

Site Evaluation Report

**Doral Academy - Fire Mesa** 

Evaluation Date: 1/11/2022

Report Date: 3/8/2022

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## **Appendices**

A: Nevada State Performance Framework

http://www.doe.nv.gov/Accountability/NSPF/

B: SPCSA Academic Framework

http://charterschools.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/CharterSchoolsnvgov/content/News/2019/19062 8-Academic-Performance-Framework-Guidance-Document.pdf

C: SPCSA Organizational Framework

http://charterschools.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/CharterSchoolsnvgov/content/News/2019/19062 8-OPF-Att-1-Ratings-Scorecard.pdf

### INTRODUCTION AND SCHOOL BACKGROUND



#### INTRODUCTION

This Site Evaluation Report offers an analysis of evidence collected during the school evaluation that took place on January 11, 2022, at Doral Academy Fire Mesa. The State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) conducts a comprehensive review of evidence related to all charters within the portfolio. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the SPCSA differentiates levels of oversight. Schools in year three of the current contract and operating at a four- or five-star level according to the NSPF will forgo the focus group portion of the evaluation. If the school's Climate data indicates acceptable levels of student satisfaction, this focus group will also be excluded from the process. During the abbreviated site evaluation, there will be fewer classroom observations. All Doral Academy schools underwent abbreviated site evaluations. An analysis of the school's academic and operational success is undertaken by reviewing the most current versions of the Nevada State Performance Framework (Appendix A) and the State Public Charter School Authority Academic Framework (Appendix B) as well as the Organizational Framework (Appendix C).

In addition, the Site Evaluation Team conducts classroom observations within the areas of classroom environment and instruction. The purpose of these observations is to collect evidence using a rubric which has been normed by our team. All classroom rating outcomes will be displayed within this report so that school leaders have an overall idea of what is happening in general, at any time, in any classroom. The overall numbers will provide information about the school outcomes on this one day.

SPCSA staff will track "best practices", using a checklist and a summary of best practices observed, and will be contained within the report. Using information from focus groups of students, parents, staff, school leaders and the school's board, the SPCSA team will conduct focus groups and summarize results for schools within the report. The operational portion of the evaluation will be observed and take-aways recorded using a checklist and observing all aspects of the school's operational components as outlined in the SPCSA Organizational Framework.

This evaluation has been designed to focus on teaching and learning (e.g., curriculum, instruction, assessment, and services for at-risk students) as well as leadership, organizational capacity, and board oversight. The SPCSA uses the established criteria on a regular basis to provide schools with a consistent set of expectations leading up to renewal.

#### SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Doral Academy Fire Mesa is in Las Vegas, Nevada in a facility at 2568 Fire Mesa St. The school serves 980 students (as of the most recent Validation Day) in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The mission of Doral Academy Fire Mesa is "Doral Academy of Nevada provides an enhanced educational experience. We will develop outstanding student achievement with focus on each child being well-rounded in all parts of their education. Students will be prepared in an academically challenging and personally meaningful learning environment with an emphasis on arts integration. A collaborative effort including all students, teachers, parents, and staff will be devoted to establishing, achieving, and celebrating individual goals for each child at Doral Academy."

### **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

# Nevada School Performance Framework 2019

Doral Academy Fire Mesa serves 980 students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

#### **Elementary School**



#### Middle School



#### Doral Academy - Fire Mesa Math and ELA Results Nevada School Performance Framework 2019

#### **Proficiency Rates**

#### **Elementary School**

#### **Math Proficient**

Groups	2019 %	2019 % District	2019 % MIP	2018 %	2018 % District	2018 % MIP
All Students	55.0	54.5	48.5	53.7	52.8	45.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	45.8	34.3	-	44.9	30.9
Asian	70.5	75.6	68.8	59.0	75.2	67.2
Black/African American	38.7	31.3	32.3	36.6	30.6	28.8
Hispanic/Latino	55.5	44.6	39.6	50.0	40.2	36.5
Pacific Islander	-	48.7	48.3	-	48.3	45.6
Two or More Races	45.7	58.2	55.3	46.1	59.0	52.9
White/Caucasian	62.0	62.3	59.3	61.4	61.1	57.2
Special Education	23.5	27.4	28.6	25.7	29.2	24.8
English Learners Current + Former	50.0	42.3	35.8	46.6	37.4	32.4
English Learners Current	53.8	32.4		33.3	25.5	
Economically Disadvantaged	45.6	39.8	39	46.6	33.1	35.7

