

# STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

2016 – 2017 Agency Overview

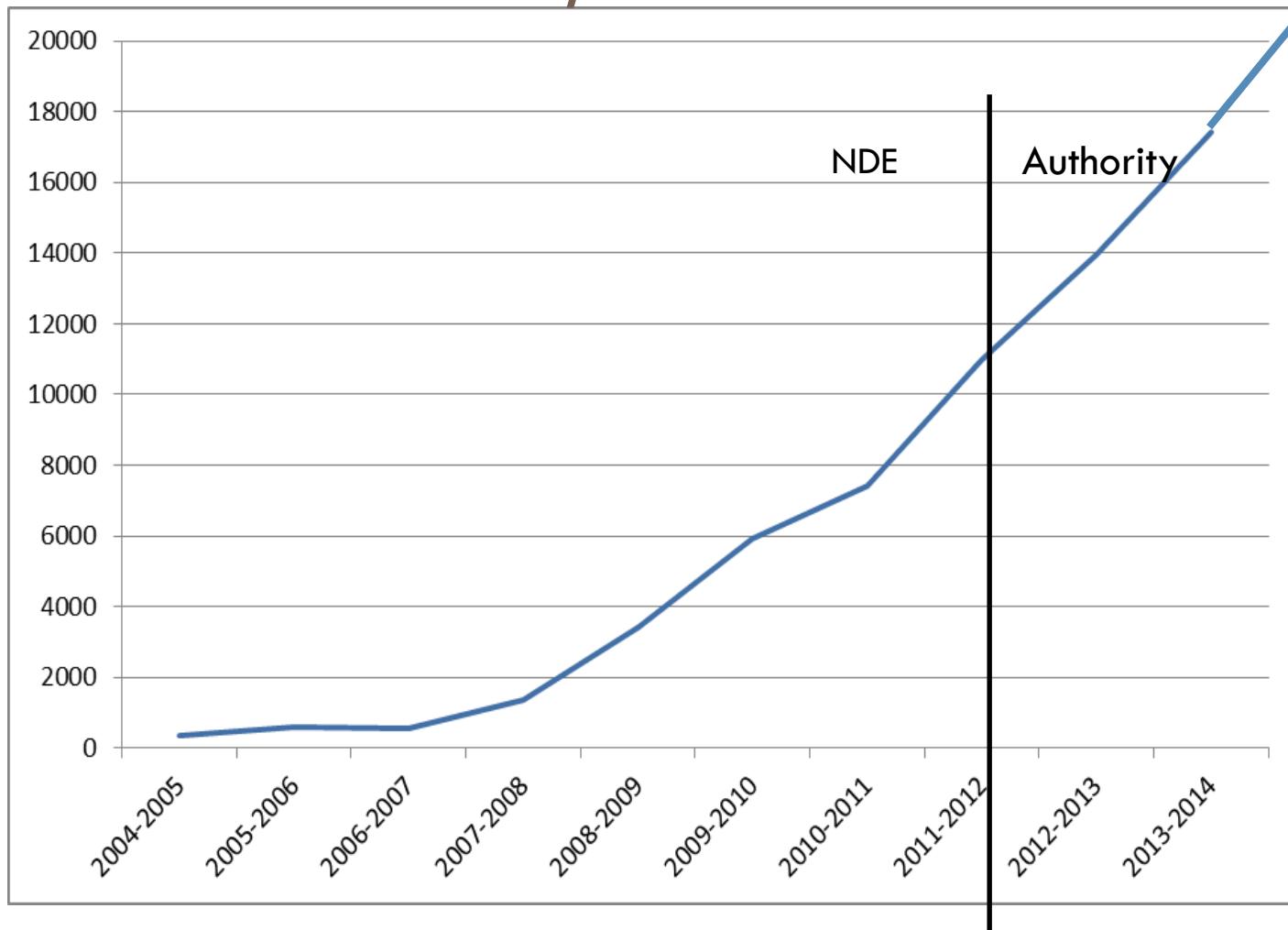


# The First Four Years

# Charter Authority: Statutory Base

- Transfer SBE/NDE Authority and Schools (2011 session)
- Purpose (NRS 386.509)
  - Authorize high-quality charter schools;
  - Provide oversight, ensure schools maintain high standards, preserve autonomy, and protect public interests; and
  - Serve as a model of best practices
    - Required to align policies with national best practice
- October 2011 office established, January 2012 Seven Member Appointed Board Seated
  - 2 Gubernatorial appointees
  - 2 Speaker of Assembly appointees
  - 2 Senate Majority Leader appointees
  - 1 Charter School Association of Nevada appointee
- Deemed a Local Education Agency 2013 (NRS 386.5135)
  - State-sponsored charters were previously ineligible for federal funds
  - Schools still do not receive allocated special ed monies that go to districts

