



# Explore Knowledge Academy

**A K-12 CHARTER SCHOOL  
HOME OF THE SEA DRAGONS**

5871 Mountain Vista Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89120

## **EKA's Mission and Vision**

# **“Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds.”**

Explore Knowledge Academy is the only K-12 school in Nevada to offer Public Speaking to all students. Our public speaking program empowers students to develop leadership, creativity, and strong organizational skills.

We support the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students by developing strong partnerships between parents, students, teachers, and staff and through targeted school discussions and activities with our students.

At EKA, students are given the tools for success and the support of the EKA community to achieve it.

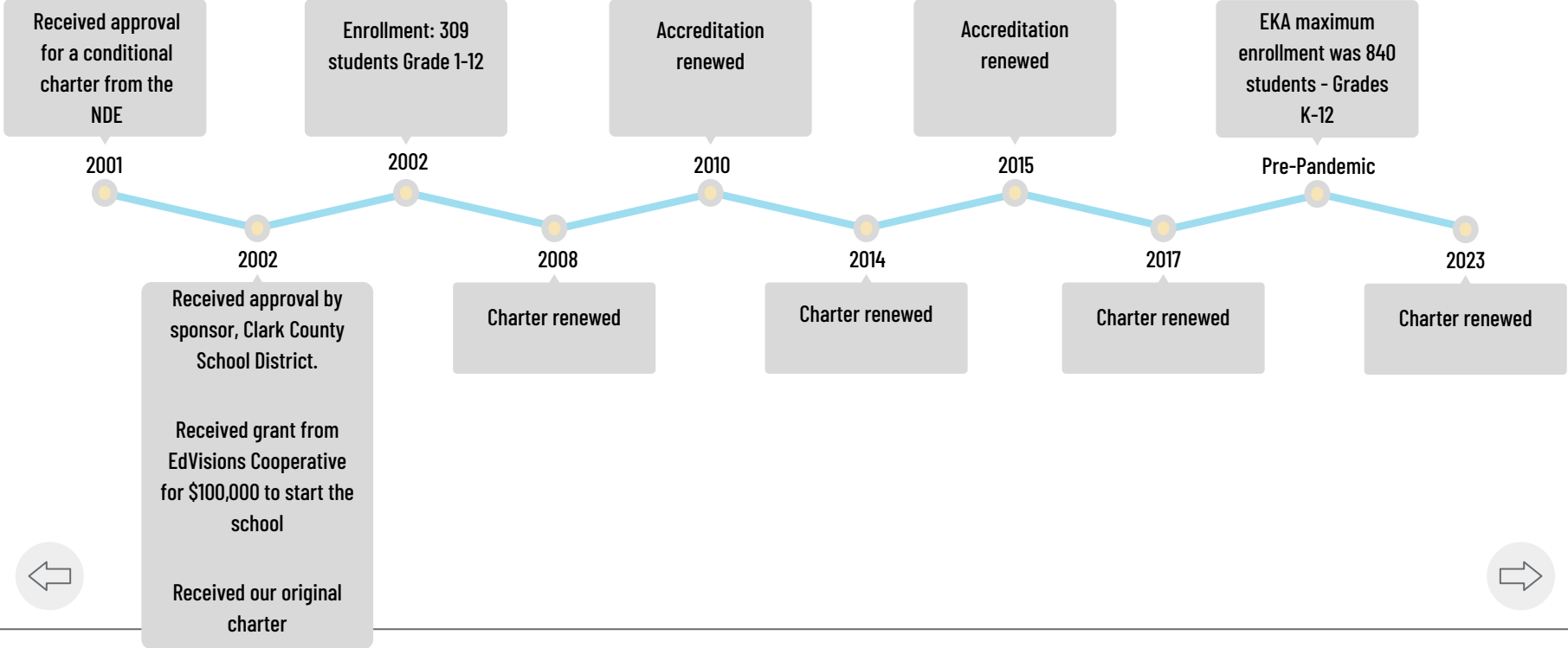


## ABOUT E.K.A.

- We are the 3rd oldest charter school in Nevada
- We were the first Project Based Learning school in Nevada
- Switched from Project Based Learning to Public Speaking in FY 22
- Started by 2 moms that wanted something different and unique for their children
- Dr. Joan Sando, pioneer in Nevada's charter school movement, started EKA



