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February 16, 2017

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #17-02

TO: Governing Board of Washoe County School District

COPY: Traci Davis
Superintendent, Washoe County School District

FROM: Steve Canavero, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Student Performance Compacts

On October 14, 2016 the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) released a list of the State's lowest performing schools. For the 2015-16 school year, schools were identified because they met at least one of two criteria:

- 1) Elementary or Middle School in the bottom 5% in pupil achievement and school performance or;
- 2) High School with a graduation rate of less than 60%.

This list, previously known as the Underperforming Schools list, now called the *Rising Star Schools List*, fulfills the State Board's annual responsibility to release a report on Nevada's current state of student achievement.

Attached is a list of Washoe County School District schools that have been identified as one of the State's lowest performing schools.

In accordance with NRS 385A.650, it is the Nevada Department of Education's responsibility to work with the District to ensure that an appropriate school improvement plan is in place to rapidly improve student performance. To that end, the Department may elect to pursue either the *Nevada Achievement School District* or the additional State-led intervention protocol, *Turnaround Designation* for District-run, non-charter schools. The Department is currently

reviewing Washoe County School District's plans for addressing the charter schools it authorizes on the *Rising Stars List*.

Additionally, NDE and the District could elect to work in partnership and agree to a Student Performance Compact that includes the selection of a different intervention option. A Student Performance Compact establishes targets for improving student achievement over a three year period and includes the creation of a school performance plan that identifies a non-profit partnership, local government partnership, charter school partnership, or some other strategy that would demonstrate a high likelihood of rapidly improving student achievement.

Please accept this letter as a formal inquiry into your actions and plans for each of the District's *Rising Star* schools and which schools will elect to enter into a Student Performance Compact.

As a reminder, the Student Performance Compact is aligned to moving a *Rising Star* school to three stars in three years. Those schools that enter into a Student Performance Compact and meet the student achievement targets articulated within the Compact are not put forward for consideration into the Achievement School District in the following year. Attached you will find a blank Student Performance Compact for your review with a menu of available interventions.

Your responses should include which schools will enter a Student Performance Compact and what strategies and partnerships the schools will employ to significantly improve student performance.

Send your response by Wednesday, March 1, 2017 to Brett Barley, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement (bbarley@doe.nv.gov) under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Thank you in advance for your attention to and cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Canavero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Canavero" clearly legible.

Steve Canavero
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Washoe County School District *Rising Star* Schools

District	School	Eligibility Category
Washoe	Desert Heights ES	Bottom 5% of Elementary/Middle Schools
Washoe	I Can Do Anything HS	Graduation Rate less than 60%
Washoe	Natchez ES	Bottom 5% of Elementary/Middle Schools
Washoe	Rainshadow HS	Graduation Rate less than 60%

**STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

School Performance Compact

A. Purpose

This Performance Compact is executed by and between the Nevada Department of Education ("Department") through the Nevada Achievement School District ("NVASD"), and the [LOCAL DISTRICT] ("Governing Body") on behalf of [SCHOOL] (collectively the "Parties"), on this, the [DATE]. To create clarity and accountability relating to student achievement goals for a campus eligible to be considered for conversion to an Achievement School, but not being selected. This Performance Compact will herein be referred to as a "Performance Compact".

B. Parties

Pursuant to the authority provided to the Nevada Achievement School District NRS 388B of the 2015 Legislative Session this Performance Compact is entered into voluntarily by the NV ASD, and Governing Body on behalf of [SCHOOL] for the purposes of improving student achievement at [SCHOOL] in order to be removed from consideration for conversion to an Achievement School so long as [SCHOOL] meets the outlined performance targets.

C. Term

This Performance Compact shall be effective upon the school's demonstrated improvement in student achievement at the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year as articulated in section F. Then, upon execution by both Parties, the Performance Compact will be in effect for one school-year. Upon meeting Performance Compact student achievement targets contained in section F, the Performance Compact shall automatically renew for an additional school-year. The Performance Compact may automatically renew up to two times.

D. Performance Compact Renewal

If student achievement targets are not met, the NV ASD Executive Director will notify the Governing Body that one or both of the following two options apply:

- a) Negotiate a new Performance Compact. The NV ASD Executive Director may offer a new one year Performance Compact that may automatically renew up to two times. The new Performance Compact may contain additional or different terms from this Performance Compact.
- b) ASD Charter Conversion. The NV ASD Executive Director has the right but not the obligation to immediately identify the school as eligible for conversion to an Achievement School. All schools with a Performance Compact that do not meet student achievement targets contained in section F and/or achieve three-star status are eligible for ASD-conversion.

