FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada

Updated: August 2021

This document addresses commonly asked questions about public charter school authorization and operation in Nevada. The information throughout this document is organized into the following <u>5 Key Topics:</u>

The information in this document reflects the most accurate and detailed responses available as of August 2021. Some technical details are still evolving. As more details become available, this document will be updated. The next update of this document is planned for the conclusion of the 2023 Nevada State Legislative Session. If you have a question that is not addressed below, please send your inquiry to jana@opportunity180.org.
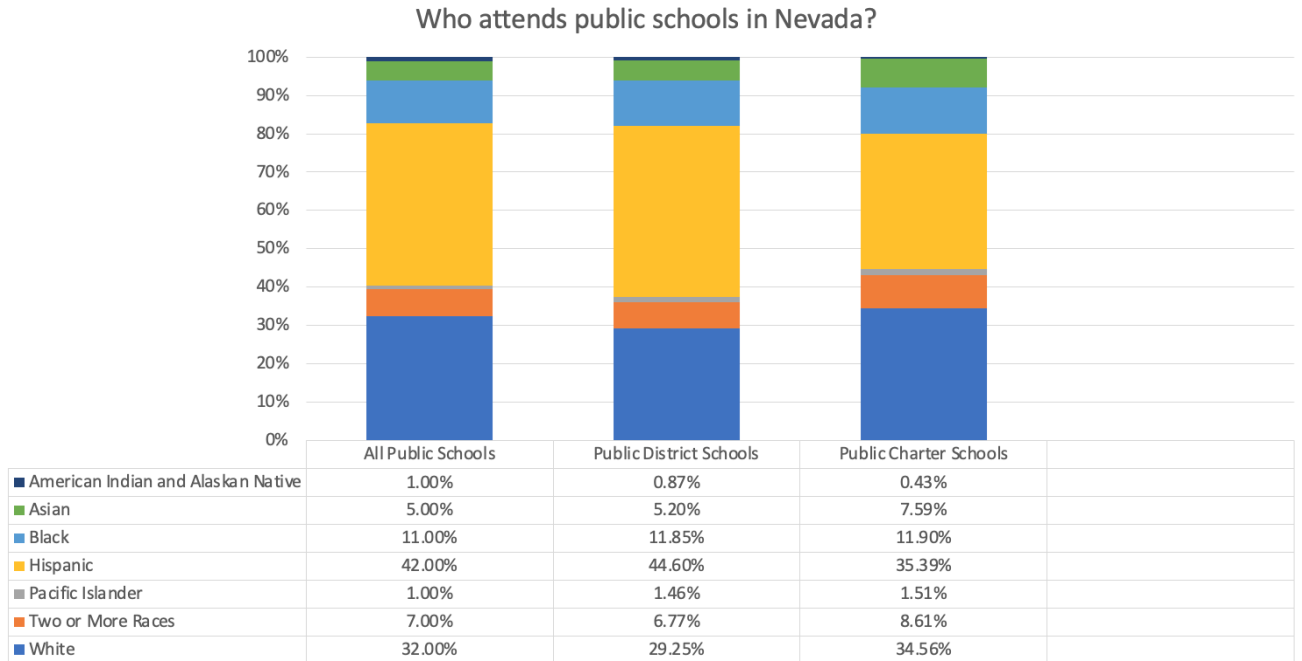
OVERVIEW OF NEVADA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. **How many public school students are in Nevada and Clark County?**
Approximately 433,410 students in Nevada attended a public district
or public charter school in 2020-21. Approximately 370,360 students in Clark County
attended a public district or public charter school in 2020-21. [1]

2. **What is the breakdown of the number of students in public district schools and in public charter schools? (The counties listed below currently have operating charter schools.)** [1] [9]

Location	Total Enrolled (District & Charter)	Public Charter Enrollment	Percent Enrolled in Public Charters
Nevada	433,410	58,855	14%
Carson City	8,123	287	4%
Churchill	3,941	694	21%
Clark	370,360	51,067	14%
Elko	9,799	190	2%
Washoe	71,409	6,421	9%
White Pine	1,424	196	14%

3. Who attends public schools in Nevada? [1]

Who attends public schools in Nevada?

