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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 11.c.i: Recommendations for Beacon 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 Beacon 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.

Beacon 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
High School	10.56	1	3.7	17.2- Below Standard	4.4	1	17.6- Below Standard

It is important to note that Beacon Academy of Nevada falls under both the state’s Alternative Performance Framework (APF) as well as its own, unique framework given the distinctive student population the school serves. Specifically, Beacon’s charter contract stipulates that students are only eligible for enrollment if they are at least sixteen (16) years of age¹ and meet one of the following criteria:

- Are significantly credit deficient;
- Are or have been suspended or expelled;
- Are a habitual discipline problem;
- Are under court jurisdiction or adjudicated to be in need of supervision;
- Have an IEP.

Currently, Beacon Academy is the only charter school to have received approval from the State Board of Education to be included in the APF. Staff firmly believes that both the APF and the results under the school-specific framework provide a more accurate and detailed report of the school’s progress.

Given these factors, SPCSA staff is recommending that the Authority take no action regarding Beacon Academy of Nevada at this time.

¹ At the June 28, 2019, Board meeting, the Authority approved Beacon’s request to serve only prospective students that were at least 16 years of age.