

Joe Lombardo
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Melissa Mackedon
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

3427 Goni Rd, Suite 103
Carson City, Nevada 89706
(775) 687-9174 · Fax (775) 687-9060

500 East Warm Springs Rd, Suite 116
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
(702) 486-8895 · Fax (702) 486-5543

ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Recommendations for Explore Academy Nevada Based on 2024-2025
Academic Performance
DATE: November 14, 2025

The Nevada Department of Education recently released the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results for the 2024-2025 school year. All public schools in the state of Nevada are issued a star rating when all required 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 beyond the NSPF that examine charter school performance versus schools in their zip code, chronic absenteeism reduction, and student group performance in growth and graduation rates.

Any charter school demonstrating underperformance that could trigger revocation proceedings within the next three to five years, if academic performance does not improve, should be issued a formal Notice to ensure that the school and its governing board are aware of the concerns ([NRS 388A.300](#) and [388A.330](#)). Underperformance, as defined in [NAC 388A.350](#), includes any school that receives a 1- or 2-star rating on the NSPF or that has not complied with the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. The Authority has three levels of intervention when schools do not meet these academic standards: Notice of Concern, Notice of Breach, and Notice of Intent to Terminate.

SPCSA staff recommends continuing Notices of Breach for campuses with a 1-star NSPF rating if those campuses meet certain termination exception criteria.

The academic performance of Explore Academy for the last three 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	2024-2025 Index Score and Star Rating	2024-2025 SPCSA Framework
Middle School	11.1 1-star	18.6 <i>Below Standard</i>	13 1-star	20.8 <i>Does Not Meet Standard</i>	22 1-star	35 <i>Does Not Meet Standard</i>
High School	20 Not Rated	Not Rated	38.8 Not Rated	Not Rated	31.5 Not Rated	Not Rated

Explore Academy received an academic Notice of Concern for its middle school performance in the 2022-2023 school year. This Notice of Concern was elevated to a Notice of Breach in 2023-2024 as the school earned a second, consecutive 1-star rating on the NSPF and a *Does Not Meet Standard* rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. For the 2024-2025 school year, the middle school received a third, consecutive 1-star NSPF rating and a *Does Not Meet Standard* rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

While [NRS 388A.300](#) mandates charter contract termination when a school receives three one-star NSPF ratings in three years, SB460 (2025) established a temporary exemption to these provisions when a school's NSPF performance meets certain criteria. Although Explore Academy MS received a third consecutive 1-star NSPF rating, they met the SB460 exemption criteria via an NSPF score that was within 10 points of a two-star NSPF rating (score of 22, with 2-star threshold at 29) and a 50% improvement in NSPF score over the prior year (prior score of 13 to current score of 22 is a 69% improvement). As such, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority continue the academic Notice of Breach for the middle school.

It is also critical to note that [NRS 388A.300](#) requires the SPCSA to terminate the charter contract of a school that receives three consecutive 1-star NSPF ratings. Should the middle school level receive a 1-star rating in 2025-2026 and not meet any of the additional exemption criteria established by SB460 (2025), the charter contract must be terminated for the middle school (grades 6-8).

Given this recommendation, SPCSA staff will ensure the school is scheduled for a site evaluation for the 2025-2026 school year to carefully review the school's performance. The school must also 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: Continue the academic Notice of Breach for Explore Academy middle school for the 2024-2025 school year.