	All Public Schools	Public District Schools	Public Charter Schools
■ American Indian and Alaskan Native	1.00%	0.87%	0.43%
■ Asian	5.00%	5.20%	7.59%
■ Black	11.00%	11.85%	11.90%
■ Hispanic	42.00%	44.60%	35.39%
■ Pacific Islander	1.00%	1.46%	1.51%
■ Two or More Races	7.00%	6.77%	8.61%
■ White	32.00%	29.25%	34.56%

4. Who attends public schools in Nevada? *(continued)* [1]

Legend: FRL, ELL, IEP

	All Public Schools	Public District Schools	Public Charter Schools	SPCSA Authorized Charter Schools	CCSD Authorized Charters
FRL	61.00%	50.41%	39.00%	36.00%	39.00%
ELL	15.00%	8.06%	7.00%	7.00%	8.00%
IEP	12.00%	12.76%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%
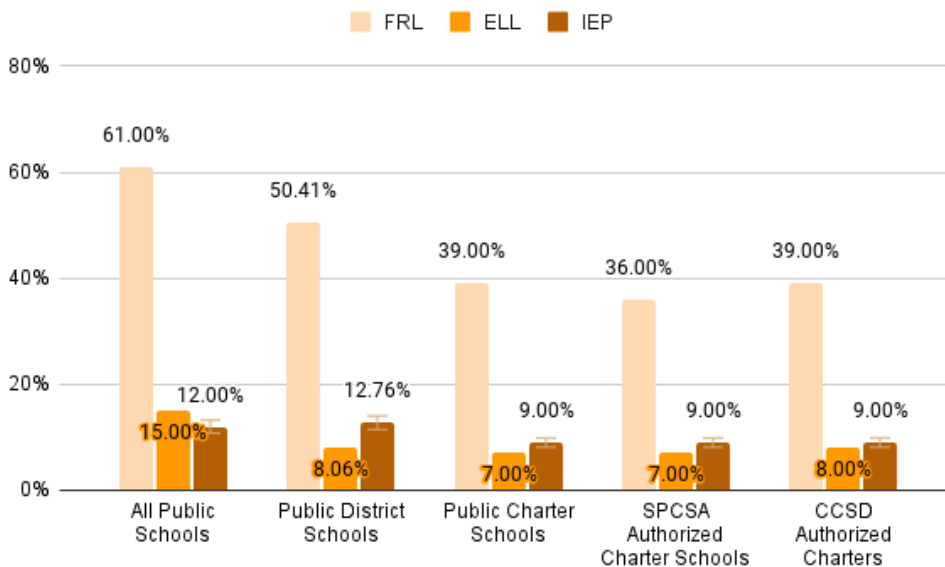
MEASURING PUBLIC SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

1. What tests do Nevada public schools administer?

Test Title	Test Description	Grades
Brigance Early Childhood Screens III [2]	A developmental assessment using observation, interviews, and child performance to measure early development and kindergarten readiness.	Pre-K-K

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	A nationally-normed computer-adaptive assessment used to monitor student progress in accordance with the Read by Three Initiative. [2]	K-3
The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)	Nationally-normed annual assessment for reading and math. [2]	3-8
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Assessment of several content areas including (but not limited to) reading, math, writing, science, and U.S. history. [2]	4 & 8
Science Accountability Assessment	A computer-based test administered in the spring that is based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science.	5, 8, HS
End of Course (EOC) Assessment	End of Course (EOC) assessments measure how well a student understands the subject they are enrolled in. Currently, students take the EOC exam at the conclusion of the aligned course as an end of course final. EOC tests are administered for Math I Emphasis on Algebra I, Math II Emphasis on Geometry, Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics 2, English Language Arts I, Focus on Reading Comprehension, and English Language Arts II, Focus on Writing. [2]	7-12
ACT	A college-readiness assessment for placement in college-level math and English courses without remediation.	11
Career and Technical Education Assessment	Assessment required for students enrolled in a CTE program.	9-12
WIDA	Annual assessment for students who are Limited English Proficient. [2]	K-12
Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)	Determinations for which students are eligible for this assessment are made through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. The NAA assesses IEP students in Mathematics, ELA, and Science.	3-8, 11 (ELA & Math) 5,8,11 (Science)

Students with IEPs may take alternative tests, or receive accommodations for the tests above.