# HISTORY



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# FACILITIES

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# PAST FACILITIES



Started in rented facilities in 2002

1

Added another facility in 2006

2



Added a third facility in 2010

3





# CURRENT FACILITY



Groundbreaking on current facility in 2011 (Phase I: Building A)

4

Expanded facility in 2012 (Phase II - Buildings B and C)

5

Owned by Explore Knowledge Foundation

6





65,000 square feet in 3 physical buildings on one site



## CURRENT FACILITY

Nearest Cross Streets  
- Russell Road and  
Mountain Vista St. in  
Las Vegas



7 acres total including  
field and sport courts





# ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

## SUPERINTENDENT

**Abbe Mattson**

Since 2010

## PRINCIPAL

**Dawn Gustafson**

Since 2010

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Donna Childers**

Since 2019

## DEAN

**Butch Heiss**

Since 2023

## HR / Payroll Manager

**Hope Luna**

Since 2010

## FINANCE MANAGER

**Lori Rogers**

Since 2013



## OUR BOARD

- Governing Body consists of 7 members with 4 year initial terms
- Terms are staggered so 3 members are up for a vote each year
- Families vote to select Governing Body members each year
- Board training occurs at the summer retreat each year
- Meet at least 1 time each quarter

## KEY FACTS

**01**

Educating students in Kindergarten - 12th Grade

**02**

4 day a week school - Students attend Tuesday - Friday

**03**

On campus and virtual options for students

**04**

1:1 Ratio of technology to student

**05**

Small class sizes - average 22 students

**06**

Current Enrollment - 599.8 Total (330.6 Elementary and 269.2 Secondary)[2nd QTR FY25]



# HOURS AND TRANSPORTATION

- Students attend Tuesday - Friday. Monday is "Home Learning Day"
- Elementary hours are from 7:55 am to 3:10 pm. Secondary hours are from 7:55 am to 3:40 pm
- Families must provide their own transportation
- Local daycares provide Monday care and bus transportation before and after school for families
- EKA has Explore More Mondays program for elementary students for academic enrichment, social skills and FUN.
- Safekey provided by Clark County Parks and Recreation available after school for elementary students

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



Started as a Project Based Learning school with support from the EdVisions Cooperative and now an independent Public Speaking charter school



Daily Public Speaking classes K-12th grade implemented in 2020



Daily Social Emotional Learning (SEL) classes K-12th grade implemented in 2019



Multi-Grade classrooms based on ability not grade level or age



Distance Learning Program uses online curriculum and teachers

# Staff Members



- High Staff Retention
- Teacher Mentoring Program for New Teachers
- Continued Education
- Create and Implement Curriculum
- Leadership Roles
- Multiple Roles and Fluid Placement
- Departmentalizing - Teachers (K-12) teach their specialty (No General Education Teachers)



# STUDENT OFFERINGS

- Dual Enrollment for high school students at CSN, Great Basin and UNLV
- Secondary intramural sports
- Student Council consisting of upperclassmen
- Student led events such as dances, fundraisers, and family nights
- Yearbook Committee consisting of secondary students
- Drama, Fine Arts and Language electives for secondary students
- Student and teacher led after-school clubs for secondary students
- Karate, Dance, Chess and Drone Clubs for elementary students



