

Frequently Asked Questions: Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada

Updated September 2023

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 **5 Key Topics**:

1. About Nevada
 - a. Nevada by the Numbers
 - b. Measuring Public School Performance in Nevada
2. Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada
 - a. Authorization to Launch a Public Charter School
3. Students and Talent Recruitment
 - a. Student Recruitment and Enrollment
 - b. Staffing and Talent Pipeline
4. School Board Governance and School-Level Autonomy
 - a. Governing Boards of Public Charter Schools
 - b. Public Charter School Autonomy
5. Conditions for Public Charter School Success
 - a. Funding a Public Charter School
 - b. Securing Facilities and Transportation

The information in this document reflects the most accurate and detailed responses available as of September 2023. Some technical details are still evolving and are noted where possible. As more details become available, this document will be updated. The next update of this document is planned for the conclusion of the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session. If you have a question is not addressed below, please send your inquiry to jana@opportunity180.org.



Section 1: About Nevada

NEVADA BY THE NUMBERS

1. How many public school students are in Nevada and Clark County?

Approximately 489,597 students in Nevada attended a public district or public charter school in 2022-23. Approximately 314,372¹ students in Clark County attended a public district or public charter school in 2022-23.

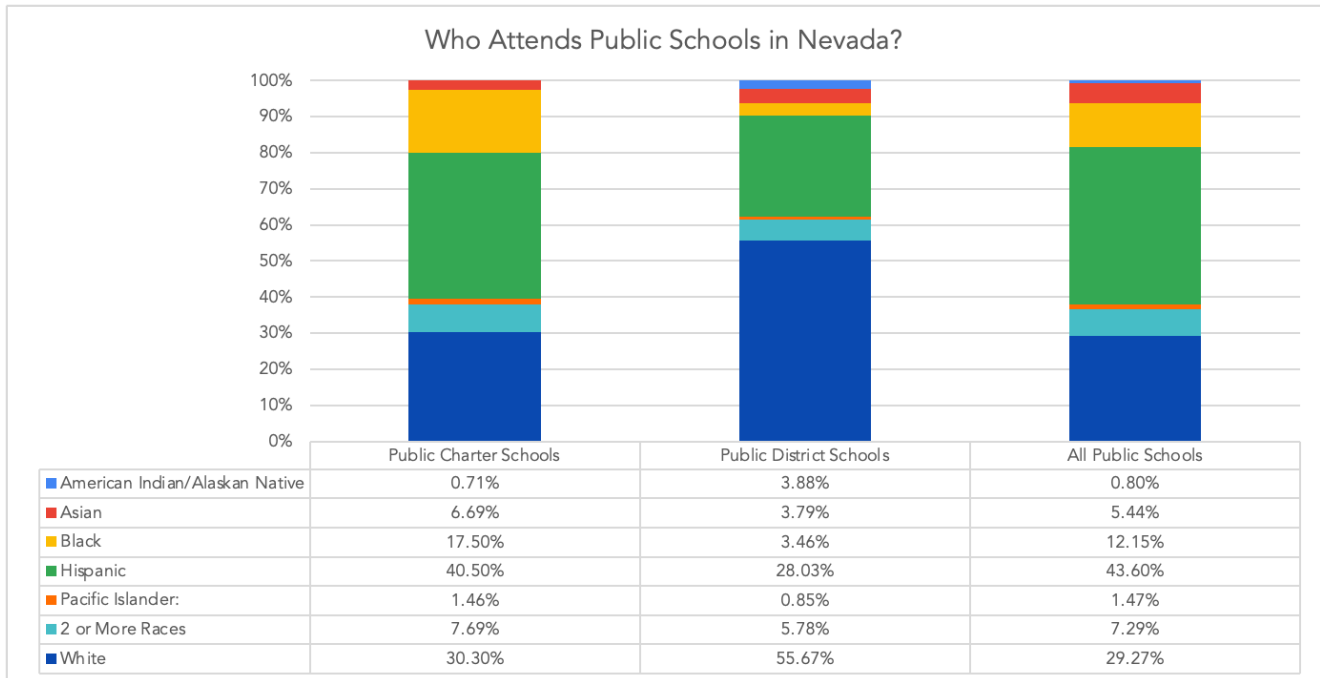
2. What is the breakdown of the number of students in public strict schools and in public charter schools? (The counties listed below currently have operating charter schools, as not all counties in Nevada have operating charter schools.)

