



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO:	SPCSA Board
FROM:	Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT:	Nevada Rise Academy – Charter Renewal Recommendation
DATE:	November 14, 2025

Background and Summary

Nevada Rise Academy submitted an application to renew its charter contract as the current charter contract expires on June 30, 2026. Nevada Rise Academy is a brick-and-mortar public charter school that currently serves 362 students in kindergarten through 5th grade on one campus in Clark County.

After a thorough review of the historical data and charter renewal application, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority approve the charter renewal of Nevada Rise Academy for a four-year term, beginning July 1, 2026.

The Process Related to Renewal Applications and the Standards Under Which an Application for Renewal of a Charter Contract Will be Granted

The first step in the renewal process is the submission of a renewal report by SPCSA staff to the charter school¹. Specifically, on or before June 30 immediately preceding the final school year prior to expiration of a charter school's charter contract, the SPCSA submits to the governing body a report regarding renewal. The Nevada Rise Academy renewal report was sent to the school leader and board chair on June 26, 2025, and can be found within the supporting documentation for the item.

The renewal report summarizes the performance of the charter school under the terms of the charter contract, identifies any deficiencies related to performance of the charter school that might lead to non-renewal of the charter contract, sets forth the requirements of the renewal application, and identifies the criteria that the sponsor will apply when making a renewal determination. The charter school may submit a response to the renewal report².

Next, the governing body of the charter school must submit a written notice of intent to submit an application for renewal to the SPCSA 45 days prior to submitting a renewal application³. Nevada Rise Academy submitted its notice of Intent to

¹ [NAC 388A.415\(2\)](#) provides for an expedited and streamlined renewal process for high-performing charter schools. Generally, charter schools qualifying for expedited renewal review are those charter schools that are consistently rated as four-and five-star schools under the NSPF and have received no notices on the performance framework

² [NRS 388A.285\(1\)](#) and [NRS 388A.285\(2\)](#)

³ [NAC 388A.415\(1\)](#)

Renew its charter contract on August 29, 2025, and the notice of intent to renew can be found with the supporting documents.

The window to submit the actual renewal application is October 1 through October 15. The application for renewal must include, without limitation⁴:

- (a) The requirements for the application identified by the sponsor in the performance report prepared by the sponsor;
- (b) A description of the academic, financial and organizational vision and plans for the charter school for the next charter term;
- (c) Any information or data that the governing body of the charter school determines supports the renewal of the charter contract in addition to the information contained in the performance report prepared by the sponsor and any response submitted by the governing body; and
- (d) A description of any improvements to the charter school already undertaken or planned.

Nevada Rise Academy submitted its renewal application, which can be found with the supporting documents, on October 15th.

The Nevada Rise Academy renewal application describes the key design elements of the school. The staff are dedicated to providing a transformative educational experience for students. Through rigorous academics, high-quality instruction, and intentional character development, the school ensures that every student is placed on a path to college and has access to life's fullest opportunities. The education model blends college-preparatory academics, a structured yet joyful learning environment, and a focus on holistic character development, preparing students for success in college, career, and life.

Decisions to renew a charter school contract or deny a renewal application are made and based upon Nevada's charter school statutes and regulations; the collective record of a school's academic, financial, organizational frameworks; findings from the site evaluation process; and all data and information provided by the Department of Education⁵. It is important to note that no factor may be given more weight than the academic performance of pupils at the charter school⁶. As such, the academic performance of the charter school is the touchstone of any renewal decision.

In making its recommendation to the Authority regarding a renewal application, SPCSA staff considers the past performance of the charter school, including information contained in the application for renewal, any site evaluations, the academic achievement of pupils, and any other information that is determined to be relevant to whether the charter contract should be renewed, including financial and organizational performance⁷.

When determining whether to grant an application for renewal of a charter contract, the Authority Board considers the foregoing factors and any other information that the Authority Board determines is relevant to whether the charter contract should be renewed. The Authority Board will consider the "totality of the evidence" presented to it when making a renewal decision⁸. Again, as stated above, no factor is to be given more weight than the academic performance of pupils at the charter school.⁹

The Authority Board may accept or reject, in whole or part, the recommendation of the Executive Director¹⁰. At its sole discretion, the Authority Board may renew a charter contract for a term of three (3) to ten (10) years or deny the renewal application¹¹. Alternatively, the Authority Board may deny the renewal application for the purpose of reconstituting the governing body of the charter school or restarting the charter school and issuing a new charter contract pursuant [NRS 388A.330](#)¹².

⁴ [NRS 388A.285\(3\)](#).

⁵ [NRS 388A.285](#)

⁶ [NAC 388A.415\(10\)\(b\)](#)

⁷ [NAC 388A.415\(9\)](#)

⁸ [NAC 388A.415\(9\)](#)

⁹ [NAC 388A.415\(10\)](#). With regard to a second renewal, the Authority is required to place an even greater weight on academic performance than was assigned to it on the first renewal.