Senate Bill 353 (2021) states that the Nevada Department of Education shall review exams and assessments as applicable for their educational benefit, cost of administering, and redundancy in information. The Nevada Department of Education will prescribe limits on the actual time taken from instruction for the exam or assessment and the number of exams and assessments administered each year.

2. How does the state accountability system work?

The Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) is an annual summary of school performance developed by Nevada stakeholders to hold schools accountable. The NSPF rates schools with one to five stars, five being the highest-performing.
- Elementary school ratings are based on growth (35 points), academic achievement (25 points), English language proficiency (10 points), opportunity gaps (20 points), and student engagement (10 points).
- Middle school ratings are the same as elementary. The components and corresponding point values include growth (30 points), academic achievement (25 points), English language proficiency (10 points), opportunity gaps (20 points), and student engagement (15 points).

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- High school ratings are based on academic achievement (25 points), graduation rates (30 points), English language proficiency (10 points), measures of college and career readiness (25 points), and student engagement (10 points). [3]

The Alternative Performance Framework (APF) is available for schools serving 75 percent or more students that:
- Have been expelled or suspended from a public school.
- Have been deemed a habitual disciplinary problem.
- Are academically disadvantaged (those who have been retained in the same grade two or more times or have too few credits to graduate on time).
- Have been adjudicated delinquent.
- Have been adjudicated in need of supervision (habitually truant from school, undisciplined, or a runaway).
- Have an individualized education program.

Generally, the APF will apply to schools that fall into one of four categories:
- Schools offering credit recovery programs
- Schools offering behavioral/continuation programs
- Juvenile detention facilities serving adjudicated youth
- Special education schools serving students with multiple and severe cognitive disabilities.

In the 2020-21school year, 19 schools in Clark County and 30 schools in all of Nevada were approved to use the Alternate Performance Framework (APF). [4][34][43]

3. Do public charter schools sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) immediately receive a Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) rating?

Regardless of grade levels served, new public charter schools will not receive an NSPF rating until after the completion of their first full year. [5]

Slow growth elementary schools, or schools that open a few grades at a time, do not receive a rating until they have tested grades. High schools do not receive a rating until they have been in operation for 5-years.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that every public district and public charter school be rated under the state's approved accountability system. Some Nevada schools cannot meet the minimum n-size threshold (the minimum number of students needed to provide statistically sound data) to be rated based on a single year of data. These small schools are identified annually and rated by pooling the student records over a number of years until n-size is achieved. [8]

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4. What are the graduation requirements and available diploma types? [6]

Standard Diploma	Advanced Diploma
Until June 30, 2022, students must fulfill the following graduation requirements to earn a Standard Diploma (a minimum of 22.5 credits): ✔ 4 credits in English ✔ 3 credits in Math ✔ 2 credits in Science ✔ 2 credits in Physical Education ✔ 1 credit each in U.S. History and U.S. Government ✔ 0.5 credits each in Health and Computer Science Education & Technology ✔ 1 credit in Arts and Humanities, JROTC, or CTE ✔ 7.5 credits from Electives ✔ Take four end-of-course assessments (two in English and two in math) ✔ Take a civics assessment ✔ Take the ACT Plus Writing	✔ Meet the requirements of a Standard Diploma ✔ Earn an additional Math (4 total), Science (3 total), and Social Studies (3 total) credit over the standard diploma ✔ 6 credits from Electives ✔ Achieve a weighted or unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or better

College and Career Ready Diploma
✔ Meet the requirements of an Advanced Diploma
✔ Achieve a GPA of 3.25 or better
✔ Show proficiency in a second language, OR earn two credits in the following categories:
  o AP Courses
  o IB Courses
  o Dual-credit or Dual Enrollment Courses
  o CTE courses
  o Work-based Learning Courses
  o World Language Courses
✔ Receive a college or careerready endorsement, which requires:
  o The minimum score on the ACT for English, Math and Writing as prescribed by the Nevada State Board of Education.
  o Pass one of the two State Board of Education's approved career-readiness assessments OR meet requirements for the issuance of the State Certificate of Skill Attainment OR obtain an industry-recognized credential identified by the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada.