Location	Total Enrolled (District & Charter)	Public Charter Enrollment	Percent Enrolled in Public Charters
Nevada	489,597	68,199	13.9%
Carson City	7,722	283	3.7%
Churchill County	3,394	735	21.7%
Clark County	314,372	57,877	18.4%
Elko County	10,171	197	1.9%
Washoe County	64,990	4,675	7.2%
White Pine County	1,322	176	13.3%

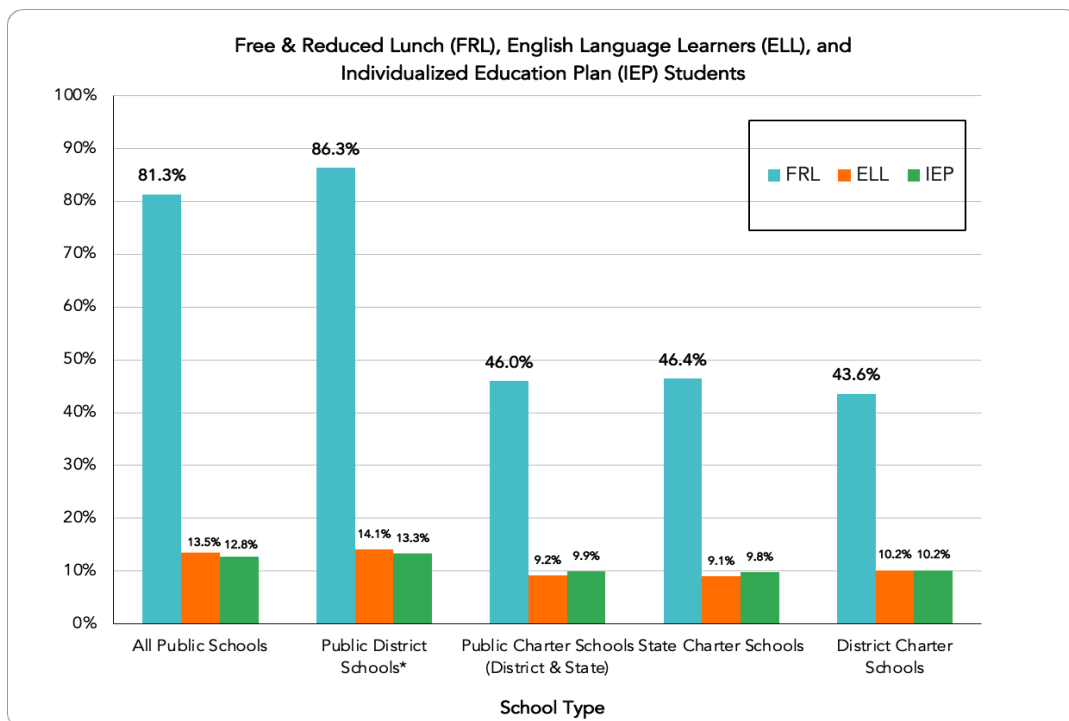
Note: There are three 'statewide' virtual public charter schools sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority. These schools are not reported under a specific county and have a combined total enrollment of 3,329 students.

¹ https://doe.nv.gov/DataCenter/Enrollment_Data/

1. Who attends public schools in Nevada?²



2. Who attends public schools in Nevada (continued)?³



² https://doe.nv.gov/DataCenter/Enrollment_Data/

³ https://doe.nv.gov/DataCenter/Enrollment_Data/

MEASURING PUBLIC SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

3. What tests do Nevada public schools administer?

Test Title	Test Description	Grades
Brigance Early Childhood Screens III⁴	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
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Assessment of several content areas including (but not limited to) reading, math, writing, science, and U.S. history	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, and High School
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 made through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. The NAA assesses IEP students in math, ELA, and science.	3 – 8, 11 (ELA and Math) 5, 8, 11 (Science)

⁴ <https://doe.nv.gov/Assessments/>

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

[Senate Bill 9](#) (2023) removed the requirement for end of course assessments for middle and high school students.

