during the development of the application. Additionally, the review team had concerns about the lack of financial expertise on the proposed board. During the capacity interview, it quickly became evident that the proposed board had been thoroughly engaged with he proposed school and had a thorough understanding of the role of the board in governing the school. The proposed board was able to demonstrate a wide array of knowledge that would be both useful in overseeing the school and useful engaging families and members of the community on behalf of the school. Leading up to the capacity interview, the Committee to Form indicated that in addition to the seven proposed board members included in the application, three additional proposed board members had been identified, including one with financial expertise, and all three of these new members were present and engaged during the capacity interview. Additionally, the board was able to provide clear delineation of authority and working relationships between the governing body, school staff, and board committees. The proposed board was also able to demonstrate and explain specific strategies to ensure the governing body would be representative of the identified community. Furthermore, the proposed board described plans for engaging with the community in order to ensure that community voice is meaningfully incorporated into the governing body's decision-making.

The Leadership Team section was rated as Meets the Standard. The proposed school leader was able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the school's proposed model in the written application, but the review team had concerns regarding support for the school leader in implementation. This concern was alleviated during the capacity interview when all members of the team were able to speak to specifics of the school and describe ways in which the board would be an active supporter of the school's leader in the early years of operation while also ensuring the school leader was held to high standards. Additionally, the proposed structure of the school leadership team will allow for effective management of the school, and staff, and demonstrates appropriate assignment of management roles and distribution of duties.

The Staffing Plan was rated as Meets the Standard. While the Committee to Form noted that final staffing numbers would be dependent upon enrollment, the capacity interview and responses to clarifying question provided clarification on staffing discrepancies in the application. While the review team initially had questions regarding the support teachers would receive to implement the unique school model, in response to clarifying questions, the Applicant explained the how the professional development plan would focus on arts integration through the implementation of the summer institute prior to the school year start. Overall, the Applicant was able to demonstrate reasonable student-teacher ratios

based on the proposed model and the plan appears to provide sufficient capacity to enable high-quality teacher support and development.

The Human Resources section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant articulated recruitment and hiring processes that would result in the hiring of high-quality teachers, leaders, and staff reflective of the student body. Additionally, the Applicant described strategies that would lead to a high likelihood that the school would be able to be fully staffed in year one. The Applicant is proposing to partner with Teach For America and The New Teacher Project to assist in identifying high quality candidates for hire. Additionally, the Applicant will ensure the hiring of high-quality teachers, leaders, and staff reflective of the student body through the development of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plan, conducting culturally responsive interviews, promoting cultural events and celebrations, creating affinity groups for staff members from underrepresented groups, and providing resources and support for staff members who experience discrimination or bias. The Committee to Form was also able to explain its reasoning for selecting the back-office provider which will assist with some human resources functions. With the provider's support, recruitment, hiring, and dismissal functions and processes, such as background checks, payroll, benefits, and employee relations, were clearly described.

The Student Recruitment and Enrollment section was rated as Meets the Standard. The review team was initially concerned with the capacity of the Committee to Form to implement a robust recruitment plan that would ensure the school was able to meet its year one enrollment projection of 260 students. However, after written responses to clarifying questions, and responses during the capacity interview, the Applicant was able to demonstrate that the recruitment and enrollment plan for year one, and subsequent years, was realistic, had appropriate targets, timelines, staff capacity, and monitoring plans to ensure the school meets its projections. At the time of the capacity interview, Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence was able to provide evidence of interest from over 100 eligible students primarily from the target zip codes. Furthermore, during the capacity interview, the Committee to Form further detailed the plan for maintaining engagement with parents of prospective students who had already demonstrated interest, including how the school would convert interest into actual applications for enrollment. The plan includes a Family Engagement and Outreach Coordinator who will design programs and implement strategies to engage parents and families in the schooling process.