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5. How well are Nevada students performing in district & public charter schools?

Overall, Nevada ranked at 46th in education when considering school readiness, student achievement, high school completion, and funding (according to the 2021 Kids Count Data Book). [7]

Due to the United State Department of Education's waiver to suspend accountability requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSPF school ratings/indicators have been carried over from the 2018-2019 reporting year.

Average District Performance Statewide	Charter Performance
Elementary Math Proficiency: 43%	Elementary Math Proficiency: 52%
Elementary Reading Proficiency: 50%	Elementary Reading Proficiency: 59%
Elementary Science Proficiency: 23%	Elementary Science Proficiency: 34%
Middle Math Proficiency: 32%	Middle Math Proficiency: 41%
Middle Reading Proficiency: 48%	Middle Reading Proficiency: 58%
Middle Science Proficiency: 36%	Middle Science Proficiency: 44%
High School Graduation Rate: 90%	High School Graduation Rate: 73%
High School College & Career Readiness: 21% This is measured by scoring a 22 or greater on the ACT [1]	High School College & Career Readiness: 25% This is measured by scoring a 22 or greater on the ACT [1]

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AUTHORIZATION TO LAUNCH A PUBLIC CHARTER

1. Who can authorize a new public charter school?

Three (3) entities have the authority to sponsor (or authorize) new public charter schools:

- The State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), a statewide authorizer
- The county local education agency
- Colleges and universities within the Nevada System of Higher Education

Currently in Nevada, the SPCSA is the only authorizer actively accepting applications for new public charter schools. Here are some quick things to note about the SPCSA:
- SPCSA charters may NOT convert district schools.
- SPCSA charters do NOT have access to district facilities.
- SPCSA charters are all open enrollment (non-selective– open to all students with no academic or behavioral enrollment criteria).
- SPCSA is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the public charters it authorizes.

2. Who can apply to be authorized by the SPCSA?

- A public charter management organization (CMO)
- A committee to form a public charter school, including those intending to contract with an educational management organization

3. Are there any limitations on the number of public charter schools that can be authorized in Nevada?

Nevada does not cap the number of public charter schools operating anywhere in the state. However, Assembly Bill 462 (2019) directs the State Public Charter School Authority to establish a plan to manage the growth of charter schools in the state. This plan must be reviewed at least biennially and revised as necessary. The SPCSA released the 2020 Growth Management Plan that outlines growth priorities.

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4. What authorizer fees must public charter schools pay?

Authorizers can deduct up to 2% of the total amount of money apportioned to the charter school for administrative fees, but charter schools meeting certain requirements can request to lower the amount retained to less than 2 percent but at least 1 percent (NRS 388A.414). [37]

5. What are authorizers looking for in a strong public charter application?

The SPCSA is looking for:
- A mission and vision with a school model that meets the needs of the community they intend to serve.
- A promising or proven school model.
- A school leader with an exemplary track record of academic and operating results.
- A strong founding team with educational, financial, accounting, legal, and community experience and expertise.
- A strong school financial model.
- Strong community relationships and partnerships.

When reviewing an application, make sure to review the related rubric and write the application in line with the rubric as this is how the SPCSA will evaluate the application. The rubric is the most useful tool while writing an application. The SPCSA must consider how the proposed public charter school will address the needs identified in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment, which is updated annually by the SPCSA. Below are some of the academic and demographic needs highlights. [12]

Demographic Needs: Applicants committed to serving the following student populations that were identified as persistently underperforming:
- Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch
- English Learners
- Student with IEPs

Academic Need 1: Applicants who plan to launch in zip codes where high concentrations of students attend 1- or 2-star schools. Zip codes of greatest need are outlined in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment.