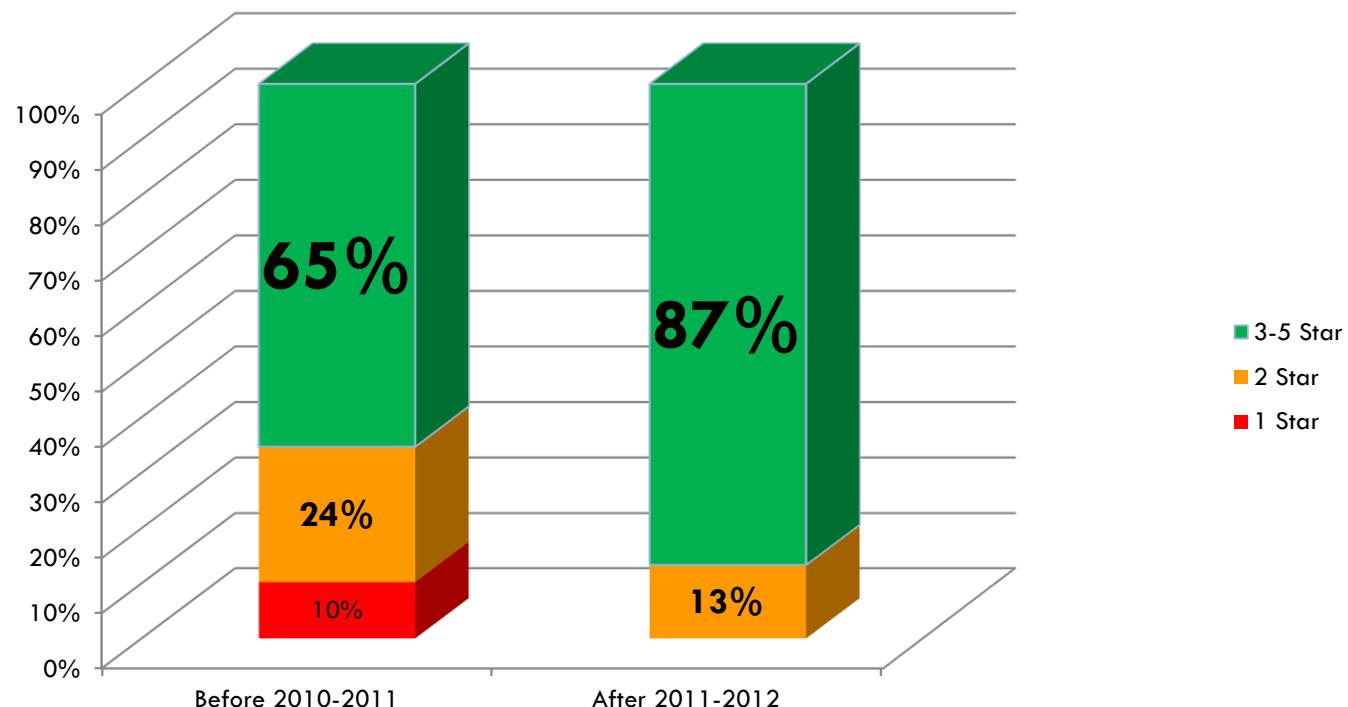
# 2004-14 NDE/SPCSA Enrollment



- SPCSA Portfolio is Nevada's Third Largest Public School System

# Student Achievement: Progress