The Incubation Year Development section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant was able to outline a reasonable plan with key milestones for the planning year, as well as concrete actions and accountability. Additionally, in response to clarifying questions, the Committee to Form outlined comprehensive leadership development plans that included training which was aligned with incubation year goals as well as the stated academic goals. Prior to submission of the application and after submission, the Applicant had already engaged with community partners and organizations that would assist the Committee to Form throughout year zero and ensure the staffing outlined for year zero would enable the school to reach its year zero milestones and goals. The proposed school leader will attend training and development opportunities centered on leader competencies through two leadership programs: Surge Academy and Attuned Fellows. Additionally, the proposed school leader is enrolled in Opportunity 180's Propel Incubator Fellow program and through the fellowship is currently serving as a founding assistant principal at a charter school in its first year of operation. The fellowship will provide continuous support for the school leader, including program research and development, mentoring, a leadership institute, and site visits. Furthermore, the Applicant proposes a Director of Operations will be hired on a part-time basis by January 30, 2024, and will move to full-time around early April 2024.

The Services section was rated as Meets the Standard. The Applicant provided a reasonable process and timeline for ensuring the school would have information technology infrastructure, equipment, software, and policies that would support the school operations and model. Furthermore, with the support of the back-office provider, the operations plan included logical plans for all essential and program-specific non-academic services. The Applicant is also proposing contracting with Revolution Food Services, to provide students with breakfast, snacks, and lunch that adhere to all federal nutritional guidelines and all other requirements. The school will also work to provide transportation starting in year one and plans to purchase one bus for year one and purchase a second bus beginning in Year two of operation.

The Facilities section was rated as Approaches the Standard. The narrative provided information regarding the facility needs and projected facility costs for the proposed school. In addition, the Committee to Form has identified key facilities partners to support the identification and development of a facility to meet the needs of the school. During the capacity interview, the Applicant indicated that a prospective facility within the identified zip codes has been identified. According to the Committee to Form, this facility would provide adequate space to ensure the school would be able to implement arts integration and project-based learning, as well as allow for student performances. The Committee to Form noted that the identified facility has adequate space to accommodate proposed enrollment in years one through three, when enrollment is projected to grow to 560 students. This identified facility may also be able to accommodate growth beyond year three. While this prospective facility is encouraging, given the short timeline to identify and prepare a facility, minor concerns remain regarding whether a facility will be ready in time for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

For these reasons, as well as those detailed within the rubric criteria below, the review committee and SPCSA staff rated the Operations Plan as Meets the Standard.

4.3 RUBRIC CRITERIA

The tables below provide details regarding each rubric criterion and whether it was determined to Meet the Standard. The criterion for which "No" is selected was either rated as Approaches the Standard or Does Not Meet the Standard as described in the new charter school application evaluation rubric and summarized in Appendix A.

4.3.1 Board Governance: Meets the Standard

	Meets the
Criteria	Standard?
Proposed governance structure is likely to ensure effective governance and meaningful oversight of school performance, operations, and financials.	⊠ Yes □ No
Clear delineation of authority and working relationship between the governing body, school staff and any committees, advisory bodies, and/or councils.	⊠ Yes □ No
The board puts into place a structure that enables it to collect the information it needs to evaluate the performance of the school.	⊠ Yes □ No
Demonstrates that the membership of the governing body will contribute the wide range of relevant knowledge, skills, and commitment needed to oversee a successful charter school, including but not limited to educational, financial, accounting, legal, and community experience and expertise, as well as special skill sets to reflect school-specific programs, if applicable (e.g., STEM, fine arts, blended learning, alternative programs, etc.). The proposed governing body members demonstrate capacity and expertise to successfully oversee a school.	⊠ Yes □ No
Provides evidence that the governing body fulfills (or describes reasonable and detailed plans to ensure that the governing body will fulfill) statutory requirements for board membership, including at minimum, one teacher or other person licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS; one teacher or other person licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS or a school administrator; one parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in the charter school who is not a teacher or an administrator at the charter school; and two individuals with knowledge and expertise in one or more of the following areas: accounting, financial services, law, or human resources.	⊠ Yes □ No
If the governing body is not fully developed, a clear plan and timeline for expanding capacity prior to the opening of the school.	⊠ Yes □ No □ N/A
Shows that the governing body is or describes specific strategies to ensure that the governing body will be representative of the identified community and describes plans for engaging with the community in order to ensure that community voice is meaningfully incorporated into the governing body's decision-making.	⊠ Yes □ No
There are no prohibited familial relationships between charter holder board members, charter holder board members and staff, or charter holder board members and CMO/EMO employees within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity nor any supervisory or business relationships.	⊠ Yes □ No
Proposed conflict of interest policy, ethics policy, and bylaws are reasonable and compliant. Bylaws contemplate a mechanism for removal of governing body members if needed.	⊠ Yes □ No
Provides plans for meaningful, appropriate training for board members on a regular basis. Governance training is provided by experienced, third parties and addresses on-boarding for new members, or when the composition of the board changes.	⊠ Yes □ No
Board training costs are reflected in the budget narrative assumptions and the budget calculations.	⊠ Yes □ No

