



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO:	SPCSA Board
FROM:	Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV
SUBJECT:	Nevada Preparatory Charter School – Charter Renewal Recommendation
DATE:	December 12, 2025

Background and Summary

Nevada Preparatory Charter School (Nevada Prep) submitted an application to renew its charter contract as the current charter contract expires on June 30, 2026. Nevada Prep is a brick-and-mortar public charter school that currently serves 416 students in kindergarten through 8th 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 deny the charter renewal request for Nevada Preparatory Charter School. The current charter contract will end on June 30, 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 Prep 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

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 4-and 5-star schools under the NSPF and have received no notices on the performance framework

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

to the SPCSA 45 days prior to submitting a renewal application³. Nevada Prep submitted its notice of Intent to Renew its charter contract on July 2, 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 Prep submitted its renewal application, which can be found with the supporting documents, on October 20th.

The Nevada Prep renewal application identifies the mission of the upcoming charter term is to empower students from all backgrounds to achieve academic excellence, personal growth, and civic engagement through a rigorous, inclusive, and values-driven education. The key design elements of the school include a college-preparatory model, character and culture framework, equity and inclusion, data-driven instruction, family and community engagement, and technology integration.

The Nevada Prep renewal application contains references to programmatic elements that the school is not authorized to offer, raising concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the information submitted. Specifically, the application cites distance education, dual enrollment, and oversight of Charter Management Organizations and Educational Management Organizations. None of these elements are currently approved for Nevada Prep. It is unclear whether these inclusions stem from a fundamental misunderstanding of the school's authorized scope or a misrepresentation of its operations.

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

³ [NAC 388A.415\(1\)](#)

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 \(c\)](#)

application¹¹.

Analysis

Academics

Nevada Preparatory Charter School currently offers instruction at the elementary and middle school levels, grades K-8, at one campus. As demonstrated by three Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and SPCSA Academic Framework ratings over the current charter contract term, Nevada Prep has experienced a significant and sustained decline in academic performance over the past two years.

- In the 2022–2023 school year, both the elementary and middle school campuses received 3-star ratings on the NSPF and met state and SPCSA academic standards.
- In the 2023–2024 school year, both the elementary and middle school campuses received 1-star ratings on the NSPF and did not meet state or SPCSA academic standards. That same year, the NDE identified the elementary school for Additional Targeted Support and Intervention (ATSI) based on its Hispanic/Latino student group performing in the lowest fifth percentile statewide.
- The downward trend continued in the 2024–2025 school year, during which both campuses received second, consecutive 1-star NSPF ratings. In 2025, the NDE further identified the elementary school as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school due to its placement in the lowest fifth percentile of statewide performance.

As a result of this persistent underperformance, both the elementary and middle schools are currently under Academic Notices of Concern, and SPCSA staff is recommending elevation to Notices of Breach at the December 12, 2025, Authority meeting.

Additionally, Nevada Prep received a deficiency for low academic achievement at both the elementary and middle school levels during its January 22, 2025, site evaluation. Schools receiving a deficiency are required to submit a response plan, collaborate on a corrective action plan, track and monitor progress, and schedule follow-up meetings with SPCSA staff until the issue is resolved. Despite multiple outreach attempts from SPCSA staff, Nevada Prep has not participated in any of the required steps to address the identified 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 Education¹², but the Nevada Department of Education published index scores¹³.

The Authority adopted its own Academic Performance Framework in 2019¹⁴ and most recently revised it in July 2025. Full results for Nevada Prep’s NSPF and SPCSA Academic ratings through the entirety of the charter term can be found below.

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

¹² Page 72 of the [NSPF Technical Manual](#).

