



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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<b>TO:</b>	SPCSA Board
<b>FROM:</b>	Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus – Charter Renewal Recommendation
<b>DATE:</b>	December 12, 2025

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**Background and Summary**

Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus (DPAC) submitted an application to renew its charter contract as the current charter contract expires on June 30, 2026. DPAC is a brick-and-mortar public charter school that currently serves 927 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus for a three-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 school<sup>1</sup>. 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 DPAC 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 report<sup>2</sup>.

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 application<sup>3</sup>. DPAC submitted its notice of Intent to Renew its charter contract on August 26, 2025, and the notice of intent to renew can be found with the supporting documents.

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<sup>1</sup> [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

<sup>2</sup> [NRS 388A.285\(1\)](#) and [NRS 388A.285\(2\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [NAC 388A.415\(1\)](#)

The window to submit the actual renewal application is October 1 through October 15. The application for renewal must include, without limitation<sup>4</sup>:

- (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.

DPAC submitted its renewal application, which can be found with the supporting documents, on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The DPAC renewal application identifies the mission of the upcoming charter term is to educate responsible citizen-scholars for success in the college of their choice and a life of active citizenship. The key design elements of the school include rigorous college-preparatory academics, a safe and supportive school culture, data-driven decision making, extended learning time, and a commitment to all scholars. The application cites improving academic outcomes and test scores, decreasing chronic absenteeism, and increasing family-school communication as primary areas of focus for the next charter term.

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 Education<sup>5</sup>. It is important to note that no factor may be given more weight than the academic performance of pupils at the charter school<sup>6</sup>. 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 performance<sup>7</sup>.

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 decision<sup>8</sup>. Again, as stated above, no factor is to be given more weight than the academic performance of pupils at the charter school.<sup>9</sup>

The Authority Board may accept or reject, in whole or part, the recommendation of the Executive Director<sup>10</sup>. 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 application<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> [NRS 388A.285\(3\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> [NRS 388A.285](#)

<sup>6</sup> [NAC 388A.415\(10\)\(b\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [NAC 388A.415\(9\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [NAC 388A.415\(9\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [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.

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

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

## Analysis

### Academics

Regarding academic performance, Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus currently offers instruction at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, grades K-12, at one campus. As demonstrated by three Nevada School Performance Framework and SPCSA Academic Framework ratings over the current charter contract term, academic performance has been mixed, with the elementary school generally not meeting state and SPCSA standards, the middle school meeting or partially meeting state and SPCSA standards, and the high school generally meeting state and SPCSA standards. The elementary school was identified in 2024 by the NDE as an Additional Targeted Support and Intervention (ATSI) school due to its Students with Disabilities group performing in the bottom five percent of statewide NSPF scores. Additionally, four-year graduation rates for the high school during the charter term have lagged the SPCSA portfolio average (excluding alternative schools). Due to academic underperformance, the elementary school is currently under an Academic Notice of Breach.

DPAC was issued a deficiency during its most recent site evaluation on February 25, 2025, due to high levels of chronic absenteeism. The school has since complied with all requirements associated with this deficiency.

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 Education<sup>12</sup>, but the Nevada Department of Education published index scores<sup>13</sup>.

The Authority adopted its own Academic Performance Framework in 2019<sup>14</sup> and most recently revised it in July 2025. Full results for DPAC’s NSPF and SPCSA Academic ratings through the entirety of the charter term can be found below.

<b>2021–2022 NSPF Index Score</b>	Elementary: 46.5 Middle: 57.5 High: 45.2
<b>2021–2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating</b>	Elementary: 53.9 / Meets Standard Middle: 69.5 / Meets Standard High: 39.1 / Does Not Meet Standard
<b>2022–2023 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating</b>	Elementary: 35.0 / 2-star Middle: 57.0 / 3-star High: 57.0 / 3-star
<b>2022–2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating</b>	Elementary: 44.0 / Does Not Meet Standard Middle: 69.2 / Meets Standard High: 53.2 / Meets Standard
<b>2023–2024 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating</b>	Elementary: 19.0 / 1-star Middle: 38.5 / 2-star High: 50 / 3-star
<b>2023–2024 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating</b>	Elementary: 25.4 / Does Not Meet Standard Middle: 47.1 / Does Not Meet Standard High: 43.0 / Does Not Meet Standard

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<sup>12</sup> Page 72 of the [NSPF Technical Manual](#).