Describes a reasonable process for resolving student/parent objections.	🛛 Yes

4.3.2 Leadership Team: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
The organizational chart clearly indicates all positions, delineating board and leadership roles and lines of authority.	⊠ Yes
The qualifications of the Committee to Form/CMO are demonstrable with empirical data related to student performance, including students from diverse backgrounds and experiences, students with disabilities, English language learners, and other special populations.	□ No ⊠ Yes □ No
The qualifications of the Committee to Form/CMO include experience with recruitment, hiring, and development of a highly effective staff.	⊠ Yes □ No
If identified, school leader demonstrates a range of experience serving all students (students with disabilities, English language learners, students in need of remediation, and students above or below grade level) including: leadership role at a high-performing and/or high growth school, experience establishing a high-performing culture with students and staff, and responsibility for significant student achievement gains with demographics similar to the proposed school. 	⊠ Yes □ No □ N/A
If the school leader is not yet identified, explains the timeframe and the method by which the board will recruit and select a candidate who demonstrates qualifications and competencies aligned with the school's mission and program and has experience working with special populations.	□ Yes □ No ⊠ N/A
Structure of the school leadership team will allow for effective management of the school and staff and demonstrates appropriate assignment of management roles and distribution of responsibilities for instructional leadership, curriculum, personnel, budgeting, financial management, special education and EL programming, legal compliance, state reporting, external relations, and any unique, school-specific staffing needs.	⊠ Yes □ No
School leadership team job descriptions or resumes identify qualifications and competencies of the administration that align with the school's mission and program and demonstrate capacity to successfully manage the school.	⊠ Yes □ No
Comprehensive plan for coaching, support, and evaluation of school leadership. The board articulates a clear, ambitious, data- driven set of standards and criteria that the school leader must satisfy to keep the school on track to achieve its vision.	⊠ Yes □ No

4.3.3 Staffing Plan: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Aligns to the mission, vision, and proposed academic program.	⊠ Yes □ No
Matches the proposed budget and is explicitly aligned to both budget narrative assumptions and to budget calculations.	⊠ Yes □ No
Demonstrates an understanding of expected student population and aligns to the applicant's commitment to meet the needs of special populations and the community the school intends to serve.	⊠ Yes □ No
Ensures sufficient capacity to enable high-quality teacher support/development, student/family support, effective school operations, and compliance with all applicable policies and procedures.	⊠ Yes □ No
Demonstrates reasonable student-teacher ratios based on the proposed model and statutory student-teacher ratios for special education are met (22:1 for students with severe disabilities).	⊠ Yes □ No

4.3.4 Human Resources: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Articulates recruitment and hiring processes and strategies likely to result in the hiring of high-quality teachers, leaders, and staff reflective of the student body.	⊠ Yes □ No
Describes a feasible compensation structure and rewards/incentives that are likely to attract and retain high-performing teachers.	⊠ Yes □ No
Essential recruitment, hiring, and dismissal functions and processes, such as background checks, payroll, benefits, and employee relations, are clearly described and responsible parties are identified.	⊠ Yes □ No
School performance management system is likely to retain and promote talented staff, allows for re-structuring and removal of staff as needed, creates opportunities for leadership development, and sets clear expectations.	⊠ Yes □ No
School performance management system identifies low-performing teacher or leader performance, provides plans, support, and training for improvement, and provides the steps the school leadership will take in instances of persistent low-performance.	⊠ Yes □ No