Academic Need 2: Applicants are committed to serving the following student populations that were identified as at-risk of dropping out of school:
- English Learners
- Students with IEPs
- Student receiving free/reduced price lunch
- Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander student populations

6. When are new public charter school applications due?

Summer application cycle deadlines (the summer 2021 charter application cycle has closed):
- Letters of Intent to submit a new charter application are due between March 1st and March 15th by 11PM.
- Charter applications are due between July 1st and July 15th.

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Winter 2021 application cycle deadlines:
- Letters of Intent to submit a new charter application are due between September 1st and September 15th by 11PM.
- Charter applications are due between January 1st and January 15th. [11]

7. What does the charter application process in Nevada include?
The charter school application process in Nevada includes:
- Pre-application training
- Letter of Intent (LOI) submission
- Application Submission
- Authorizer review & interview of applicant
- Staff recommendation to authority board
- Final approval by the authority board

The SPCSA provides guidance documents for each application cycle that provides in-depth application instructions. Click here to access the SPCSA guidance documents and other application resources.

8. Can public charter operators open multiple grades at once (i.e. K-1 for a new elementary school)?
Yes.

9. Can public charter operators run multiple schools under one application?
Yes.

10. Can public charter operators defer launching a school after authorization?
Yes.

11. What criteria must a public charter operator meet to open additional schools?
An SPCSA-sponsored charter operator may request an amendment of its public charter to expand after the first year of operation of its first school. The SPCSA will consider the existing school's academic, governance, and fiscal health in the decision-making process.

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STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

1. What student enrollment preferences are permitted? [36]

SPCSA charters may give preference to the following students in a blind lottery, which takes place if a school receives more enrollment applications than seats available. Enrollment preference can be granted to:

- Siblings of current students.
- Students who were enrolled in the school's pre-K program.
- Children of employees, members of the committee to form the school, or members of the governing board.
- At-risk students, if the school targets this population.
- Students who reside close to a school if it is located in an at-risk area.
- Students connected to the military if the school is located on a military installation.
- Students attending overcrowded schools within two miles of the school.
- Students attending schools that received one of the two lowest ratings possible under the state's school performance framework (1- or 2-stars), if their district school is also located within two miles of the public charter school.

2. What are schools spending on student recruitment?

Marketing costs for student recruitment and community outreach varies based on institution, whether the recruitment is in person or virtual, and the amount of time the school has been operating.

Schools typically allocate between $10,000 and $20,000 for student recruitment and outreach. Schools also typically need to spend money on recruitment and family engagement before they are approved; this amount is usually somewhere between $5,000 and $8,000 (Amounts are estimates based on the average student recruitment spending of charter schools Opportunity 180 currently supports) .

Opportunity 180 has created a virtual recruitment toolkit to assist schools with recruiting students via online platforms.

3. What resources are available to help families choose a school?

Nevada applies its performance framework to rate schools on a scale of one to five stars. Families can use Opportunity 180's data portal, Greatschoolsallkids.org, to access the performance data of public charter and district schools across Nevada. The portal also has a compare feature allowing stakeholders to get side-by-side comparisons of up to three public schools. [27]

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STAFFING AND TALENT PIPELINES

1. Are public charter schools bound by school district collective bargaining agreements?

No. However, public charter school employees who are on a leave of absence from a school district (available for up to three years for public charter schools) are covered by the collective bargaining agreement if the school's charter is terminated or revoked.

2. Must charter teachers meet any certification requirements?

Yes. As updated in Assembly Bill 109 (2021), at least 80 percent of teachers providing instruction at a public charter school must demonstrate experience and qualifications through licensure or subject matter expertise. All core academic subject teachers must be licensed. [13]

3. Does Nevada offer teacher certification reciprocity?

Yes. Visit the Nevada Department of Education's teacher licensure website for more information. [18]

4. Does Clark County have any alternative certification programs?

CCSD and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) [19] offer alternative teacher certification programs. Teach For America (TFA) [21] and The New Teacher Project (TNTP) [20] also provide alternate routes to licensure.