#### FLA Proficient

ELA Froncient						
Groups	2019 %	2019 % District	2019 % MIP	2018 %	2018 % District	2018 % MIP
All Students	68.0	60.1	57	63.6	58.6	54.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	62.5	42.5	-	58.3	39.5
Asian	76.4	78.5	75.4	54.5	76.3	74.1
Black/African American	54.8	40.9	42.6	70.0	40.5	39.6
Hispanic/Latino	67.6	51.1	48.2	59.0	48.0	45.5
Pacific Islander	-	51.8	57.9	-	52.6	55.7
Two or More Races	68.5	63.8	64.4	65.4	67.1	62.6
White/Caucasian	70.6	66.8	67.4	66.4	65.0	65.7
Special Education	26.4	26.7	30	28.5	29.3	26.3
English Learners Current + Former	56.2	42.2	41.4	33.3	38.9	38.4
English Learners Current	61.5	29.4		16.6	22.8	
Economically Disadvantaged	59.2	45.4	46.8	55.5	40.4	44

#### Doral Academy - Fire Mesa Math and ELA Results Nevada School Performance Framework 2019

#### **Proficiency Rates**

#### Middle School

#### **Math Proficient**

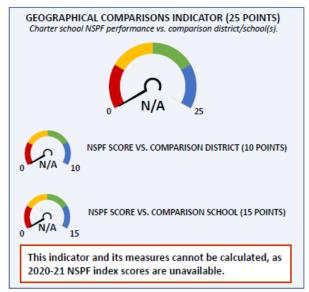
Groups	2019 %	2019 % District	2019 % MIP	2018 %	2018 % District	2018 % MIP
All Students	38.6	42.6	36.5	34.5	36.8	33.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	22.7	28.4	-	26.5	24.6
Asian	46.6	66.2	58.6	47.3	64.1	56.4
Black/African American	28.5	24.2	23.5	11.4	17.7	19.5
Hispanic/Latino	33.6	31.9	29.3	28.1	26.1	25.5
Pacific Islander	-	44.9	36.9	-	34.9	33.6
Two or More Races	44.0	47.3	40.6	42.8	41.5	37.5
White/Caucasian	42.9	51.3	47.1	40.6	44.4	44.4
Special Education	9.6	12.1	18.6	18.7	11.5	14.3
English Learners Current + Former	37.5	26.9	20.2	21.4	22.2	16
English Learners Current	25.0	12.6		0.0	8.5	
Economically Disadvantaged	29.7	29.0	29.2	18.3	21.7	25.5

#### **ELA Proficient**

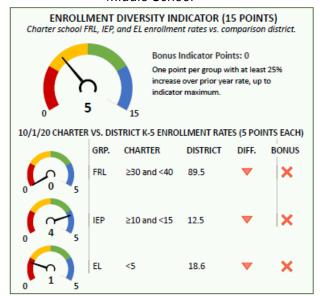
Groups	2019 %	2019 % District	2019 % MIP	2018 %	2018 % District	2018 % MIP
All Students	61.6	59.6	54.1	62.7	56.1	51.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	61.3	43.4	-	57.1	40.5
Asian	80.0	78.4	75.9	63.1	77.3	74.6
Black/African American	53.5	40.1	37.8	42.8	38.4	34.5
Hispanic/Latino	54.5	50.3	45.1	63.5	46.3	42.2
Pacific Islander	-	61.1	53.2	-	53.2	50.7
Two or More Races	64.0	66.7	61.3	57.1	61.0	59.2
White/Caucasian	65.1	67.8	66.3	68.0	63.5	64.6
Special Education	22.5	19.9	21.9	31.2	20.7	17.8
English Learners Current + Former	50.0	42.7	24.3	50.0	34.8	20.3
English Learners Current	41.6	22.0		40.0	15.8	
Economically Disadvantaged	51.0	46.4	44.4	51.0	41.5	41.4

# SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Geographic Comparison Report

#### **Elementary School**

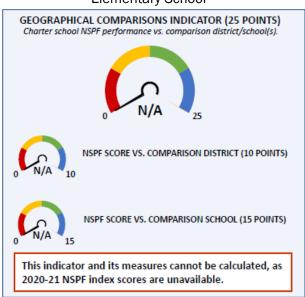


#### Middle School

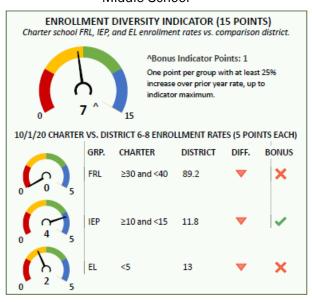


# SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Diversity Comparison Results

#### **Elementary School**



#### Middle School



## FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES

#### FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

All schools within the Doral Network are currently within their third year of their charter contract with the State Public Charter School Authority and have been operating in a four- or five-star status rating per the Nevada State Performance Framework. In addition, these Doral campuses including Pebble, Red Rock, Cactus, Fire Mesa, and Saddle are in good standing on the academic, organizational, and financial framework within the SPCSA.

As such, the SPCSA conducted an abbreviated site evaluation as permitted under NRS 388A.223.

# **CLASSROOM OBSERVATION TOTALS**

A total of 10 classrooms were observed for approximately 15 minutes on the day of the evaluation.

I. Classroom E	invironment				
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Areas 1 & 2	Classroom interactions are highly respectful, and the teacher demonstrates a passionate commitment to the subject.	Classroom interactions reflect general warmth and caring and a genuine culture for learning.	Classroom interactions are generally appropriate and free from conflict with a minimal culture for learning.	Classroom interactions between the teacher and students are negative and do not represent a culture for learning.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
Creating an Environment of	Total: 7	Total: 3	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
Respect and Rapport  Establishing a Culture for Learning	Students ensure maintenance of high levels of civility among classmates and assume much of the responsibility for establishing a culture for learning.	Interactions reflect cultural and developmental differences of students. Teacher and students are committed to the subject.	Interactions may be characterized by occasional displays of insensitivity and inconsistent expectations for student achievement.	Interactions are characterized by sarcasm, put-downs, and/or conflict. There is a low teacher commitment to the subject and few instances of students taking pride in their work.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 8	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Areas 3 & 4  Managing Classroom Procedures	Classroom routines and procedures appear seamless and student behavior is entirely appropriate.	Classroom routines and procedures have been established and the teacher ensures smooth functioning with little loss of instruction time.	Classroom routines and procedures have been established but function inconsistently, with some loss of instruction time.	Classroom routines and procedures are nonexistent or inefficient, resulting in the loss of much instruction time.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 8	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
Managing Student Behavior	There appears to be no misbehavior during the observation. The teacher monitoring of student behavior is subtle and/or preventative.	Teacher responds to student misbehavior in ways that are appropriate and respectful of the students.	Teacher tries to establish standards of conduct for students and monitor behavior. These efforts are not always successful.	Teacher is unsuccessful in monitoring student behavior.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 8	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0

# **CLASSROOM OBSERVATION TOTALS**

II. Classroom I	II. Classroom Instruction				
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Area 5 Purpose and Explanation of Content, Lesson, Unit or Classroom Activity	The purpose of the lesson or unit is clear and connects with student's real-life experiences. The explanation of content is imaginative, and students contribute to the lesson by participating and or explaining concepts to their peers.	The purpose for the lesson or learning activity is clear. The teacher's explanation of content is appropriate. and connects with students.	The teacher attempts to explain the instructional purpose, with limited success. The explanation of the content is uneven; some is done skillfully, but other portions are difficult to follow.	The purpose for the lesson, learning activity is unclear. Teacher's explanation of the content is unclear, confusing or uses inappropriate language.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 8	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Area 6 A Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques	Students formulate and ask high-level questions.	Teacher formulates and asks several high- level questions.	Teacher questioning and discussion techniques are uneven with some high-level questions.	Teacher makes poor use of questioning and discussion techniques, with low level questions, limited student participation and little true discussion.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 3	Total: 7	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
В		Teachers assumes responsibility for the discussion which includes most students.	There is some attempt by the teacher to initiate student discussion and student participation.	There is little to no student discussion even though the opportunity is there.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 2	Total: 8	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0