4.3.5 Student Recruitment and Enrollment: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
 Recruitment and enrollment plan for year 1 and subsequent years Leverages proactive, grassroots strategies such as door-to-door visits, open houses, and forums, and community conversations over the internet, social media, or other passive tactics which disproportionately benefit more advantaged populations. Includes specific plans to ensure equal access to interested families including families in poverty, students zoned to attend 1- and 2-star schools, students with disabilities, EL students, and other at-risk students as defined in the SPCSA's Needs Assessment. Demonstrates an understanding of the identified community. Is likely to allow the school to enroll a representative student population based on surrounding zoned schools or a mission-specific educationally disadvantaged population. 	⊠ Yes □ No
Recruitment and enrollment plan for year 1 and subsequent years includes realistic and appropriate targets, timelines, staff capacity, and monitoring plan to provide confidence that the school will meet its minimum enrollment. <i>Note, the enrollment audit for new schools which determines initial per pupil funding is conducted on or before June 15 of each year.</i>	⊠ Yes □ No
The application and enrollment process adequately addresses and is compliant with Nevada laws and regulations regarding notification to families within a 2-mile radius during the incubation year, application and enrollment timelines, lotteries, weighted lotteries, enrollment preferences, and backfilling vacant seats when students withdraw.	⊠ Yes □ No
The planned enrollment numbers for years 1 through 6, including annual growth, is reasonable and supported by a clear rationale.	⊠ Yes □ No
The recruitment and enrollment plan as well as planned enrollment numbers for year 1 and subsequent years are aligned with the staffing plan and budget, including projected recruitment expenses.	⊠ Yes □ No
Demonstrated interest from parents of students in the appropriate grade level to enroll in year 1 and originating in the identified communities or zip codes to be served (approximately 30% of year 1 enrollment). Demand should be demonstrated through meeting sign in sheets or intent to enroll forms that capture, at minimum, parent name, student grade levels, and zip code of residence.	⊠ Yes □ No
Proactive and detailed plan for maintaining engagement with parents of prospective students who have already demonstrated interest and converting interest into actual applications for enrollment.	⊠ Yes □ No

4.3.6 Incubation Year Development: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Provides key milestones for the planning year, as well as concrete actions and accountability, which will ensure that the school is	🛛 Yes
ready for a successful launch. Incubation year plan:	🗆 No
 Includes necessary activities/milestones to ensure that any program-specific components will be ready to begin on the 	
first day of school.	
 Includes necessary activities/milestones to ensure the school will be operationally ready to open. 	
 Includes necessary activities/milestones to ensure that the <u>SPCSA Pre-Opening Requirements</u> will be met. Note it is not 	
necessary to duplicate every SPCSA pre-opening requirement into your incubation year plan. Instead, focus on the	
activities that will ensure success and the major milestones that must be met.	
 Clearly identifies the individuals responsible for leading year 0 initiatives and meeting year 0 milestones. 	
If a third party (including an CMO/EMO) will implement portions of the Year 0 plan, these actions should align to the contract or	🗆 Yes
additional documentation presented later in the application.	🗆 No
	🖾 N/A
Outlines comprehensive leadership development plans that include training aligned with incubation year goals as well as stated	🛛 Yes
academic goals.	🗆 No
Outlines the function of any employees in Year 0, as well as the funding source for associated compensation. The staffing outlined	🛛 Yes
for Year 0 will enable the school to reach its Year 0 milestones and goals.	🗆 No
Startup expenses are reflected in the budget narrative assumptions and the budget calculations.	🛛 Yes
	🗆 No

4.3.7 Services: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Operations plan includes logical plans for all essential and program-specific non-academic services, including, but not limited to transportation, food service, facilities management, nursing, and purchasing processes, and school safety.	⊠ Yes □ No
Articulates a reasonable process and timeline for ensuring school will have information technology infrastructure, equipment, software, and policies to support the school operations and model, including plans for data security and privacy.	⊠ Yes □ No

State Public Charter School Authority

New Charter School Application Report and Recommendation - Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence Page 18 of 27

Operations plan for services and information technology demonstrates sufficient staff/contactor capacity to implement the plan, including clear lines of authority.	⊠ Yes □ No
Costs of services are realistic and align with budget.	⊠ Yes □ No
Articulates metrics and processes for evaluating effectiveness of services.	⊠ Yes □ No