Public Charter schools may also apply to Nevada's Commission on Professional Standards to manage their own alternative certification programs once they have met the performance requirement of receiving 3, 4, or 5-stars on the Nevada Performance Framework (or equivalent in another state) for two consecutive school years (NRS388A.517, Section 7). [22]

Senate Bill 352 (2021) creates an alternative route to licensure. If an individual is employed as a paraprofessional and enrolled in a program to become a teacher, he/she/they may complete an accelerated program of student teaching in the same or similar area in which they are currently employed while remaining employed as a paraprofessional. Student teaching in another state or a foreign country will now be accepted and considered valid. If an individual is in a program for school psychology, he/she/they may complete their internship in school psychology while remaining employed.

On August 18, 2021, The Commission on Professional Standards removed the moratorium on approving Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) programs offered by out-of-state providers.

5. Do charter administrators have to meet any certification requirements? [23]

Nevada charter law requires that public charter school administrators possess:
- A valid state teacher's license with an administration endorsement;
- A master's degree in school administration, public administration, or business administration; OR have at least 5 years of experience in school administration, public administration, or business administration and a baccalaureate degree

6. What talent pipelines exist in Nevada?

Some existing teacher pipelines include:
- Teach for America Las Vegas [21] and TNTP's Nevada Teaching Corp [20] both recruit, train, and help to place new teachers to teach in Clark County schools.

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- The Teach Nevada Scholarship funds students pursuing teaching degrees or alternative licensure at state colleges or universities. As of 2019, Teach Nevada Scholarship recipients must pursue an endorsement in teaching English as a Second Language. [10]
- Nevada State College offers a Teacher Preparation Program, which is standards-based and uses the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). [24]
- Western Governors University offers an online path to licensure that is accepted throughout the United States.[25]

Administrator pipelines include:
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) offers an educational leadership doctorate program to focus on visionary thinking and innovative solutions to current and future leadership positions. UNLV also offers The Educational Policy & Leadership Master's Program that meets the requirements for Nevada School Administrator Endorsement and the Nevada Program Administrator Endorsement.
- University of Nevada, Reno's College of Education, in partnership with Washoe County School District (WCSD), launched Nevada Leads, an M.Ed. program that connects experienced WCSD principals (mentors) with teachers aspiring to become school leaders.

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STAFF COMPENSATION

1. How are teachers & administrators compensated in Clark County schools? [30] [33]
Public charters have the autonomy to determine staff pay scale. CCSD does have a salary table for both teachers and administrators, which can be accessed here.

2. How much do public charters generally pay in employee benefits as a percentage of salary?
Benefits generally include four main categories: retirement (Public Employees' Retirement System or PERS), worker's compensation, unemployment insurance, and Medicare.

PERS is required for licensed school staff (see NRS 388a.318, NRS 388a.533 and NAC 388a.585). There are two types of contribution plans, which can be viewed here. As participants in PERS, contributions are 29.25% shared equally between employer and employee.

The other benefits as of March 2020:
- Worker's Compensation (0.85%)
- Unemployment Insurance (0.05%)
- Medicare (1.45%). [29]

3. Are public charters subject to any requirements regarding staff salaries?
Public charters have the autonomy to determine their teacher and staff salaries, but are required to contribute to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) for full-time employees.

4. Are there city or state taxes that an employer must pay on behalf of employees?
No. Since Nevada has no state or local income tax, employers do not pay city or state taxes on behalf of employees.

GOVERNING BOARDS OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

1. Are operators required to have a local board?

An operator is required to include members of the local community on its board.
SPCSA authorized charter school governing boards must include:

- Two current or retired educators licensed by Nevada; or one current or retired educator licensed by Nevada and a current or retired administrator with a valid license
- A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school who is not a teacher or administrator at the school
- Two members with experience in accounting, financial services, law, or human services

The board may also include an unlimited number of parents and representatives of nonprofit organizations and businesses, except that no more than two may represent the same organization or business. In addition, a majority of members must live in Nevada, and they may not be convicted felons.