The Governing Body may elect at any time to be released from this Performance Compact. Release from this Performance Compact shall become effective upon receipt by the NV ASD of written notification from the Governing Body agreeing to the release.

E. Intervention

The school will operate under the identified State or Local Intervention corresponding to the following options:

- Designation as an Empowerment School per NRS 388G.010 (*requires Board approval before selected*)
- Designation as an Autonomous (Turnaround) School per NRS388G.400
- School Performance Plan inclusive of evidenced based strategies and developed in partnership with State Department of Education per the State's New Nevada Plan
- Partnership with a non-profit organization to provide direct student services aligned to a comprehensive plan for improving pupil achievement.
- Other State approved intervention (requires demonstration of approval or evidence of impact)

As an Addendum to this Performance Compact, the Governing Body shall include further details of the identified intervention.

Removal of [SCHOOL] from the selected intervention shall automatically terminate this Performance Compact and [SCHOOL] shall immediately be eligible for NV ASD Charter Conversion.

F. Targets

The Performance Compact is governed by the following targets being met by individual campus on an annual basis.

Context:

The Table Below articulates performance status as of the year eligibility was considered:

Most Recent Star Rating	Math Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Statewide Performance Percentile	Statewide Growth Percentile	Years in bottom 5 th Percentile	Grad Rate (HS only)
#	XX.X					

Targets to initiate Compact:

	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
	SBAC Math	SBAC Reading	ACT Assessment
Most Recent Pupil Achievement	INSERT SBAC PERFORMANCE	INSERT SBAC PERFORMANCE	INSERT ACT PERFORMANCE
2016-17 Pupil Achievement Improvement Targets	Increase in proficiency by at least 4 (four) points.	Increase in proficiency by at least 4 (four) points.	Increase in ACT composite score by 0.3.

Performance Targets for Performance Compact Renewal:

For all schools identified for NV ASD conversion eligibility for whole school performance, The NV ASD has established exit criteria for Achievement Schools to be a 3-star rating as measured by the Nevada School Performance Framework.

Most Recent Rating	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<i>Index Score</i>	<i>Index Score (Year 1 Target + 1/3 of the distance to 3-star)</i>	<i>Index Score (Year 2 Target + 1/3 of the distance to 3-star)</i>	3-star rating Index

G. Operation, Support, Oversight, and Governance of the School

- a) Throughout the term of this Performance Compact, the Governing Body shall govern and operate the School in the manner deemed most appropriate by the Governing Body, in accordance with the terms of this Performance Compact, federal and state laws, state regulations, and Nevada State Board of Education policy.
- b) During the operation of this Performance Compact, the Governing Body agrees to annually host a minimum of two family and community engagement sessions with the school community and other local stakeholders on the status of the Performance Compact.
- c) Throughout the operation of this Performance Compact, the Governing Body agrees to facilitate the NV ASD oversight of the school through these interactions with NV ASD Staff: sharing of data reports on a quarterly basis, a semi-annual meeting, and access to the school at a minimum once per quarter.

H. Jurisdiction, Venue, and Governing Law

Exclusive jurisdiction and venue for any and all suits between the NV ASD and the School Board arising out of, or related to, this contract shall be in the First Judicial District Court, of Carson City, State of Nevada. The laws of the State of Nevada, without regard to Nevada law on conflicts of law, shall govern this contract.

The parties intend that they be bound by, and that this Performance Compact be subject to, any and all applicable future amendments or additions to the state law, regulations, or Nevada State Board of Education policy. The Governing Body and the Department hereby agree to comply with any such change as if it were specifically set forth herein. Any such change shall supersede any provision within this Performance Compact that conflicts with it.

I. Non-Compliance

In the event that the Governing Body is non-compliant with the terms outlined in this Performance Compact, the NV ASD and the Nevada Department of Education, reserve the right to terminate. Failure of the NV ASD to notify the Governing Body of termination shall not constitute a waiver of the NV ASD's right to terminate or a renewal or reauthorization of this Performance Contract.

J. Entire Performance Compact

This Performance Compact, (together with any addenda, appendix, or exhibits specifically incorporated herein by reference) constitutes the entire Performance Compact between the parties with respect to the subject matter.

SIGNATURES:

NV ASD ED

NV ASD Superintendent-in-residence

Governing Body Chair

PRINCIPAL

LOCAL INTERVENTION LEAD