4.3.8 Facilities: Approaches the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
Facility plans in the short and long-term are reasonable and meet the needs of the projected student population and proposed program.	⊠ Yes □ No
 If a facility (including a temporary facility) has been identified: Evidence that facility will be appropriate for the educational program of the school and adequate for the projected student enrollment. Projected costs associated with the proposed facility, including purchase price, rent, utilities, insurance, and maintenance, as applicable, are reasonable and supported by evidence. A sound plan for construction, renovations, or tenant improvements including sufficient funds and a realistic timeline for completion. A sound plan, which demonstrates an understanding of the local permitting requirements and processes, for ensuring that the facility will have proper permitting to operate as a school. Evidence that the applicant has engaged with local jurisdiction(s) and municipalities, specifically the applicable planning department/division and traffic department/division. Assurance that the proposed facility will comply with applicable building codes, health and safety laws, and with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Charter schools must demonstrate that a facility has been inspected and meets requirements of any applicable building codes, codes for the prevention of fire, and codes pertaining to safety, health, and sanitation 30 days before the first day of school. 	☐ Yes ⊠ No ☐ N/A
 If a facility (or permanent facility) has not yet been identified: Description of anticipated facilities needs that will be appropriate for the educational program of the school and adequate for the projected student enrollment. Inclusion of costs associated with the anticipated facilities needs in the budget including renovation, rent, utilities, insurance, and maintenance. Evidence to indicate that facilities-related budget assumptions are realistic based on anticipated location, size, etc. A realistic, timebound plan for selecting and preparing a facility that will meet the programmatic needs and budgetary constraints. A sound plan, which demonstrates an understanding of the local permitting requirements and processes, for ensuring that the facility will have proper permitting to operate as a school. A clear, time bound plan to engage with local jurisdiction(s) and municipalities, specifically the applicable planning department/division and traffic department/division. Assurance that the proposed location will be in compliance with applicable building codes, health and safety laws, and with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Charter schools must demonstrate that a facility has been inspected and meets requirements of any applicable building codes, codes for the prevention of fire, and codes pertaining to safety, health and sanitation 30 days before the first day of school. 	□ Yes □ No ⊠ N/A
Demonstrated capacity to manage facility selection, leasing, acquisition, development, renovation, and management, as applicable. If Committee to Form or CMO has identified a facility development partner, Committee to Form or CMO has thorough plans for managing the partner relationship and ensuring that the partner meets expectations.	⊠ Yes □ No
Plans for facility maintenance will ensure that the facility provides a safe and clean learning environment for students.	⊠ Yes □ No

5 FINANCIAL PLAN

5.1 SECTION RATINGS

Financial Plan

Meets the Standard

5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Financial Plan was rated as Meets the Standard. Initially, the review team had concerns that the Committee to Form did not have an individual with financial expertise that would be part of the proposed governing board. After the submission of the application, the Committee to Form was able to add this individual and during the capacity interview the individual demonstrated a thorough understanding of the proposed school and its budget. The Applicant has also engaged a third-party vendor with a strong track record of successful financial work on behalf of charter schools. This vendor would assist in providing accurate and timely financial information to decision-makers. The Applicant was also able to demonstrate it would protect mission-critical expenses, and there was sufficient detail and specificity of assumptions for all budget line items to allow for the assessment of fiscal viability. The application presented appropriate segregation of financial duties which align to organizational charts, leadership roles and responsibilities, and vendor responsibilities.

For these reasons, as well as those detailed within the rubric criteria below, the review committee and SPCSA staff rated the Financial Plan as Meets the Standard.

5.3 RUBRIC CRITERIA

The tables below provide details regarding each rubric criterion and whether it was determined to Meet the Standard. The criterion for which "No" is selected was either rated as Approaches the Standard or Does Not Meet the Standard as described in the new charter school application evaluation rubric and summarized in Appendix A.

