

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**Melissa Mackedon**  
*Executive Director*



**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Board  
**FROM:** Melissa Mackedon  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director Report  
**DATE:** August 27, 2026

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**School Highlight**

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (CASLV) Sandy Ridge Campus received significant recognition in the U.S. News & World Report 2025 Best High Schools rankings, improving substantially in both state and national standings.

Sandy Ridge was ranked #1 High School in Henderson, #1 Charter High School in Nevada, #2 High School in Las Vegas, and #3 High School in Nevada, improving from #5 in the state the prior year. The campus also rose to #240 among all high schools nationwide, up from #565, and was ranked #54 among charter high schools nationally.

Notably, the two Nevada schools ranked ahead of Sandy Ridge are magnet or gifted schools with selective admissions, while CASLV Sandy Ridge is open to students through a public lottery and does not select students based on academic criteria.

CASLV credited the achievement to the collective efforts of its students, educators, staff, families, administrators, and Board of Governors, with special recognition for Sandy Ridge Principal Mr. Adem and the campus leadership, teachers, and staff.

**Delinquent PERS Update**

The SPCSA received an updated Outstanding Charter Contribution Balances Report on August 3, 2026. For the first time, the report identified Innovations Charter School as having an outstanding balance of \$223,665.60. SPCSA staff promptly contacted the school regarding the reported balance and received a written response. The school's response is included with the Executive Director's Report materials for the Board's review.

### **Current Events**

The SPCSA appeared before the Interim Finance Committee on September 13 and the Audit Subcommittee on September 20. A separate agenda item detailing the results and outcomes of the Audit Subcommittee meeting will be included on the next SPCSA Board meeting agenda.

I have been participating in Governor Lombardo's Governor's Organizational Leadership Development (GOLD) Program, an executive leadership development initiative for State of Nevada leaders. The program combines a Hogan Personality Inventory and individualized assessment debrief, executive coaching, and six full-day leadership workshops. To date, I have completed the first four workshops: Strategy in Government, Leading Complex Teams, Personal Leadership and Influencing, and Communicating Across the Enterprise. The two remaining workshop, Accountability and Driving Execution in Government, are scheduled for September and October, respectively. In addition to the classroom sessions, I have participated in the program's executive coaching component, which provides an opportunity to apply leadership concepts to agency-specific challenges and strengthen leadership effectiveness within state government.