4. 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).
- 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).

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 had 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).

Generally, the APF will apply to school 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 2021-22 school year, 20 schools in Clark County and 30 schools in all of Nevada were approved to use the APF.^{5 6}

3. Do public charter schools sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) immediately receive an 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.

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.⁷

Star ratings were suspended for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Star ratings resumed for the 2022-23 school year.

5

<http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Guide%20to%20the%20Nevada%20Alternative%20Performance%20Framework%20School%20Year%202021-2022.pdf>

⁶ <https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Accountability/SY2122APFSchoolList.pdf>

⁷ <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>

4. What are the graduation requirements and available diploma types? ⁸

Standard Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 4 credits in English Language Arts● 3 credits in Math● 2 credits in Science● 2 credits in Physical Education● 2 flex credits for College & Career Readiness● 1 credit in U.S. History● 1 credit in Arts & Humanities, JROTC, or CTE● 0.5 credits each in Health, Economics & Financial Literacy, Computer Science Education & Technology, and U.S. Government● 6 credits from Electives● Take the ACT Plus Writing● Civics assessment	College & Career Ready Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meet the requirements of a Standard Diploma● An additional Math (4 total credits), Science (3 total credits), and Social Studies (1 credit)● 6 credits from Electives● Achieve at least a 3.25 GPA● Show proficiency in a second language, or earn two credits in the following categories: AP, IB, dual-credit/dual-enrollment, CTE, work-based learning, or world language courses)● Receive the College-Ready Endorsement and/or the Career-Ready Endorsement ⁶
Advanced Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meet the requirements of a Standard Diploma● An additional Math (4 total credits), Science (3 total credits), and Social Studies (1 credit)● 6 credits from Electives● Achieve at least a 3.25 GPA	

[Assembly Bill 241](#) (2023) requires incoming high school students, beginning in 2025, to automatically enroll in the College and Career-Ready Diploma path. Students may choose to opt into other diploma tracks after their freshman year.

⁸ https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/High_School_Graduation/Documents/2022-2024NevadaDiplomaRequirements.pdf

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

Overall, Nevada ranked 46th in education when considering school readiness, student achievement, high school completion, and funding (according to the 2023 Kids Count Data Book⁹). The below reflects data from the 2022-23 school year.¹⁰

Average District Performance Statewide	Charter Performance
Elementary Math Proficiency: 34%	Elementary Math Proficiency: 52%
Elementary Reading Proficiency: 41%	Elementary Reading Proficiency: 55%
Elementary Science Proficiency: 17%	Elementary Science Proficiency: 26%
Middle Math Proficiency: 24%	Middle Math Proficiency: 39%
Middle Reading Proficiency: 39%	Middle Reading Proficiency: 53%
Middle Science Proficiency: 30%	Middle Science Proficiency: 43%
High School Graduation Rate: 81%	High School Graduation Rate: 86%
High School Math Proficiency: 20%	High School Math Proficiency: 26%
High School ELA Proficiency: 46%	High School ELA Proficiency: 54%
High School Science Proficiency: 19%	High School Science Proficiency: 27%

⁹ <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2023kidscountdatabook-2023.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/>



Section 2: Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada

AUTHORIZATION TO LAUNCH A PUBLIC CHARTER

1. Who can authorize a new public charter school?

Four (4) 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
- Cities and counties, with authorization from the Nevada Department of Education

In the last several years, in Nevada, the SPCSA has typically been the only authorizer actively accepting applications for new public charter schools. [AB 400](#) (2023), however, granted cities and counties the ability to authorize public charter schools, and the Nevada Department of Education is currently establishing an application process, rubric, and timeline for this update.

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, the SPCSA has established a plan to manage the growth of charter schools in the state. [Click here for the 2023 Growth Management Plan.](#)

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](#))¹¹.

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/human resources, 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.