¹⁰ [NAC 388A.415\(10\)\(a\)](#) and [NAC 388A.415\(11\)\(b\) and \(c\)](#)

¹¹ [NRS 388A.285\(6\)](#) and [NAC 388A.415\(11\)](#)

¹² [NAC 388A.415\(11\)\(d\)](#)

Analysis

Academics

Nevada Rise Academy currently offers instruction at the elementary school levels, grades K-5, at one campus. As demonstrated by three Nevada School Performance Framework and SPCSA Academic Framework ratings over the current charter contract term, academic performance is mixed, but the school met state and SPCSA academic standards for the 2023–2024 school year. Additionally, Nevada Rise Academy was identified in 2023 by the NDE as an Additional Targeted Support and Intervention (ASTI) school due to its Black/African American student group performing in the bottom five percent of statewide NSPF scores.

As the Authority is aware, NSPF school ratings and accountability for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years were carried over from the 2018–2019 reporting year. Star ratings were not calculated for the 2021–2022 school year due to lack of data brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic as approved by the U.S. Department of Education¹³, but the Nevada Department of Education published index scores¹⁴.

The Authority adopted its own Academic Performance Framework in 2019¹⁵ and most recently revised in July 2025. Full results for Nevada Rise Academy’s NSPF and SPCSA Academic ratings through the entirety of the charter term can be found below.

2021–2022 NSPF Index Score	Elementary: 20.0
2021–2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 22.0 / Does Not Meet Standard
2022–2023 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 15.0 / 1-star
2022–2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 20.0 / Does Not Meet Standard
2023–2024 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 54.0 / 3-star
2023–2024 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 65.4 / Meets Standard
2024–2025 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 48.0 / 2-star
2024–2025 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating¹⁶	Elementary: 61.5 / Meets Standard
CSI, ATSI, or TSI Identification	Elementary: ATSI (2023 identification for Black/African American group)

¹³ Page 72 of the [NSPF Technical Manual](#).

¹⁴ According to the NSPF technical guide released by the Nevada Department of Education, star ratings were not calculated for the 2021–2022 school year in accordance with flexibility offered in the U.S. Department of Education’s addendum to Nevada’s consolidated state plan due to COVID-19. Star ratings will resume in 2023.

¹⁵ Despite being adopted in 2019, results under the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework were not adopted for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of NSPF scores. 2021–2022 was the first academic year with reported scores.

¹⁶ Preliminary until SPCSA board action on November 14, 2025.

Four-Year Graduation Rate	N/A
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Organizational

The current iteration of the SPCSA’s Organizational Performance Framework was adopted by the Authority in the summer of 2019 and most recently revised in July 2024. The organizational health and performance of the school has been strong over the current charter term. Nevada Rise Academy was rated as ‘Meets Standard’ on four out of five SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework cycles throughout the current charter term.

SPCSA Organizational Framework Findings:

Year	Findings & Framework Results
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard
2024 – 2025	Partially Compliant

Financial

The SPCSA Financial Framework was adopted in January 2019 and most recently revised in August 2025. Regarding the financial performance and viability of the school, SPCSA staff finds the financial performance of Nevada Rise Academy to be strong. The school has been rated as ‘Meets the Standard’ on all SPCSA Financial Performance Framework cycles throughout the current charter term.

SPCSA Financial Framework Findings:

Year	Findings & Framework Results
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard

Recommendation: Renew Nevada Rise Academy for a 4-year term.

As described above, Nevada Rise Academy has demonstrated mixed academic performance over the charter term. The elementary school program has historically not met performance expectations under the NSPF but showed improvement beginning in the 2023–2024 school year. This progress was reflected in the school’s 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings. While the school’s NSPF rating increased to 3 stars in 2023–2024, it declined to 2 stars in 2024–2025.

Nevada Rise Academy has not exhibited any major organizational or financial performance concerns over the course of the current charter term.

Ultimately, because the academic performance of Nevada Rise Academy has been mixed performance levels throughout the current charter term, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority renew Nevada Rise Academy for a four year term, beginning July 1, 2026. The new term would be subject to the enrollment caps outlined below.

School Year	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030
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Grade Levels	K - 5	K - 5	K - 5	K - 5
Enrollment Cap	392	392	392	392

Proposed Motion

Approve the Nevada Rise Academy Renewal Application for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight.

Appendix: School Demographics since 2020¹⁷

Year	Total Enrolled	A %	B %	C %	H %	I %	M %	P %	ELL%	FRL %	IEP %
2020–2021	330	1.0	25.4	9.3	50.0	0.6	10.3	2.4	15.4	>95.0	6.0
2021–2022	369	2.4	26.0	6.2	53.6	0.5	10.0	1.0	11.3	>95.0	6.7
2022–2023	466	3.6	25.7	5.7	54.7	0.4	8.3	1.2	17.5	>95.0	<5.0
2023–2024	369	3.2	21.1	5.1	59.6	0.0	7.8	2.9	17.3	>95.0	7.3
2024–2025	367	3.8	19.3	4.6	61.3	0.0	7.3	3.5	12.2	>95.0	10.0
2025–2026 ¹⁸	362	4.4	17.1	4.4	62.9	0.2	8.5	2.2	15.7	>95.0	11.8

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Two or more races

P – Pacific Islander

FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

IEP – Individualized Education Plan – A student with a disability/special education student

ELL – English Language Learner

* Indicates data are suppressed to protect student privacy as the group size is less than 10.

¹⁷ Enrollment Count totals are from Nevada Department of Education’s annual October Validated Count Day data.

¹⁸ Enrollment data for October 1, 2025, is preliminary.