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

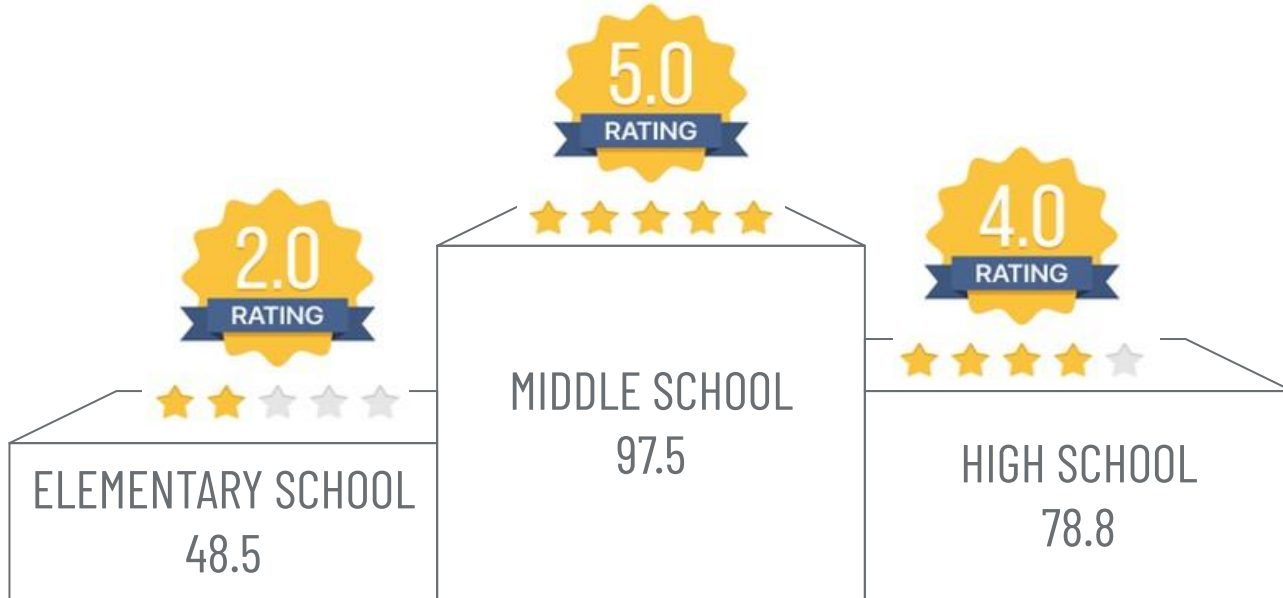
- One of the oldest charter schools still open
- Student Longevity/Retention
- High Attendance Rates/No Dropouts
- Mathleague State Math Champions 2017 and 2018
- Lego League Champions for Presentation in 2020
- Lead 4 Change Challenge Winners in 2022 (Senior Class of 22)
- Fifth highest average composite ACT score in CCSD for the 2023-2024 school year



# CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

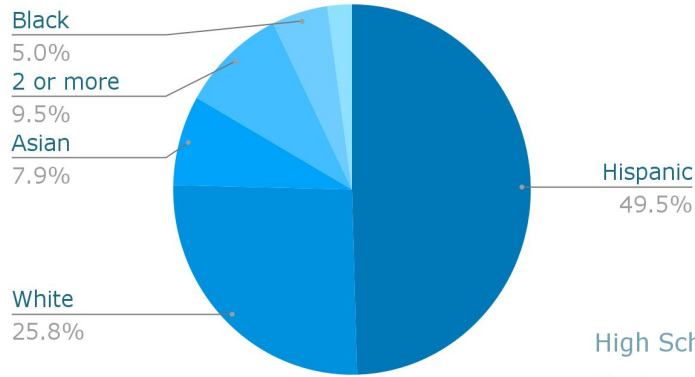
- Annual Nevada School Choice Dance (featured nationally)
- Field Trips
- Field Days
- Awards Ceremonies
- APEX Leadership
- Public Speaking Competitions and Shows
- Fashion Trashion
- Talent Show
- Poetry Slam
- Student Theater Plays
- Spirit / Dress Up
- Dances

# Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) for FY 24

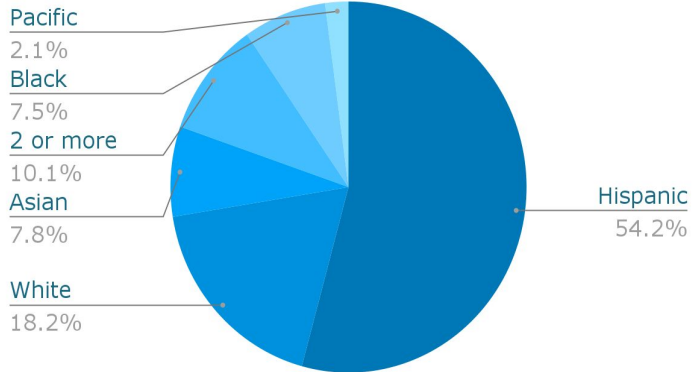


# DEMOGRAPHICS (2023 - 2024)

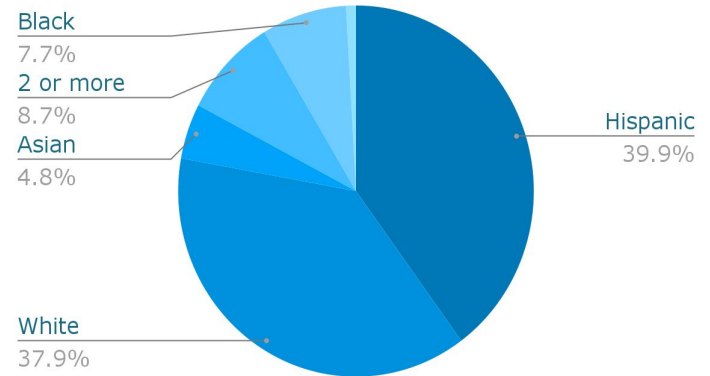
Middle School Student %



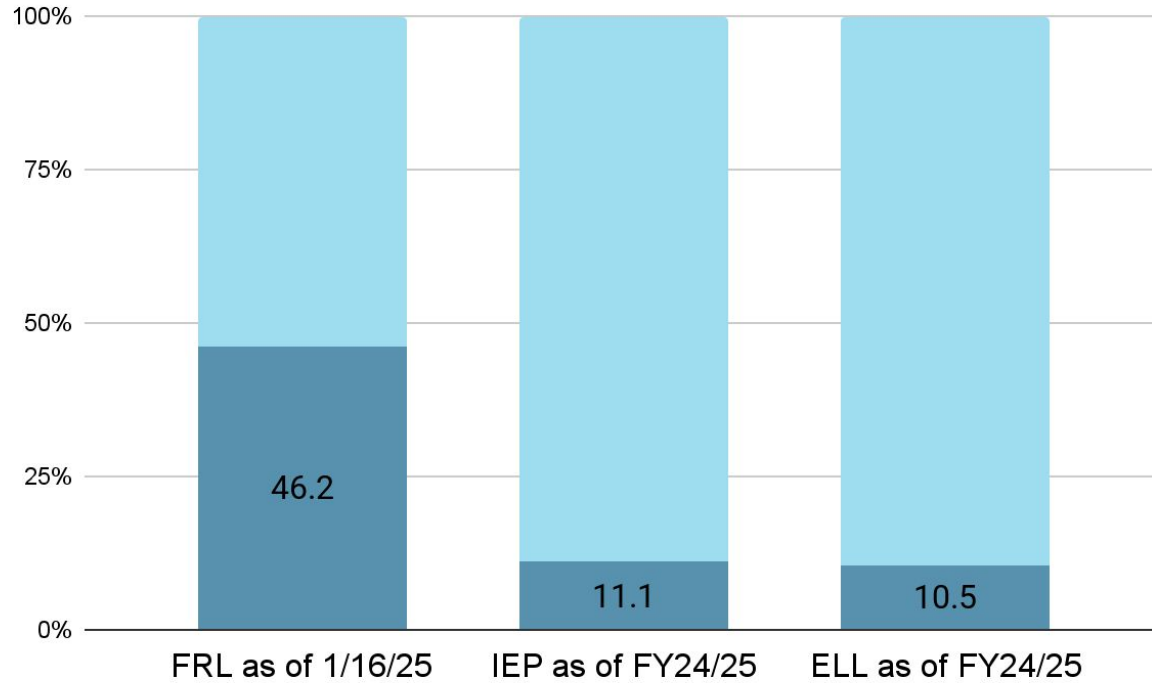
Elementary Student %



High School Student %



## DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED



# Goals

1. **Student Success** – *Increase the percentage of elementary students proficient in mathematics from 31% to 55.8%, as measured by the state, Spring 2025, elementary math assessment. Increase the percentage of middle school students proficient in mathematics from 40.7% to 45.6%, as measured by the state, Spring 2025, math assessment. Increase the percentage of elementary students proficient in science from 17.4% to 55.8 as measured by the state, Spring 2025 science assessment. Increase the percentage of high school students achieving post secondary preparation from 57.8 to 75 as measured by the FY 25 NSPF rating.*
2. **Adult Learning Culture** – *By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, 100% of teachers will have participated in a book study and 75% of classroom observations will show evidence of learning opportunities designed to support English Learners as measured by classroom walkthrough data.*
3. **Connectedness** – *Increase the percent of elementary school students who feel safe at school from 60% to a 82% as measured by the NV-SCSEL survey. Increase the percent of middle school students who feel safe at school from 67% to a 82% as measured by the 2024-2025 NV-SCSEL survey. Increase the percent of high school students who feel safe at school from 68% to a 82% as measured by the 2024-2025 NV-SCSEL survey.*