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<b>2024–2025 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating</b>	Elementary: 18.5 / 1-star Middle: 44.5 / 2-star High: 53.5 / 3-star
<b>2024–2025 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating</b>	Elementary: 33.7 / Does Not Meet Standard Middle: 56.7 / Meets Standard High: 45.2 / Does Not Meet Standard
<b>CSI, ATSI, or TSI Identification</b>	Elementary: ATSI (2024 identification for Students with Disabilities group) Middle: None High: None
<b>Four-Year Graduation Rate</b>	Class of 2020-21: 86.4% Class of 2021-22: 86.3% Class of 2022-23: 91.1% Class of 2023-24: 83.8% Class of 2024-25: 85.5%

### *Organizational*

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 relatively strong over the current charter term. DPAC was rated as ‘Meets Standard’ on four of the five SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework cycles throughout the current charter term. The school has not received any Notice under the Organizational Performance Framework.

#### SPCSA Organizational Framework Findings:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Framework Results</b>
2020 – 2021	Meets Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets Standard
2024 – 2025	Partially Compliant

Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus is currently managed by a Charter Management Organization (CMO), Democracy Prep Public Schools. Democracy Prep Public Schools recently completed a comprehensive strategic review. As a result, the Democracy Prep Public Schools national board voted on October 2, 2025, to end its management of Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus (DPAC) effective July 1, 2026. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, DPAC will operate as an independent public charter school.

Democracy Prep Public Schools indicated that this transition is designed to increase local autonomy, keep more resources within the community, and allow DPAC to tailor its school model to better meet local needs. By shifting to local management, DPAC will have greater flexibility, responsiveness, and ownership to support long-term success.

Though this is a material change from the existing charter contract, this is an involuntary change happening to DPAC’s governing board and thus must be considered as part of the renewal of Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus.

### *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 DPAC to be mixed over the charter term. However, their financial performance improved during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and they returned to good standing on the Financial Performance Framework.

SPCSA Financial Framework Findings:

Year	Findings & Framework Results
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern
2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard

**Recommendation: Approve the renewal request for Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus for a three-year term.**

As described above, DPAC has struggled to meet academic and financial performance expectations throughout the charter term, with the elementary school earning two consecutive 1-star NSPF ratings as well as repeated ‘Does Not Meet Standard’ ratings on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. These persistent outcomes raise significant concerns about the school’s ability to improve student achievement.

Organizationally, DPAC has generally exhibited few performance concerns; however, there are challenges ahead as the school transitions away from CMO management and becomes an independently run organization. While the school’s financial performance has been an area of concern, DPAC was able to meet financial performance expectations in the most recent iteration of the financial performance framework.

Ultimately, because academic performance has consistently fallen short of expectations, financial performance has been mixed throughout the current charter term, and the school will be experiencing organizational changes, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority renew DPAC for a three-year term, allowing the school additional time to demonstrate meaningful academic improvement while ensuring financial and organizational progress remains on track.

School Year	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029
Grade Levels	K – 12	K – 12	K – 12
Enrollment Cap	1310	1310	1310

**Proposed Motion**

Approve the renewal of the charter contract for Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus (DPAC) for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, as an independently operated charter school, subject to the following conditions:

- By **March 2, 2026**, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff evidence of a current, valid agreement with the facility owner or operator and ensure the budget reflects this agreement;
- By **March 2, 2026**, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff a sustainable transition plan detailing how the school will secure, preserve, and maintain access to all DPAC historical and operational data, including but not limited to Infinite Campus and related systems.
- By **March 2, 2026**, DPAC must:
  - a. Identify all services currently performed by the national CMO; and
  - b. Submit a sustainable transition plan for each service, specifying whether the school will assume the service in-house or transition the service to another qualified provider;
- By **March 2, 2026**, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff a sustainable, board-approved operating budget for FY 2027.

The renewal term shall include the enrollment caps outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial, or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight.

*Appendix: School Demographics since 2020<sup>15</sup>*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Enrolled</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>B %</b>	<b>C %</b>	<b>H %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>M %</b>	<b>P %</b>	<b>ELL %</b>	<b>FRL %</b>	<b>IEP %</b>
2020-2021	1098	0.6	59.6	2.6	33.8	0.0	2.8	0.2	11.2	>95.0	9.4
2021-2022	1147	0.4	63.2	2.0	31.6	0.0	2.2	0.2	8.2	>95.0	8.6
2022-2023	1258	0.4	69.7	1.9	25.9	0.0	1.6	0.2	10.1	>95.0	10.3
2023-2024	1278	0.2	75.1	1.5	21.2	0.0	1.4	0.3	8.9	>95.0	11.8
2024-2025	1205	0.0	77.5	0.6	20.1	0.0	1.2	0.2	9.7	>95.0	11.2
2025-2026	927	0.0	75.7	0.5	21.6	0.1	1.6	0.4	9.8	>95.0	11.4

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.

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<sup>15</sup> Enrollment Count totals are from Nevada Department of Education’s annual October Validated Count Day data.