5.3.1 Financial Plan: Meets the Standard

Criteria	Meets the Standard?
The financial manager has the appropriate expertise to provide accurate and timely financial information to decision-makers.	⊠ Yes □ No
The school protects mission-critical expenses when faced with budget cuts and commits to maintaining financial viability. The budget does not appropriate for any fund any amount in excess of the budget resources of that fund (in any single year).	⊠ Yes □ No
There is appropriate segregation of financial duties which align to organizational charts, leadership roles and responsibilities, and vendor responsibilities, as applicable.	⊠ Yes □ No
Control systems ensure that only allowable expenses will be made and that all expenses will be coded appropriately.	⊠ Yes □ No
Projections are accurate, conservative, and legally compliant. This includes appropriate allocations for required expenditures such as sponsorship fee, Public Employee Retirement System contributions, etc.	⊠ Yes □ No
Budget priorities are consistent with the proposed model, including but not limited to educational program, staffing, and facility, and budget priorities are aligned with the proposed enrollment plan, including any enrollment growth.	⊠ Yes □ No
Sufficient detail and specificity of assumptions for all budget line items to allow for the assessment of fiscal viability.	⊠ Yes □ No
Clear understanding of monthly cash flow that demonstrates viability of the school.	⊠ Yes □ No
Current ratio based on proposed budget of at least 1.1 on a monthly basis is either 1.1 or better or is between 1.0 and 1.1 and trending positive from the immediately prior year.	⊠ Yes □ No
The debt-to-asset ratio based on proposed budget is less than 0.9.	⊠ Yes □ No
Sufficient cash reserves to cover operations.	⊠ Yes □ No

All funds from external sources that are included in the budget are guaranteed with cash in hand or letter of award and grant terms.	⊠ Yes □ No
There is no evidence that the school ever will become insolvent or lack access to the necessary amount of liquidity.	⊠ Yes □ No
Assumptions about facilities in all financial statements correspond to a conservative facility plan and account for possible contingencies.	⊠ Yes □ No

6.1 TIMELINE

SPCSA staff offered a five-part training series regarding the New Charter School Application process. Each training was recorded and posted to the SPCSA's website: <u>https://charterschools.nv.gov/OpenASchool/Application_Packet/</u>. Below is a summary of the training that was provided.

- December 5, 2022 Application Overview and Process
- January 11, 2023 Application Cover Sheet and Meeting the Need Section
- January 24, 2023 Academic Plan
- February 9, 2023 Financial Plan
- February 27, 2023 Operations Plan and Addendum Section

Below are key dates related to the Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence charter school application.

- January 3, 2023 Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence Notice of Intent is received
- April 30, 2023 Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence Application is received
- May 17, 2023 Memo sent to CCSD soliciting input⁴
- July 7, 2023 Clarifying Questions sent to Applicant; responses received within 3 business days
- July 20, 2023 Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence capacity interview is conducted
- August 2, 2023 Input provided by CCSD
- August 25, 2023 Recommendation is presented

6.2 CAPACITY INTERVIEW

Based on the independent and collective review of the application, the review committee conducted a capacity interview of the Applicant to assess the capacity to execute the application's overall plan. The capacity interview for Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence was conducted on July 20, 2023 and lasted approximately 120-minutes. All members of the Committee to Form attended the interview. Additionally, one representative from EdTec, a potential back-office provider attended the capacity interview. Questions during the capacity interview focused primarily on these areas:

- Mission and Vision
- Targeted Plan
- Parent and Community Involvement
- Transformational Change
- Curriculum and Instructional Design
- At-Risk Students and Special Populations
- School Culture
- Student Discipline
- Board Governance
- Leadership Team
- Staffing Plan
- Student Recruitment and Enrollment
- Facilities

⁴ Pursuant to NRS 388A.249, the SPCSA solicited input from the Clark County School District regarding this application. NRS 388A.249(2)(a) requires that "[t]he proposed sponsor of a charter school shall, in reviewing an application to form a charter school...If the proposed sponsor is not the board of trustees of a school district, solicit input from the board of trustees of the school district in which the proposed charter school will be located."

- Financial Plan

Prior to the capacity interview, the review committee sent the Applicant team a list of clarifying questions to provide an additional opportunity for details and information to be presented. These responses were considered by the review team and were used to better inform the capacity interview.

Lastly, the capacity interview included a scenario-based question that probed the Committee to Form's capacity to review and provide action steps based on data at the end of the school's second trimester. The data the Committee to Form was asked to review included academic data from mid-year MAP assessments, discipline data, and projected revenue for the fiscal year.

