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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Recommendations for Democracy Prep Nevada Based on 2023-2024
Academic Performance
DATE: November 15, 2024

As the Authority is aware, the Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results for the 2023-2024 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 Democracy Prep Nevada for the last six 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.
- For the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, NSPF index scores, star ratings, and the SPCSA Academic Performance Frameworks were calculated.

Democracy Prep Nevada	2018-2019 Index Score and Star Rating	2021-2022 Index Score	2021-2022 Framework	2022-2023 Index Score and Star Rating	2022-2023 Framework	2023-2024 Index Score and Star Rating	2023-2024 Framework
Elementary School	41 2-star	46.5	53.9 Meets Standard	35 2-star	44 Does Not Meet Standard	19 1-star	25.4 Does Not Meet Standard
Middle School	82.5 5-star	57.5	69.5 Meets Standard	57 3-star	69.2 Meets Standard	38.5 2-star	47.1 Does Not Meet Standard
High School	26.15 Not Rated	45.2	39.1 Does Not Meet Standard	57 3-star	53.2 Meets Standard	50 3-star	43 Does Not Meet Standard

Democracy Prep Nevada was issued an academic Notice of Concern regarding its elementary school during the 2018-2019 school year. The Notice of Concern was continued for the 2022-23 school year due to a 2-star NSPF rating and a Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. For the 2023-24 school year, the elementary school earned a 1-star NSPF rating and a Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. The elementary school has been identified as an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) school due to the IEP student group performing in the lowest 5th percentile. The school will spend three years as an ATSI school and must meet certain criteria to exit. Due to the decline in performance for the 2023-24 school year, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority issue a Notice of Breach to Democracy Prep Nevada regarding the elementary school.

Additionally, the middle school campus at Democracy Prep Nevada earned a 2-star NSPF rating and a Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework for the 2023-24 school year. Based on this academic performance, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority issue a Notice of Concern regarding the middle school.

Given this Notice recommendation, SPCSA staff will ensure the school is scheduled for a site evaluation for the 2024-25 school year to carefully review the school's performance for the 2024-2025 school year. 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 has been monitoring compliance with these statutory requirements.

Proposed Motion: Approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Breach to the Democracy Prep elementary school and a Notice of Concern to the Democracy Prep middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year.