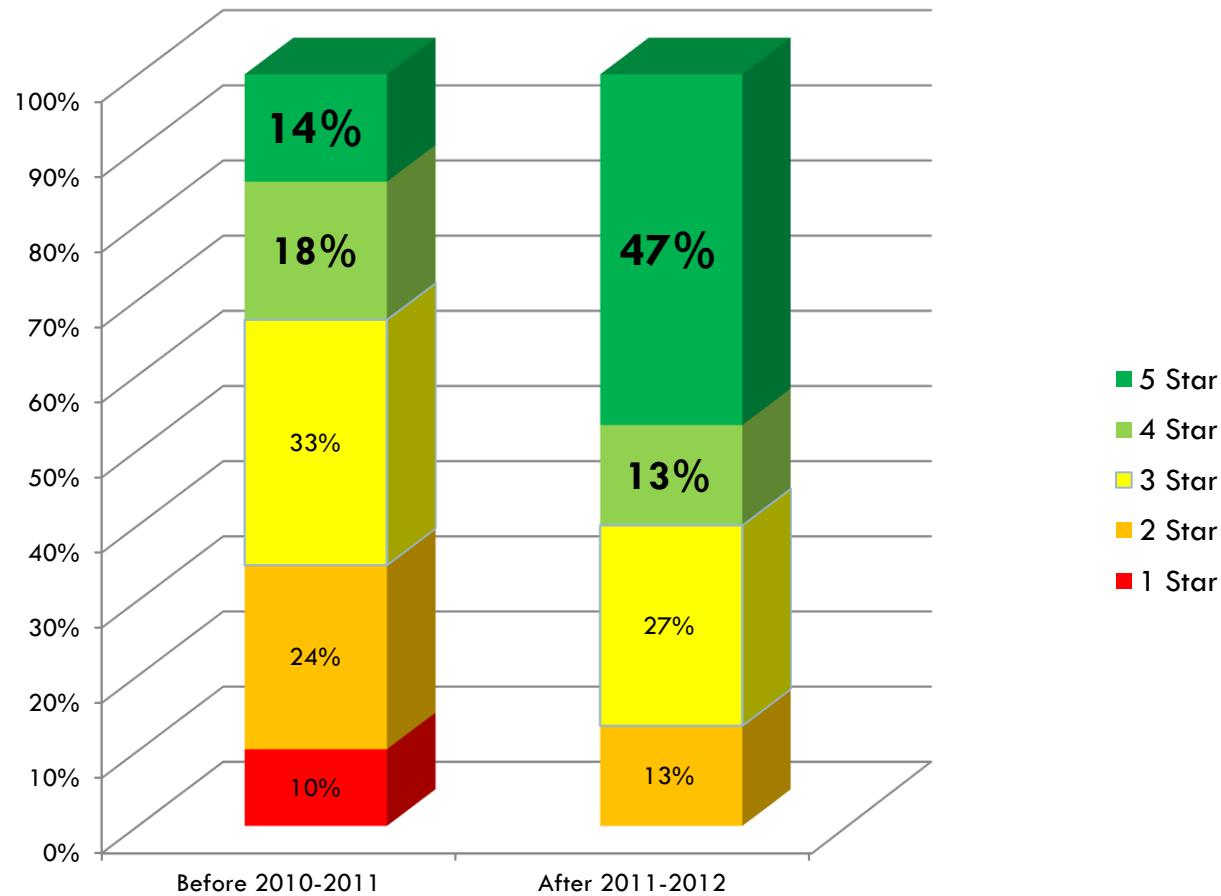
- SPCSA Schools Chartered After Creation of SPCSA in 2011 Outperform Older District & State-Sponsored Schools at 3-5 Star Levels\*