APPENDIX A

THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION "NOTICE OF INTENT"

The charter school application process begins with the submission of a written "notice of intent" to submit a new charter school application. See NAC 388A.260(2). This notice of intent is a brief document, submitted to the SPCSA 90 days prior to the submission of the applicant's new charter school application, stating, among other things, the name of the proposed charter school, contact information for the applicant, the proposed location of the charter school, and the grade levels and number of students the proposed charter school seeks to serve.

THE SPCSA'S PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION WINDOW

In December 2021, Nevada's Legislative Commission approved proposed regulation R043-21, which amended Nevada Administrative Code 388A.260(1). With this change, the SPCSA moved from two new charter school application windows each year (previously in January and July of each year), to a single annual application window. As a result, new charter school applications now must be submitted to the SPCSA between April 15 and April 30 of each year.

Part of the intent behind the change to NAC 388A.260(1), and the move from two annual application windows to a single application window in April of each year, was to allow sufficient time to ensure that a newly approved charter school opens successfully. That is, upon receipt of a new charter school application in April, the SPCSA's review process (as described in greater detail below), typically takes four to eight months – meaning that a new charter school application that is received in April will be approved or denied by the SPCSA in August or December. This timeline allows a newly approved charter school nine to 12 months to successfully execute the charter school's incubation year plan and ensures a successfully opening of the charter school.

Note that NAC 388A.260(1) still contains a "good cause" provision whereby a new charter school applicant may, for "good cause," request that the SPCSA accept a new charter school application outside the annual April 15 – April 30 window. However, if the SPCSA approves a "good cause" exemption to submit a new charter school application outside of the annual April application window, a notice of intent to submit a new charter school application must still be submitted to the SPCSA 90 days prior to receipt of the actual application. In practice, this means that upon approval of a good cause exemption by the SPCSA, allowing an applicant to submit a new charter school application outside of the typical April application window, an applicant will submit its new charter school application 90 days after approval of the good cause exemption and receipt of the applicant's notice of intent.

THE REQUIRED CONTENTS OF A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

NRS 388A.246 and NAC 388A.135-160 detail the requirements related to a new charter school application. Note that these statutes and regulations related to the required contents of a new charter school applications are extensive.⁵

⁵ Although the following list is not all-inclusive, among the required contents of a new charter school application are the following:

- The name of the proposed charter school;
- The date on which the proposed charter school seeks to open;
- Grade levels and the proposed enrollment that the charter school seeks to serve;
- A summary of the plan for the proposed charter school, including the mission, vision and goals of the proposed charter school;
- Information regarding the indicators, metrics and measures that the proposed charter school will use to evaluate the academic, organizational, and financial performance of the proposed charter school;
- The organization structure of the proposed charter school;
- Information regarding the Committee to Form and the proposed governance of the charter school;

COMPLETENESS CHECK

After receiving a new charter school application, the SPCSA, pursuant to NRS 388A.249(3)(a)(2) and NAC 388A.260(2) conducts a "completeness check" of the application to ensure that the new charter school application contains all the information required by NRS 388A.246 and NAC 388A.135-160. If a new charter school application does not contain all the information required by Nevada's charter school statutes and regulations, if practicable, the SPCSA follows up with the applicant to obtain the required information. If not, the applicant is asked to submit a new, complete charter school application during the next application cycle.

WITHDRAWAL OF A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

NAC 388A.260(3) allows an applicant to withdraw a new charter school application upon written notice to the SPCSA. An applicant may decide to withdraw its application due to significant concerns regarding the completeness of the application, or because it is evident after a cursory review of the new charter school application that the proposed charter school application is not fully developed.

THE SPCSA'S REVIEW OF A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Once a new charter school application is deemed complete in accordance with 388A.249(3)(a)(2) and NAC 388A.260(2), the SPCSA begins its substantive review of the new charter school application.

NRS 388A.249(2)(a) requires the SPCSA to conduct a "thorough review" of the new charter school application. This "thorough review" requires that the SPCSA establish a review team to review and evaluate the new charter school application and include in the review team persons with knowledge and expertise regarding the academic, financial, and organizational facets of charter school that are not employed by the SPCSA – these persons are often referred to as "external reviewers." NRS 388A.249(2)(a) and NAC 388A.260(4).