# **CLASSROOM OBSERVATION TOTALS**

II. Classroom Instruction (continued)					
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Area 7  A  Engaging	Students are highly engaged throughout the lesson. The pacing and structure of the lesson allows high levels of student engagement.	Students appear to be intellectually engaged throughout most of the lesson. The pacing and structure of the lesson is suitable for this group of students.	Students are partially engaged throughout the lesson.	Students are not at all intellectually engaged in significant learning.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
Students in	Total: 8	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0
Learning B	Students make contributions to the representation of content.	There are appropriate activities, and instructive representations of content.	The representation of content or structure/pacing is uneven.	There are inappropriate activities or materials, poor representations of content, or lack of lesson structure/pacing.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 5	Total: 3	Total: 2	Total: 0	Total: 0
	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory	Not Observed
Area 8 A	Students are aware of the learning goals/targets for themselves during this instructional timeframe. Students are aware of the learning goals/targets for themselves during this instructional timeframe.	Most of the students are aware of the learning goals/targets for themselves during this instructional timeframe.	Some of the students are aware of the learning goals/targets for themselves during this instructional timeframe.	Students are not aware of the learning goals/learning target during this instructional time frame.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 6	Total: 3	Total: 1	Total: 0	Total: 0
Using Formative Assessment in Instruction B	The teacher purposefully and consistently provides clear, descriptive feedback regarding student's demonstration/understanding of the learning goal/target. The feedback is timely and is in a reasonable amount.	Much of the time, the teacher, provides clear, descriptive feedback regarding student's understanding/demonstration of learning goal/target. The feedback is timely and is in a reasonable amount.	At times, the teacher provides clear, descriptive feedback but not in a consistent manner regarding learning goal/target. Observing where the work was meeting and where it was not. The feedback is timely and is in a reasonable amount.	The teacher does not provide clear, descriptive feedback regarding learning goal/target and does not observing where the work is and where it is not meeting. The feedback is not timely and is not in a reasonable amount.	This criterion was not observed or rated.
	Total: 3	Total: 7	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0

Additional information about the classroom observations shared here when applicable.

- In one middle school classroom, the teacher facilitated a Socratic Seminar with students. Students were able to ask and answer high level questions.
- In one middle school classroom, the teacher and students used accountable talk strategies to communicate with each other.
- Students participated in a Socratic seminar discussing critically about the content and the process of the discourse in one middle school classroom.
- In one upper elementary classroom students participated in making actions to accompany vocabulary words.
- Students used Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to learn vocabulary words in one upper elementary classroom.
- In an upper elementary classroom, students were able to recall the objective for the lesson.
- In one middle school classroom, students completed a welcoming chant at the beginning of the lesson. This procedure reinforced student engagement throughout the lesson.
- In one middle school classroom, students recalled prior knowledge of the given standard.
- In one middle school classroom, the teacher used hand gestures to explain the learning target. This procedure helped students to visualize the learning target.
- In one upper elementary classroom, the teacher introduced the learning target and connected it to students' prior knowledge.
- In one upper elementary classroom, the teacher introduced the assessment rubric prior to teaching the lesson, allowing students to see how they would be assessed at the end of the lesson.
- In one lower elementary classroom, the teacher used the Explicit Phonics strategy to teach phonics and phonemic awareness.
- In one elementary classroom, the teacher used the Hot Seat strategy as an assessment to determine students' textual comprehension. This procedure held students accountable for their learning.

SITE EVALUATION: Doral Academy - Fire Mesa

### ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The SPCSA uses the Organizational Performance Framework to collect evidence of performance and evaluate schools, at least annually, to monitor schools throughout their charter terms, to report to schools and the public annually, to intervene in schools that do not meet expectations and to make high-stakes decisions, including renewal, non-renewal, possible revocation, expansion, or replication. Most of this work is done through routine submissions by the school to the SPCSA.

A limited number of measures within the organizational performance framework may be at least partially evaluated during the site evaluation process. Measures are partially evaluated based upon evidence from school focus groups, school observations, documents reviewed and information from the school presentation portion of the evaluation. SPCSA staff will note the evidence provided by the school and outline any questions or potential concerns.