\* Divides all charter schools statewide into elementary, middle, and high school programs—consistent with NSPF

# Student Achievement: Progress

- By Star Level:  
SPCSA Schools  
Chartered  
After Creation  
of SPCSA in  
2011  
Outperform  
Older District &  
State-  
Sponsored  
Charter  
Schools\*

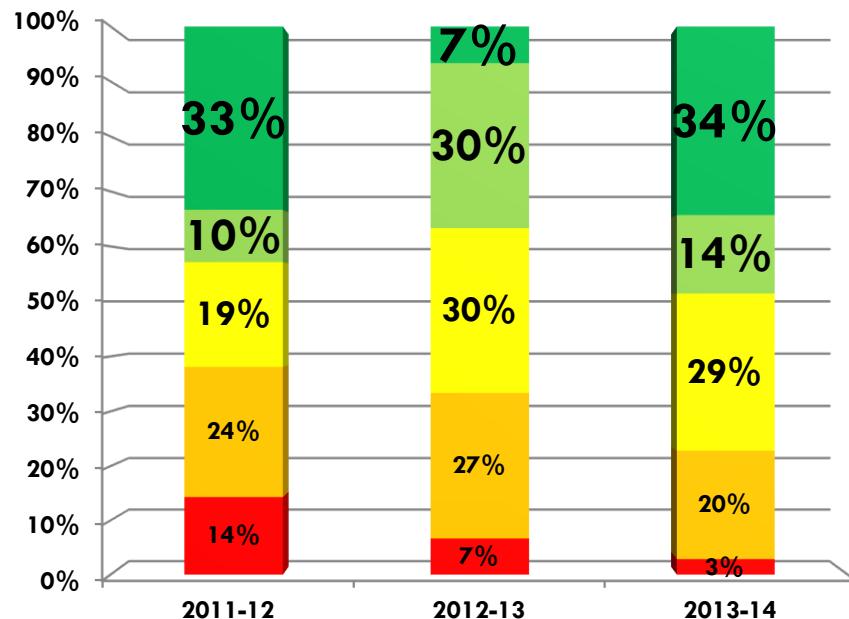


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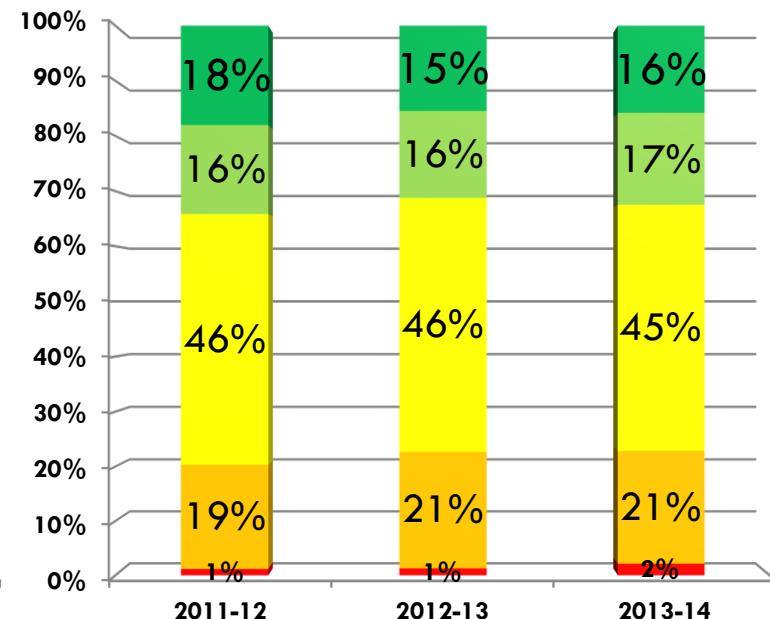
# Student Achievement: Progress

- Growth in 4 & 5 Star Schools vs. State
- Decrease in 1 & 2 Star Schools vs. State

