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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 11b.iii: Recommendations for Explore Academy Based on 2022-2023 Academic Performance
DATE: November 3, 2023

As the Authority is aware, the Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results for the 2022-2023 school year. All public schools in the state of Nevada are issued a star rating when all data points are available.

Additionally, all SPCSA-sponsored charter schools are evaluated on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework (Framework), pursuant to [NRS 388A.273](#). The Framework provides additional metrics for charter school academic achievement and proficiency, including academic growth; disparities in academic achievement and proficiency; and graduation rates, as well as college and career readiness, when applicable.

Any school(s) demonstrating underperformance that has the potential to trigger revocation proceedings in the next 3-5 years should academic performance not improve should be issued a formal Notice to ensure the school and its governing board are aware of the concerns ([NRS 388A.300](#) and [388A.330](#)). Underperformance is defined by [NAC 388A.350](#) as any school receiving a rating below 3 stars in the NSPF or schools that have not consistently complied with the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. As a reminder, the Authority has three levels of intervention when schools do not meet academic standards. These levels are as follows:

- Notice of Concern
- Notice of Breach
- Notice of Intent to Terminate

The academic performance of Explore Academy for the last five school years is provided below, as available.

- For the 2018-19 school year, NSPF index scores and star ratings were calculated, but SPCSA Academic Performance Framework (Framework) ratings are unavailable. They were informational only and not released publicly.
- For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, NSPF index scores, NSPF star ratings, and SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings were not calculated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the 2021-22 school year, only NSPF index scores, not NSPF star ratings, were calculated. SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings were calculated.

While the 2022-23 academic performance of the Explore Academy high school program did not meet rating requirements, the middle school program did not meet the three-star NSPF or the Meets Standard on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework threshold.

Explore Academy	2018-2019 Index Score	2018-2019 Star Rating	2021-2022 Index Score	2021-2022 Framework	2022-2023 Index Score	2022-2023 Star Rating	2022-2023 Framework
Middle School	School Not Open		18.8	31.2- Does Not Meet Standard	11.1	1	18.6— Below Standard
High School			N/A	N/A	20.0	Not Rated	N/A

Per the Authority action on October 13, 2023, to issue a notice to schools with an NSPF rating of one- or two- stars and an SPCSA Academic Performance Framework rating of Below or Does Not meet Standard, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority issue a Notice of Concern to Explore Academy regarding the middle school program. Given this recommendation, SPCSA staff also plans to carefully review the school’s performance for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, the school must include an academic goal in their School Performance Plan. This academic goal should measurably impact student academic performance.

Additionally, per [NRS 388A.367](#), any school rated 1- or 2- stars is required to mail a written notification to the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled that includes information on the school’s star rating and a list of other public schools to which a pupil may transfer if the charter school closes or adopts changes which a parent or legal guardian finds unacceptable. The school must also post a notification on their website. Finally, [NRS 388A.367](#) requires the governing body of qualifying public charter schools to hold a public hearing within 30 days of sending out the required notification so as to provide all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss actions and solicit feedback for continued academic growth and improvement. Staff will monitor compliance with these statutory requirements.

Proposed Motion: Approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Explore Academy—Middle.