Measure	Description	Evidence Collected
1a	The school implements material terms of the education program.  Examples of evidence: The scope and sequence of curricular materials have been vetted to align with the Nevada Academic Content Standards and a plan has been mapped by date to ensure the completion of each standard within the grade or content area.  The educational program offered by the school is consistent with the program proposed within the charter application. Ex: math science focus, extended day, arts integrated.	Doral Academy implements curricular materials to align curriculum horizontally and vertically with the NVACS across each grade level and content area including (math, English Language Arts (ELA) science and writing. Lucy Calkins,(a writing program) is used in grades K-5. Doral embeds arts integration in cross-curricular, project-based instruction in math, ELA, science, and physical movement.
1b	The school complies with applicable education requirements.  Examples: Completing the submission of required items to epicenter in a complete and timely manner. (Licensing of staff, Special Education and ELL Handbook and all others) Assessments/Data requirements	Doral is timely when submitting state required documentation. Licensing of staff is monitored by each Doral campus and Teacher Recruitment & Licensure Specialist at Academica Nevada. Licensed holders notified of license expiration dates, supported through license renewal process, and provided guidance on gaining additional endorsements. System tracks professional learning hours provided by Doral Academy of Nevada

Measure	Description	Evidence Collected
1c	The school protects the rights of students with disabilities.  Examples: A narrative of processes in place to ensure decisions made by the IEP Team are communicated to all staff who work with the student.  A narrative of how the school/campus documents the delivery of service and progress toward achieving the IEP goals.	Each Doral Academy of Nevada campus employs a Special Education Facilitator. The SPED facilitator ensures that educators, both special education and general education, have access to student information and SPED documents in Infinite Campus. Complete Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are provided and reviewed with teachers for each identified SPED student
1d	Examples: A narrative explaining how content teachers are trained in specific methodologie3s to provide EL students with meaningful access to content.  A description of how EL students are acquiring English language skills in all four domains (e.g., listening, speaking, reading, and writing)  A description of how EL student progress within the four domains is monitored.	Doral Academy of Nevada utilizes arts Integration modalities into instructional practices. Support to EL Students include Campus EL Coordinators that provide trainings throughout the year on focused topics, such as "Can Do" Descriptors, Formative Assessment Practices, Scaffolding/Supports/Differentiation practices, and Arts integration strategies. Curriculum Coordinators provide content specific trainings on EL components and methodologies. Arts Integration trainings are provided from The Kennedy Center partnership on how to engage EL through art-centered tasks. WIDA trainings are provided by the NDE. EL methodologies specific to methods and models of instruction include Project-Based Learning, Cooperative Learning, Audio-lingual, Total Physical Response (TPR).

Measure	Description	Evidence Collected
За	The school complies with governance requirements. Examples: Board policies, including those related to oversight of an Education Service Provider, state open meeting law, code of ethics, conflicts of interest, board composition, routine meetings.	Doral Academy complies with governance requirements by scheduling board meetings, posting notices, and following Nevada's open meeting law requirement. Doral ensures the Board of Directors meets membership requirements, provide training to board members and consistently update members on new policies. Doral has legal counsel to represent the school should the need arise. A website houses board meeting dates, agendas, and recorded meeting notes. Yearly a survey to assess the school's financial, legal, compliance and building operations is conducted.
4a	The school protects the rights of all students.  Examples:  Admissions, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, enrollment, due process protections, conduct of discipline- (discipline hearings, suspension and expulsion policies and practices, protects student information.	Doral employs a lottery system for admission, and legal guardians must complete applications. There is sibling priority. For the academic year, 22-23 open enrollment is from January 3-February 28 and the lottery runs on March 1. Legal guardians can check their status of applications on Doral websites. Upon acceptance, legal guardians have 72 hours to complete all required registration documents. Students who do not receive a seat through the lottery process will be placed on a waitlist by grade level. Should openings occur after initial waitlist has been exhausted, a new lottery to fill those open seats will take place. Doral Academy utilizes a Restorative Justice Plan, which aligns with the school's vision and guiding principles.
5b	The school complies with health and safety requirements. Examples: Timely and accurate submission of epicenter documents: (Crisis/Emergency Response Plan Emergency Operation Plan Certificate of Occupancy) Appropriate nursing services and dispensing of pharmaceuticals, food service, and other health and Safety services.	Doral Academy of Nevada Development Committee and school committee annually review the Emergency Operations Plan. EOP. An EOP annually to the Nevada Division of Emergency Management as well as other designated organizations. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Doral Academy has developed prevention strategies for in-person learning. "The Path Forward 21-22", is found on the school's website, and includes guidelines to help ensure the safety of all staff and students.