2. May operators receive a waiver from the board requirements described above?

The SPCSA can grant waivers of these membership requirements for a compelling reason. If approved, the waiver may provide for multiple governing bodies with decision-making authority over governance issues, but the majority of members of each body must reside in Nevada.

3. Can a single governing body oversee multiple public charter schools?

Yes. Governing boards can oversee more than one school under a single charter contract.

4. Can public charter school governing boards hold multiple charter contracts?

Yes, SPCSA-authorized public charter school boards may hold multiple public charter contracts.

5. Do any local organizations recruit and train school board members?

Opportunity 180 has launched a board matching program to build a pool of community members who are interested in improving outcomes for every kid by serving on a charter school board. O180 works closely with school leaders to understand their current board needs and connect them with great candidates. Although Opportunity 180 does not provide training, the matching program can be used to identify potential board members and training resources to supplement a school's primary recruiting and training strategies. Schools interested in joining the board matching program should complete the [Charter School Board Member Needs](#) form, and an O180 team member will follow up.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTONOMY

1. Are public charter schools free from all district policies and regulations?
Yes, except for policies regulated by state or federal law.

2. Can public charter schools implement any curricular program?
Yes, as long as it aligns with state standards.

Can school leaders hire and release staff as needed?
Yes. The school leaders of SPCSA charter schools make all employment-related decisions subject to certain certification requirements.

Can school leaders set staff compensation?
Yes, the governing body or the principal of a public charter school can make all employment-related decisions.

Can the public charter school have its own independent board of directors and nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation?
Yes.

Do public charter schools have the freedom to enact a longer school day, school week, and school year?
Yes.

Are public charter schools required to use any particular district vendors (ex: maintenance, food service, transportation)?
No.

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FUNDING A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEVADA

1. How much per-pupil funding do public charter schools typically receive?

Each Biennium, the Nevada legislature establishes a per-pupil Basic Support Guarantee (BSG) for each school district. The Basic Support Guarantee establishes a floor for the amount of funds each district will receive per pupil. The BSG is adjusted for each school district (or county) based on the county's local revenue. Public charter schools receive the Estimated Basic Support Guarantee of the county in which the school resides.

Districts with Charter Schools	Basic Support Guarantee
Carson City	$7,542
Churchill	$8,140
Clark	$7,243
Elko	$7764
Washoe	$7025
White Pine	$10429
Distance Education	$7025

2. How is special education funded?

Per the Pupil Centered Funding Formula (Senate Bill 439 (2021), weighted funding is provided for any pupil who is an English language learner, at-risk, or gifted and talented. This new funding formula does not specifically designate funds for students with IEPs.

However, the support provided to each school district and charter school must include a statewide multiplier for pupils with disabilities. The funding provided to each school district and charter school through the statewide multiplier for pupils with disabilities is limited to the actual number of pupils with disabilities enrolled in the school district or charter school, not to exceed 13 percent of total pupil enrollment for the school district or charter school. If a school district or charter school has reported an enrollment of pupils with disabilities equal to more than 13 percent of total pupil enrollment, the school district or charter school must receive, for each

such additional pupil, an amount of money equal to one-half of the statewide multiplier then in effect for pupils with disabilities.

3. Does the state provide weighted funding for any other student groups?

The state provides weighted funding for any pupil who is an English language learner, an at-risk pupil, or a gifted and talented pupil. Weights are extra allotments of funding on top of the base per-pupil amount to address students with additional needs.

If a pupil belongs to more than one category, the pupil must receive only the weighted funding for the single category to which the pupil belongs which has the largest multiplier or the statewide multiplier, whichever is larger.

Weighted funding comes from a reallocation of funds previously earmarked for the Zoom and Victory programs.

