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STATE OF NEVADA

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report
DATE: July 31, 2026

School Highlight

The SPCSA congratulates the schools in its portfolio that successfully met the enrollment growth threshold required for the Enrollment Growth and Expansion Adjustment (EEGA) audit. To be eligible for an EEGA funding adjustment, a school must demonstrate at least a 25% increase in enrollment over the prior year.

EEGA audits were conducted between June 15-18, 2026, to verify qualifying enrollment growth. The schools listed below successfully met the eligibility requirements, along with their verified EEGA enrollment counts:

- Vegas Vista Academy 219
- Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence 211
- WYLEES 229
- Nevada Classical Academy Elko 120
- Academies of Math and Science 444

Delinquent PERS Update

We are pleased to report that both NV Prep and Sage Collegiate have paid off their PERS balances.

Current Events

The SPCSA has released the 2026 Proven Provider Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for both in-state and out-of-state charter school operators. The Proven Provider pathway is intended to identify high-quality, organizations with a demonstrated record of academic success and organizational effectiveness that are well-positioned to expand educational opportunities for Nevada students.

Nevada has several established charter school operators that meet the eligibility criteria, and the SPCSA encourages qualified organizations that have the capacity and strategic interest in expansion to consider applying.

Applications from in-state operators are due September 30, 2026.

Out-of-state operators participate in a two-phase qualification process designed to ensure that only the highest-performing organizations advance. The Phase I submission is due September 30, 2026. Applicants that successfully meet the Phase I requirements will be invited to participate in Phase II and will have until November 15, 2026 to submit the required materials.

The SPCSA established rigorous qualification standards for out-of-state applicants during the initial Proven Provider RFQ process, and that approach successfully identified organizations with strong records of performance. Those high standards will continue to guide the evaluation process.

Organizations approved by the Authority as Proven Provider, whether in-state or out-of-state, will remain on the SPCSA's Proven Provider list for three years, provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements and remain in good standing with the Authority.

Statewide Committees

As part of the SPCSA's commitment to advancing public education in Nevada, members of the Authority's staff regularly serve on statewide boards, committees, and advisory groups. These appointments provide opportunities to share the SPCSA's expertise, contribute to statewide policy discussions, and ensure that the perspectives of Nevada's charter schools are represented.

Recently, SPCSA staff were appointed to serve on the Cognia Nevada Advisory Board, which provides guidance on school accreditation across the state, and the Committee to Oversee the Charter School Audit List (COSAL). Members of the staff also serve on the Nevada English Learner Advisory Council, the Emergency Operations Plan Development Committee, the School Safety Planning and Preparedness Workgroup, the Nevada Family Engagement Summit Planning Committee, and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

As a member of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS), I am also required to serve on one of the organization's affiliated committees and have been appointed to the Grants Management Advisory Committee. In addition, I am serving on the informal steering committee for Nevada's newly established Education Service Center and the NDE Metrics Subcommittee for Accountability Design. This committee just completed the 10-month long process of designing a District Performance Framework as required by SB 460 (2025 session).

I firmly believe that the SPCSA, and the charter school sector more broadly, should have a voice in every statewide conversation that shapes public education. I am grateful to our staff for their willingness to serve in these additional capacities, which further our mission while adding to their already significant responsibilities.

Executive Branch Audit

On July 9, 2026, the Governor's Finance Office, Division of Internal Audits, released its audit of the State Public Charter School Authority, which examined the Authority's oversight of charter school administrative reporting requirements and opportunities to reduce the cost of charter school transportation. The audit's objective was to develop recommendations that improve transparency related to contracted administrative support and reduce transportation costs for Nevada charter schools.

The audit included two recommendations, both of which the SPCSA accepted. The first recommendation calls for the Authority to strengthen enforcement of charter school reporting requirements. While the audit recognizes improvements in school compliance over the past three years, it concludes that the SPCSA should make greater use of its existing accountability framework to ensure that required reports and certifications are submitted accurately and on time. The SPCSA recognizes the significant compliance responsibilities placed on charter schools, many of which submit more than 200 required reports, certifications, and other deliverables each year. The Authority understands the challenges associated with the volume of reporting required of charter schools and has historically exercised reasonable flexibility when schools encountered isolated delays. The audit underscores, however, that the SPCSA must apply its accountability framework more consistently to recurring or material reporting deficiencies. Going forward, the Authority will strive to maintain an appropriate balance between supporting schools in meeting their obligations and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements.

The second recommendation encourages the SPCSA to pursue legislation exempting charter schools from vehicle taxes and registration fees. The Authority is actively working in partnership with the Governor's Office and the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles to advance this recommendation during the 2027 Legislative Session.

I appeared before the Board of Examiners on July 9, 2026, to answer questions regarding the audit and the Authority's implementation plan. While the audit findings themselves were discussed, many of the questions from the Board centered on broader issues related to charter school oversight and operations rather than the specific audit recommendations.

New Member, Victoria Turner

Victoria Turner is a passionate, highly effective instructional leader with over 15 years of dedicated service to Nevada's public education system. As the proud parent of two children who attend a Nevada charter school, Victoria brings a deeply personal commitment and first-hand perspective to her alignment with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). She witnesses daily the profound impact that innovative, student-centered, and accountable learning environments have on child development and academic success.

Before discovering her true calling in education, Victoria earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Broadcast Journalism and worked professionally in the television news industry in Mississippi. This background in media and communication sharpened her ability to connect with diverse audiences, a skill that has been foundational to her success as a community-driven educational leader.

Victoria holds a Master's degree in Elementary Education and currently serves as an elementary school principal within the Clark County School District. She is well-known for being a champion of student achievement by restructuring schoolwide systems to ensure safe, transparent learning environments. She has dedicated her career to enhancing professional learning communities, implementing progressive restorative practices, and utilizing data-driven multi-tiered systems of support. As a proven turn-around instructional leader, Victoria has a track record of growing underperforming schools through rigorous progress monitoring, data analysis, and student accountability strategies. She successfully increased her school's star rating under the Nevada School Performance Framework for the first time in her school's history within a two-year time period.

Victoria's extensive career spans leadership and instructional roles across the K-12 spectrum, including serving as a teacher, learning strategist, and assistant principal on both middle school and high school levels. Notably, her professional journey also includes deep roots within the Nevada charter school system, where she previously served at-risk students in both teaching and leadership roles.

By combining her unique background in media communication, her robust administrative expertise, and her lived experience as a charter school parent, Victoria is uniquely positioned to support the SPCSA's vital mission: ensuring every Nevada child has access to a diverse, equitable, and high-quality public-school education

Member Shauntee-Rosales

As Member Shauntee-Rosales concludes her service on the SPCSA Board of Directors, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of dedicated leadership and service to Nevada's students, educators, and families. Member Shauntee-Rosales was first appointed to the SPCSA Board by the Senate Majority Leader in January of 2020. She dedicated over six years to serving on the Authority board.

Member Shauntee-Rosales brought to the Authority a strong commitment to community engagement, public service, and educational equity. Through her leadership in government affairs and community advocacy, she provided valuable insight into the needs of Nevada's students, families, and communities, ensuring that Board discussions reflected a broad range of perspectives. Her experience working with organizations dedicated to expanding opportunities for young people, coupled with her longstanding advocacy for diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement, strengthened the Board's deliberations and reinforced its commitment to serving all students. The SPCSA is grateful for Ms. Rosales' dedicated service and thoughtful contributions to the Authority's mission, and we wish her continued success in her future endeavors.