As part of this "thorough evaluation" the SPCSA is required to conduct an interview with the applicant to elicit clarifying or additional information about the proposed charter school and determine the ability of the applicant to establish a high-quality charter school – this is the "capacity interview" conducted by the SPCSA. NRS 388A.249(2)(b) and NAC 388A.260(4)(b)(2)

- Information regarding the proposed administrative head of the proposed charter school;
- Information regarding how teachers and staff will be recruited and hired;
- Course and curriculum information, including any dual-credit programs for high school students (if applicable);
- Information regarding serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners, an at-risk student;
- The organization structure of the proposed charter school;
- Information regarding the Committee to Form and the proposed governance of the charter school;
- Information regarding the proposed administrative head of the proposed charter school;
- Information regarding how teachers and staff will be recruited and hired;
- The proposed charter school's calendar;
- Information regarding any proposed facility for the proposed charter school;
- Equipment, furniture, and fixtures that the proposed charter school will utilize;
- Transportation, if applicable;
- Health and safety requirements;
- Student records;
- Extracurricular activities and dress code;
- Discipline policies;
- Budget;
- Enrollment and any lottery process and procedures;
- Information regarding required insurance

In its review of the charter school application, the SPCSA is required to evaluate the new charter school application based on documented evidence collected through the process of reviewing the application and the information gleaned during the capacity interview. See NRS 388A.249(2)(b) and (e).

The determination regarding whether to grant a new charter school application is to be based on the ability of the applicants to establish a high-quality charter school. NRS 388A.249(2)(b). The SPCSA may approve a new charter school application if:

- The application complies with all charter school laws and regulations;
- The application is complete;
- The applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the SPCSA's new charter school application rubric demonstrating that approval of the new charter school application will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school;
- The application meets the criteria contained in the SPCSA's academic and demographic needs assessment; and
- Sufficient input has been received the public. NRS 388A.249(3).

The North Star of the review team's evaluation of the new charter school application is the SPCSA's new charter school application rubric. NRS 388A.249(2)(b). The rubric is broken into four major sections, plus an addendum. Rating options for each section are Meets the Standard; Approaches the Standard; Does not Meet the Standard. These are defined as follows:

- **Meets the Standard:** The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation; presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school is expected to operate; and inspires confidence in the applicant's capacity to carry out the plan effectively and result in a 4- or 5-star school.
- **Approaches the Standard:** The response meets the criteria in many respects but lacks detail and/or requires additional information in one or more areas.
- **Does Not Meet the Standard:** The response is undeveloped or incomplete; demonstrates lack of preparation and/or raises serious questions about the coherence of the application and whether it is original work; raises substantial concerns about the viability of the plan or the applicant's ability to carry it out.

Detailed descriptions of each rubric item can be found in the full rubric located on the SPCSA Application website: <u>http://charterschools.nv.gov/OpenASchool/Application_Packet/</u>

Once the review team reviews and scores the new charter school application, the SPCSA's Executive Director, or his or her designee, forwards his or her recommendation to the SPCSA Board for its consideration. NAC 388A.260(6)

THE SPCSA'S APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

The SPCSA Board is required to consider a new charter school application at a public meeting held no more than 120 days (or later if agreed to by the applicant) after receipt of the new charter school application. NRS 388A.255(1).

RESUBMISSION AND APPEAL OF A DENIAL OF A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

If a new charter application is denied, an unsuccessful applicant will be provided with a written notice setting out the deficiencies contained in the new charter school application. If the applicant chooses to do so, the applicant may resubmit the applicant's new charter school application within 30 days after receiving the written notice of deficiencies. NRS 388A.255(2). Given the lengthy and rigorous application process utilized by the SPCSA in regard to charter applications, as well as the limited timeframe specified in NRS 388A.255(2) for an unsuccessful applicant to resubmit their charter application, the SPCSA encourages only those unsuccessful applicants that the SPCSA has found limited or specific areas where the application does not meet standards to resubmit their charter application. Unsuccessful

applicants that the SPCSA has found numerous or significant issues within the application that do not meet standard are encouraged to submit a new charter application during the SPCSA's next application window.

If a new charter school application is denied after resubmission, the unsuccessful applicant may then appeal the denial to the district court in which the proposed charter school was to be located. NRS 388A.255(3).