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

2021–2022 NSPF Index Score	Elementary: 12.2 Middle: 74.4
2021–2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 19.3 / Below Standard Middle: 84.6 / Exceeds Standard
2022–2023 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 50.5 / 3-star Middle: 56.0 / 3-star
2022–2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 65.3 / Meets Standard Middle: 70.6 / Meets Standard
2023–2024 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 12.0 / 1-star Middle: 17.0 / 1-star
2023–2024 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 23.2 / Does Not Meet Standard Middle: 29.2 / Does Not Meet Standard
2024–2025 NSPF Index Score / Star Rating	Elementary: 12.5 / 1-star Middle: 26.5 / 1-star
2024–2025 SPCSA Academic Performance Score / Rating	Elementary: 19.1 / Below Standard Middle: 32.7 / Does Not Meet Standard
CSI, ATSI, or TSI Identification	Elementary: ATSI (2024 identification for Hispanic/Latino group), which was redesignated to CSI (2025 identification for lowest 5th percentile NSPF score) Middle: None
Four-Year Graduation Rate	N/A

Organizational

The SPCSA’s Organizational Performance Framework was adopted by the Authority in the summer of 2019 and most recently revised in July 2024. During the current charter term, Nevada Prep has received ratings that consistently indicate deficiencies in organizational health and performance. As a result, the school was issued a Notice of Concern under the Organizational Performance Framework for both the 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 school years.

SPCSA Organizational Framework Findings:

Year	Findings & Framework Results
2020 – 2021	Meets Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern
2023 – 2024	Does Not Meet Standard
2024 – 2025	Out of Compliance—Notice of Concern

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 Prep to be of significant concern. The school was most recently issued a Notice of Breach for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and this Notice included additional monitoring.

SPCSA Financial Framework Findings:

Year	Findings & Framework Results
2020 – 2021	Meets Standard
2021 – 2022	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern
2023 – 2024	Does Not Meet Standard—Notice of Concern with heightened monitoring issued on May 30, 2025. Elevated to a Notice of Breach with heightened monitoring issued on October 10, 2025.

There are several ongoing financial concerns that have emerged as a result of the heightened monitoring established as a result of the FY2024 results.

- **Ending Fund Balance:** The school’s audited financial statements have reflected a negative Ending Fund Balance each year since FY2023, with the deficit continuing to deepen. The Ending Fund Balance was \$(519,961) in FY2023, \$(432,059) in FY2024, and \$(644,195) in FY2025. Although FY2024 showed a temporary improvement, this was the result of one-time COVID relief funds rather than any sustained improvement in the school’s financial operations. Furthermore, the board recently approved an amended final budget for FY2026 projecting an Ending Fund Balance of \$(305,678). The school remains unable to produce a balanced budget, calling into question its ongoing financial sustainability.
- **Current Debt:** The October 2025 Debt Schedule identifies over one million dollars owed to various vendors. While some liabilities originated under previous leadership and a different governing board, the debt remains the responsibility of the current organization. Debtors include PERS, lease obligations, and food service vendors, all of which could jeopardize school operations. Audited totals show no meaningful reduction in total liabilities, with \$17,606,964 in FY2023, \$19,088,815 in FY2024, and \$19,058,050 in FY2025, demonstrating that Nevada Prep continues to carry a substantial and potentially destabilizing debt burden.
- **Financial Policies:** The school appears to be in direct violation of its own financial policies. It has failed to maintain required fund balances and is not adhering to board-approved processes for budget development and approval, including the mandated use of a board finance committee.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture recently conducted an Administrative and Procurement Review of Nevada Prep’s National School Lunch Programs (NSLP), School Breakfast Programs (SBP), and Afterschool Snack Service. The school was found to have 22 findings from the Admin Review and four findings from the Procurement Review. As a result of these findings, the school is required to reimburse its food service account a total of \$147,297.88, representing unallowable costs and adult meals served during the prior fiscal year. Program reimbursements will be withheld until all corrective actions have been completed and approved. Additionally, a fiscal action of \$60,199.43 will be applied to future claims for reimbursement. While there is no set deadline for completing this fiscal action, the school will likely not receive payments for meals claimed in November or December 2025 until corrective action is completed and approved. These obligations are not reflected in the school’s October debt schedule and represent an increase to the total debt currently owed by the school. It is also unclear whether the fiscal impact of these obligations is incorporated into the amended budget most recently adopted by the board. Finally, it is not clear if the school is providing meals and snacks to students. If meals and snacks are being provided to students, it is not evident how the school is paying the vendor.