Demographic Needs: Applicants committed to serving the following student populations that were identified as persistently performing below the state average across various academic measures:

- Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch
- English Learners
- Students with IEPs
- Students in foster care
- Students experiencing homelessness

¹¹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-388A.html>

Academic Need 1: Applicants who plan to launch in zip codes where high concentrations of students attend 1- or 2-star schools, and continue to have an NSPF index score below 50 as of the 2022-23 school year. 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, and putting them on a track for successful high school completion with concrete post-secondary plans. Models may include, but are not limited to, programs designed for student groups most at-risk of dropping out or programs aimed at enabling credit-deficient students to get back on track.

6. When are new public charter school applications due?

The SPCSA charter application¹² timeline is as follows¹³:

Notice of Intent to submit a charter application	Due January 30
Charter application submission	Due between April 15-30
Board meeting for possible action	August
Resubmission (if applicable)	30 days after receipt of written notice of denial

With cities and counties having the ability to authorize, individual municipalities may operate on a different timeline. As of this publication date, these timelines have not yet been established.

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

¹² <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-388A.html#NRS388ASec252>

¹³ https://charterschools.nv.gov/OpenASchool/Application_Packet/

- Application submission
- Authorizer review and interview of applicant
- Staff recommendation to Authority board
- Final approval by the Authority board

The SPCSA provides guidance documents for each application cycle with 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.



Section 3: Recruiting Students & Talent

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

1. What student enrollment preferences are permitted?

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 or if the student's family is enlisted in the military.
- 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.)

1. 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](https://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.¹⁴

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 2021¹⁵, 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.

3. Does Nevada offer teacher certification reciprocity?

Yes. Visit the [Nevada Department of Education's teacher licensure website](#) for more information¹⁶.

4. Does Clark County have any alternative certification programs?

CCSD and the [University of Nevada, Las Vegas \(UNLV\)](#)¹⁷ offer alternative teacher certification programs. [The New Teacher Project \(TNTP\)](#)¹⁸ also provides 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](#)).¹⁹

¹⁴ <https://greatschoolsallkids.org/>

¹⁵ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7423/Overview>

¹⁶ https://doe.nv.gov/Educator_Licensure/New_Teachers_Out_of_State_Applicants/

¹⁷ <https://www.unlv.edu/education/arl-programs>

¹⁸ <https://tntp-teachingfellows.org/program/nevada-teacher-corps/section/dates-details/>

¹⁹ https://doe.nv.gov/Boards_Commissions_Councils/Commission_on_Professional_Standards/

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.

In 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?²⁰

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](#)¹⁴ both recruit, train, and help to place new teachers in Nevada schools.
- The [Teach Nevada Scholarship](#) funds students pursuing teaching degrees or alternative licensure at state colleges or universities. As of 2019, recipients of this scholarship must pursue an endorsement in teaching English as a Second Language.²²
- [Nevada State University](#) offers a Teacher Preparation Program, which is standards-based and uses the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC).²³
- [Western Governors University](#) offers an online path to licensure that is accepted throughout the United States.²⁴

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 and Leadership](#) Master's program that meets the requirements for Nevada School Administrator Endorsement and the Nevada Program

²⁰ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-388A.html#NRS388ASec521>

²¹ <https://www.teachforamerica.org/where-we-work/las-vegas/join-the-corps/certification-and-training>

²² https://doe.nv.gov/Educator_Effectiveness/Educator_Develop_Support/Teach_Nevada_Scholarships/

²³ <https://nsc.edu/academics/school-of-education/program-admission/>

²⁴ <https://www.wgu.edu/online-teaching-degrees.html#>

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.

STAFF COMPENSATION

1. How are teachers and administrators compensated in Clark County schools?²⁵

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](#). Rates for the two types of contribution plans can be viewed [here](#).²⁶

The other benefits as of July 2022:

- Worker's Compensation (0.85%)
- Unemployment Insurance (0.05%)
- Medicare (1.45%)²⁷

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.

²⁵ <https://www.ccsd.net/employees/current/employment/salary>

²⁶ <https://www.nvpers.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/contribution%20rate%20increase%2007.1.23%20final%20%28002%29.pdf>

²⁷ https://ccsd.net/employees/resources/pdf/salary-info/LicensedSalaryTable_BenefitsFY2023.pdf



Section 4: School Board Governance & School Autonomy

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 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. 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 reach out to Noelle Jefferson at noelle@opportunity180.org.