Measures of Progress from Previous Site Evaluations FIRE MESA CAMPUS			
	nas been successful in maintaining areas of strength, removing e recommended items made by the SPCSA during the school's		
School staff ability to address previous recommendations	<ol> <li>The administrative staff at the Fire Mesa campus have continued to communicate the importance of minimizing lost instructional time with families.</li> <li>The staff at Fire Mesa has improved the quality ratings in the areas of Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport.</li> </ol>		
Evidence the school can provide to support the implementation of previous recommendations.	<ol> <li>Chronic Absenteeism continues to be a challenge and administrative staff continue to communicate with families the importance of minimizing lost instructional time.</li> <li>Teachers and staff members are currently participating in professional learning on the topic of multicultural awareness.</li> </ol>		
The reasons school will require additional time to fully address the recommended items.	<ol> <li>Chronic absenteeism continues to be a challenge and is due in part to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>There is an improvement in classroom behaviors as measured by positive comments from students and staff. As the school moves forward, an emphasis on this will require more time to become a stable and fully met recommendation.</li> </ol>		

### SITE EVALUATION FINDINGS

#### **STRENGTHS**

Summary of strengths: Academic, Classroom, Focus Groups, and Organizational Performance Evidence.

#### Doral Academy Network

- 1. The Doral Academy of Nevada Schools have updated their mission statement with input from students, families, staff, and school leaders, and the final mission statement reflects these views. Students at each of the five Doral campuses were asked to create a visual arts piece to accompany the written mission statement. Student submissions are displayed at each individual campus. Campus leaders encouraged students currently participating in dance classes to collaborate, choreograph and perform an expression of dance to express the meaning of the mission statement. This was done with very little input from adults. The mission statement has been posted to each school's website and the artwork created to visually express the meaning will be used in each campus yearbook. The framing and words within the revised Mission Statement clearly communicates the network's goals and focus of the collective set of campuses in a fresh, exciting, new way.
- 2. The Doral schools have high levels of success in effective arts integrated instruction as is described and advertised as part of the school's educational program. The network of schools follows a guideline of phasing-in arts integrated arts instruction through trainings, use of strategies, coaching, and collaboration to reach higher levels of quality arts integration in a gradual and purposeful manner. This has allowed the Doral network and each individual campus to create a major cultural shift in awareness, understanding, and commitment to becoming more skillful at integrated arts as time progresses. The SPCSA team observed examples included visual thinking strategies such as a portrait study, Tableau which involved thought tracking, movement including using rhythm and movement, drama and storytelling, dance with science processes, and music with repeating patterns. Each school displayed Arts Integration boards on the hallway walls. These boards contain a grade level standard, learning objective, and outcomes of student learning. Schools hold Gallery Nights and invite members of the school community to celebrate and discover what students are learning. It is important to note that these outcomes are the result of Doral integrating arts with Nevada Academic Content Standards. Such integration requires collaboration and designated planning time between classroom teachers and arts specialists. The planning involves a classroom grade level standard and learning outcome paired with an art form so that students become highly engaged and motivated to develop and express a deep understanding of content. These art forms include dance, music, theater, and the visual arts.
- 3. The Doral network of schools has strong leaders from the Executive Director to each Doral campus Principal. Each leader possesses high levels of effective instructional leadership and a clear understanding of content, data-based decision making, building a strong school culture, and a firm commitment to the arts-integrated mission statement. This instructional model of leadership sets a clear vision and specific goals for each school community. School leaders support the mission at the school as they provide teachers the tools they need to improve their practice. Instructional tools include training, professional learning, access to resources, coaching, and support personnel.
- 4. Support personnel experts include staff in counseling, data- based decision making, arts integration, methods for English language acquisition, and those with expertise in educating students with special needs. The school leaders are to be commended for increasing the network's potential to improve teaching and learning at this set of charter schools.