Public Charters are eligible to apply for additional funding via the following programs: (per Senate Bill 458 (2021))

Type of Weight	Legislatively Mandated Weight	Current Biennium Weight
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER	24% weight (0.24 multiplier) for English Language Learners	20% weight (0.23 multiplier) for English Language Learners
AT-RISK	3% weight (0.03 multiplier) for at-risk pupils (at-risk means a pupil who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches)	3% weight (0.03 multiplier) for at-risk pupils
GIFTED AND TALENTED	12% weight (0.12 multiplier) for gifted and talented pupils	12% weight (0.12 multiplier) for gifted and talented pupils

Type of Weight	Current Biennium Weight
SPECIAL EDUCATION	33% weight (0.33 multiplier) for pupils with special needs

4. What additional public sources of revenue are there for public charters?

The Nevada Department of Education administers grants throughout the year that Local Education Agencies and individual schools can apply for. Grants are available for:
- School Safety Funds
- Financial Literacy Funds
- Computer Science Education Funds
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- *Nevada Ready!* State Pre-K Program: The Department of Education anticipates allocations for eligible entities for the purpose of implementing preschool services to 4-year old children at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- The Charter School Program (CSP) grant is currently available through Opportunity 180.
    o The Charter School Program (CSP) is a federal grant facilitated by Opportunity 180 to lead the launch and expansion of high-quality public charter schools across Nevada.
    o Opportunity 180 makes subgrants to eligible applicants for the purpose of opening new public charter schools, replicating, or expanding high-quality public charter schools.
    o Eligibility: Eligible applicants must have an approved Charter application from a Nevada authorizer in order to receive Federal CSP dollars under this program.

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- o Application Process: (1) Eligibility and Letter of Intent Stage, (2) Application Stage, (3) Review Stage, and (4) Notification.
- o To read more about additional technical requirements, criteria for applying, and the application process and deadlines, visit https://opportunity180.org/great-schools-for-nevada/.

5. What private funding is available?

Opportunity180 has planning and Year 0 grants available for approved schools. [31]
Click here to access Opportunity180's grant portal.

6. Is there state funding for full-day kindergarten?

Yes. All schools offer kindergarten, but kindergarten is not compulsory. Per Senate Bill 102 (2021), if a child is five years or older on or before the first day of school, the child may start kindergarten.

7. Is there state funding for pre-K?

Yes, Nevada offers grants for Pre-K programs. The Department of Education anticipates allocations for eligible entities for the purpose of implementing preschool services to 4-year old children at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level through the _Nevada Ready!_ State Pre-K Program.

8. What is the payment schedule?

SPCSA charters receive quarterly payments with one exception, which is that in its first year of operation a public charter school may request any quarterly payment 30 days earlier.

SPCSA charters receive payments directly from the district and the State Public Charter School Authority. Public charter schools receive local tax funds directly from CCSD, and the State and Federal funds from SPCSA.

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FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

1. Do public charters have access to district facilities?
No. SPCSA public charter schools do NOT have access to district facilities.

2. Are SPCSA charters responsible for securing their own facilities?
All public charter schools are responsible for securing their own facilities.

3. How much do public charters generally spend on facilities?
Since public charters do not receive facilities funding, most public charters use operational funds for facility costs. The percentage of operational funds used for facilities costs is generally 12-15 percent for site-based public charter schools. [38]

A facility loan fund is being developed by Opportunity 180. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

4. Are public charter schools subject to prevailing wage?
In 2019, the legislature passed Assembly Bill 136 that subjects public charter schools to prevailing wage requirements. The minimum threshold for the applicability of prevailing wage is $100,000. [32]

5. Does the state guarantee capital to secure low bond rates for operators?
Not at this time, however, since financing and securing affordable facilities has been a challenge, the Nevada Legislature enacted the Charter School Financing Law (NRS 386.612-649), which authorizes The Department of Business and Industry to be a conduit issuer of tax-exempt bonds for public charter schools in the state of Nevada.

6. How much do schools typically spend on transportation?
Transportation costs vary considerably based on bus utilization, distance traveled, and the number of special-needs student riders.

7. Can public charters contract with the district to provide transportation?
Yes, however they are not required to.

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