Opportunity 180 provides periodic technical assistance and training for public charter schools but does not have regularly scheduled board training. Please reach out to Noelle Jefferson at noelle@opportunity180.org for more information on upcoming TA opportunities or to request specific TA.

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 curriculum program?

Yes, as long as it aligns with state standards.

3. 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.

4. Can school leaders set staff compensation?

Yes, the governing body or the principal of a public charter school can make all employment-related decisions.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

7. Are public charter schools required to use any particular district vendors (ex: maintenance, food service, transportation)?

No.



Section 5: Conditions for Public School Success

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 BSG 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. For each respective school district's charter school or university school for profoundly gifted pupils, the adjusted base per-pupil funding amount for the 2024-25 school year is:

DISTRICTS WITH CHARTER SCHOOLS	BASIC SUPPORT GUARANTEE
Carson City	\$10,114
Churchill	\$10,662
Clark	\$9,414
Elko	\$10,153
Washoe	\$9,414 (Reno area)
White Pine	\$13,629

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

Per the [Pupil Centered Funding Formula](#), 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 or 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 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 charter schools are eligible to apply for additional funding via the following programs:

TYPE OF WEIGHT	LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED WEIGHT	CURRENT BIENNIUM WEIGHT
English Language Learner	0.45	0.45
At-Risk	0.35	0.35
Gifted and Talented	0.12	0.12

The Pupil Centered Funding Formula does not specifically designate funds for students with IEPs²⁸. 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 17 such additional pupil, an amount of money equal to one-half of the statewide multiplier then in effect for pupils with disabilities.

²⁸ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/8190/Text#>

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 to receive. 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.
 - CSP is a federal grant facilitated by Opportunity 180 to lead the launch and expansion of high-quality public charter schools across Nevada.
 - Opportunity 180 makes subgrants to eligible applicants for the purpose of opening new public charter schools, replicating, or expanding high-quality public charter schools.
 - Eligibility: Eligible applicants must have an approved charter application from a Nevada authorizer to receive federal CSP dollars under this program.
 - Application Process: (1) Eligibility and Letter of Intent Stage; (2) Application Stage; (3) Review Stage; and (4) Notification.
 - To read more about additional technical requirements, criteria for applying, and the application process and deadlines, [click here](#).

5. What private funding is available?

Opportunity 180 has planning and Year 0 grants²⁹ available for approved schools. [Click here](#) for additional information.

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

Yes. All schools offer kindergarten, but kindergarten is not compulsory. As of 2023, if a child is five years or older on or before August 1 of the school year beginning, 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 allocates funds to 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](#).

²⁹ <https://www.opportunity180.org/where-to-go/prospective-schools/grants/>

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. District public charter schools receive local tax funds directly from CCSD, and the State and Federal funds from SPCSA.

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.³⁰

Opportunity 180 is developing the Nevada Facilities Fund, a revolving facility loan fund specific to public charter schools. For more information, contact Ray Fraser at ray@opportunity180.org.

4. Are public charter schools subject to prevailing wage?

In 2019, legislation passed that subjects public charter schools to prevailing wage requirements. The minimum threshold for the applicability of prevailing wage is \$100,000.³¹

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

³⁰ <https://guinncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Nevada-School-Facilities-Construction-and-Maintenance-February-2016.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6203/Overview>

schools in the state of Nevada.³²

Opportunity 180 is also introducing the Nevada Facilities Fund to assist with charter school facility financing challenges. For more information, contact Ray Fraser at ray@opportunity180.org.

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. Legislation passed in 2023 provided \$7 million per year for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years for public charter school transportation, available through an [application process](#) with the SPCSA.

7. Can public charters contract with the district to provide transportation?

Yes, however, they are not required to.

32

https://business.nv.gov/Programs/Charter_School_Bonds/#:~:text=NRS%20386.612%2D649%20authorizes%20The,in%20the%20State%20of%20Nevada.