Legal Authority

Nevada law grants the State Public Charter School Authority Board exclusive and final authority to determine whether a charter contract should be renewed.¹⁵ The SPCSA Board may renew a charter contract or deny a charter contract renewal application at the end of the charter term. Renewal is not automatic; rather it is a substantive determination that rests solely within the discretion of the SPCSA Board, based on the school’s academic, financial, and organizational

¹⁵ NAC 388A.415(15)

performance during is contracted charter term. This authority includes the discretion to deny renewal for the purpose of closing the charter school.¹⁶

In making a renewal determination, the SPCSA Board evaluates the school's academic, financial, and organizational performance; findings from the site evaluation process; and any additional information the Board deems relevant. Nevada law requires that the Board's renewal determination consider the totality of the evidence before it and that academic performance be given the greatest weight in any renewal decision. The Board is not required to renew a charter contract that fails to meet these standards.

If the SPCSA Board denies renewal, the school will enter into a statutory closure period. The charter school has the right to recommend an individual to serve as the closing administrator who will oversee the school's operations during the closure. This recommendation is subject to approval by the SPCSA Board, and the Board is not obligated to appoint the individual recommended by the school.¹⁷

When evaluating a recommended closing administrator, the SPCSA will consider whether the individual:

- Has experience closing a charter school in Nevada within the last five (5) years;
- Has extensive experience with the closing and reporting requirements required under Nevada law;
- Has experience negotiating with vendors for final payments and resolving outstanding financial obligations; and
- Has extensive experience winding down a school during the transition and closure period in a manner that does not disrupt the educational program for students enrolled during the transition period.

These qualifications are necessary to ensure that the individual appointed is capable of managing the full scope of responsibilities associated with charter school closure, including timely reporting, financial reconciliation, compliance with state requirements, maintenance of school operations, and consistent communication with families.

If the Board declines to appoint the recommended individual, SPCSA staff is authorized to appoint a closing administrator.¹⁸ The appointed individual will assume responsibility for ensuring an orderly and compliant closure, including oversight of student records, financial obligations, asset disposition, and all required reporting.

Recommendation: Deny the renewal request for Nevada Preparatory Charter School

As described above, Nevada Preparatory Charter School has consistently not met academic, organizational, or financial standards set by the state and SPCSA. As such, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority deny the renewal request for Nevada Preparatory Charter School.

Proposed Motion

Motion for The State Public Charter School Authority, pursuant to its authority under NAC 388A.415(11), to deny the renewal application for Nevada Preparatory Charter School. This determination is based on the documented academic, organizational, and financial performance of the school as set forth in the staff report herein, renewal application materials, performance framework results, site evaluation findings, and all supporting documentation contained in the board packet for this agenda item. The record reflects: (1) a sustained and material decline in academic performance, including multiple consecutive 1-star ratings; (2) repeated failures to meet organizational standards, including Notices of Concern and findings of non-compliance; and (3) failure to meet financial performance expectations, including significant and ongoing fiscal instability, negative fund balances, substantial outstanding liabilities, violations of required financial policies, and Notice of Breach under the financial performance framework. Based on the totality of this evidence and giving greatest weight to academic performance as required by Nevada law, Nevada Preparatory Charter School has not met the standards necessary for renewal under the charter contract and applicable statutes and regulations. Accordingly, NV Prep's application for charter contract renewal is denied, and no subsequent charter contract shall be issued to NV Prep.

¹⁶ NAC 388A.415(11)(f)

¹⁷ NRS 388A.306

¹⁸ *Id.*

Appendix: School Demographics since 2020¹⁹

Year	Total Enrolled	A %	B %	C %	H %	I %	M %	P %	ELL %	FRL %	IEP %
2020-2021	246	1.2	15.4	8.9	73.1	0.0	0.4	0.8	25.6	>95.0	10.9
2021-2022	215	1.8	26.9	6.5	63.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	28.8	>95.0	11.1
2022-2023	283	2.1	26.5	5.3	64.3	1.4	0.0	0.3	29.3	>95.0	13.4
2023-2024	314	0.3	21.9	7.3	64.3	1.5	4.1	0.3	25.7	>95.0	12.4
2024-2025	416	0.4	24.7	8.1	60.5	0.0	5.2	0.7	21.1	>95.0	7.9
2025-2026	470	0.8	15.1	5.5	72.9	0.6	4.4	0.4	25.3	>95.0	9.7

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.

¹⁹ Enrollment Count totals are from Nevada Department of Education’s annual October Validated Count Day data.