5. The Doral network of schools has been highly successful in implementing recommendations from the SPCSA's previous March 2020 site evaluation. The following recommendations were implemented during the global pandemic: National School Lunch Program, Kagan Training, and a 2021 virtual conference. The virtual conference focused on student engagement, assessment and questioning strategies. The student engagement portion of the virtual conference integrated students questioning strategies, student discourse, and student accountable language. Conference topics were given a priority for implementation, despite the virtual learning conditions in place at all school campus locations.

#### **Doral Academy Fire Mesa Strengths:**

- 1. The Doral Fire Mesa campus provides vertical alignment training to staff. The vertical alignment training focuses on collaboration, coaching, and data-based decision-making to address student achievement needs. SPCSA staff observed alignment across all grade levels in the lessons provided by the content teaching staff.
- 2. The Doral Fire Mesa campus visually displays clear school-wide expectations for students throughout the school. For example, expectations were posted in the hallways, classrooms, and bathrooms. SPCSA staff observed students following the school-wide expectations throughout the school. SPCSA staff also observed Doral Fire Mesa teachers providing positive feedback when students followed the school-wide expectations.
- 3. The school leader promotes shared leadership at the school as part of the Leadership, Instruction, Networking, Collaboration (LINCs) system, which consists of members of each grade level team. Goals are developed to promote collaboration and planning within grade level teams. Teams know when and where students are approaching, meeting, and exceeding a grade level standard and plan accordingly. Teams plan lessons for student growth, track progress and use assessment information to further plan, and develop lessons.
- 4. The LINCs Team has a goal of improving multicultural awareness in a partnership with Dr. Greta Peay. Staff have participated in a survey to determine which multicultural topics the school should prioritize and implement.
- 5. SPCSA staff observed Fire Mesa staff using Socratic Seminars, number talks, accountable talk, Hot Seat, Ron Clark strategies, CHAMPS expectations in different locations of the school, as well as an overall thought process of a growth mindset. There was schoolwide inclusion of teachers, staff, and administrators to collaboratively support each student in a cooperative and collaborative manner.

#### **CHALLENGES**

A summary of challenges as observed through academic achievement indicators, classroom observations, focus group feedback and portions of the Organizational Performance Framework Evidence are described within the body of the report and summarized here.

1. The Doral Fire Mesa campus is faced with staffing challenges. To address this challenge, Fire Mesa has hired student teachers from other Doral campuses as part of the UNLV partnership. This partnership between this campus and UNLV has, according to school leaders, provided a way to assist the college in placing students at the school for practicum work and student teaching. It offers a place for new teachers to learn and be welcomed. Additionally, school leaders have partnered with iTeach (an alternative teacher certification program) to fill positions with teachers who are in the process of becoming certified. Hiring those familiar with the Doral Network and campus culture is a benefit for novice teachers and the Fire Mesa campus. Teachers with a foundational understanding of day-to-day procedures can focus on instruction and student need.

2. School leaders expressed some challenges around social-emotional learning, mental health, and behavior. School leaders also discussed academic supports and interventions. The Doral Fire Mesa campus is seeking teacher training to support social-emotional needs of students. School leaders are working to support students struggling with self-awareness, behavior, and social awareness. Leadership has also undertaken a school-wide initiative to address cultural diversity groups.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended items are provided so charters may increase their school-wide ratings as well as their overall success. Authorizing Team members will follow up on each listed recommendation.

- The SPCSA recommends that <u>all Doral campuses</u> continue to attract and enroll a more diverse student population. In particular, the Free and Reduced Lunch and Second Language Learners as compared to Clark County have lower numbers according to the SPCSA Enrollment Diversity Indicator. Continued and intentional dedicated efforts by the Board and staff will be necessary to improve in this area.
- 2. SPCSA staff recommends that Doral Fire Mesa pursue Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) opportunities through the SPCSA. Leadership mentioned that there were several challenges resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, such as training for staff. MTSS opportunities through the SPCSA have the potential to provide staff access to tier 1, 2, and 3 training and resources to address these challenges.
- 3. The SPCSA staff recommends that the campus continue to implement and refine newly learned inclusive practices. This recommendation is only offered because inclusive practice work and implementation takes time. It is recommended that this positive and important work continue and support the campus. By improving these practices, the campus may continue to become a more positive work environment and continue to welcome the input of all.

#### **DEFICIENCIES**

There were no deficiencies identified for Doral Fire Mesa Academy during this evaluation.