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*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

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**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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

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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 Explore Academy for the last two school years is provided below:

Explore Academy	2022-2023 Index Score and Star Rating	2022-2023 SPCSA Framework	2023-2024 Index Score and Star Rating	2023-2024 SPCSA Framework
Middle School	11.1 1-star	18.6 Below Standard	13 1-star	20.8 Does Not Meet Standard
High School	20.0 Not Rated	Not Rated	38.8 Not Rated	Not Rated

Explore Academy was issued an academic Notice of Concern regarding its middle school during the 2022-23 school year. 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 Black/African American student group performing in the lowest 5<sup>th</sup> percentile. The school will spend three years as an ATSI school and must meet certain criteria to exit. Because the middle school received a second, consecutive 1-star rating, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority issue a Notice of Breach to Explore Academy regarding the middle school.

It is also critical to note that [NRS 388A.300](#) requires the SPCSA to terminate the charter contract of a school who receives a 1-star rating three times within five consecutive years. Should the middle school level receive a 1-star rating within the next three years, the charter contract must be terminated for the middle school (6-8).

Explore’s high school has not yet been rated. The 2023 – 2024 school year was their first year with a graduation class; however, they did not have the minimum 10 student records required to receive points in the graduation rate measure of the NSPF. This means that the high school will not be rated until at least September 2026. The SPCSA encourages the high school to enroll enough students to ensure they are eligible for a rating in Fall 2026.

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 as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Explore Academy middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year.