**Change in Star Status**  
All SPCSA Schools (2011-2014)



**Change in Star Status**  
All NV Public Schools (2011-2014)

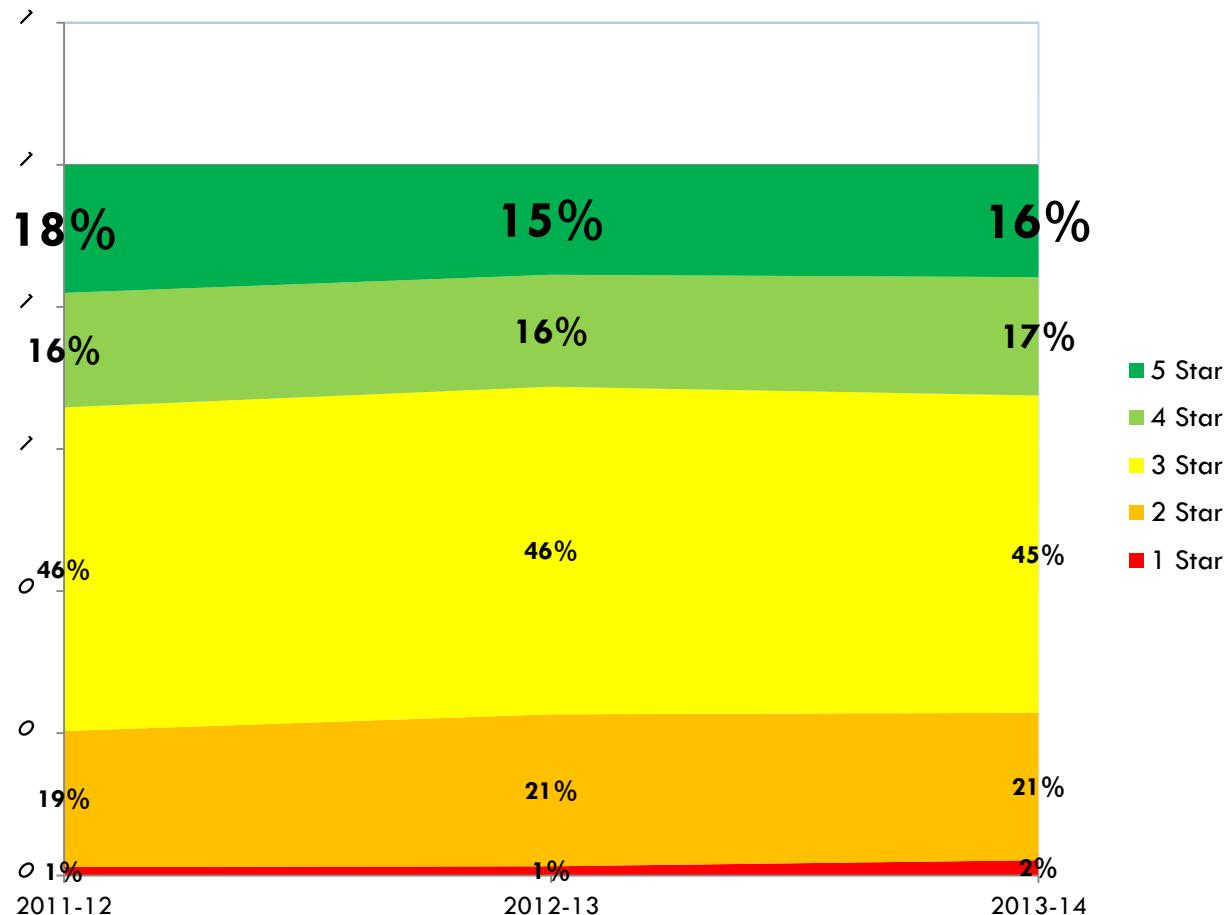


\* Divides schools into elementary, middle, and high school programs—consistent with NSPF

# Statewide Context

- Percentage of students served by schools at each star level has remained relatively flat across all public schools

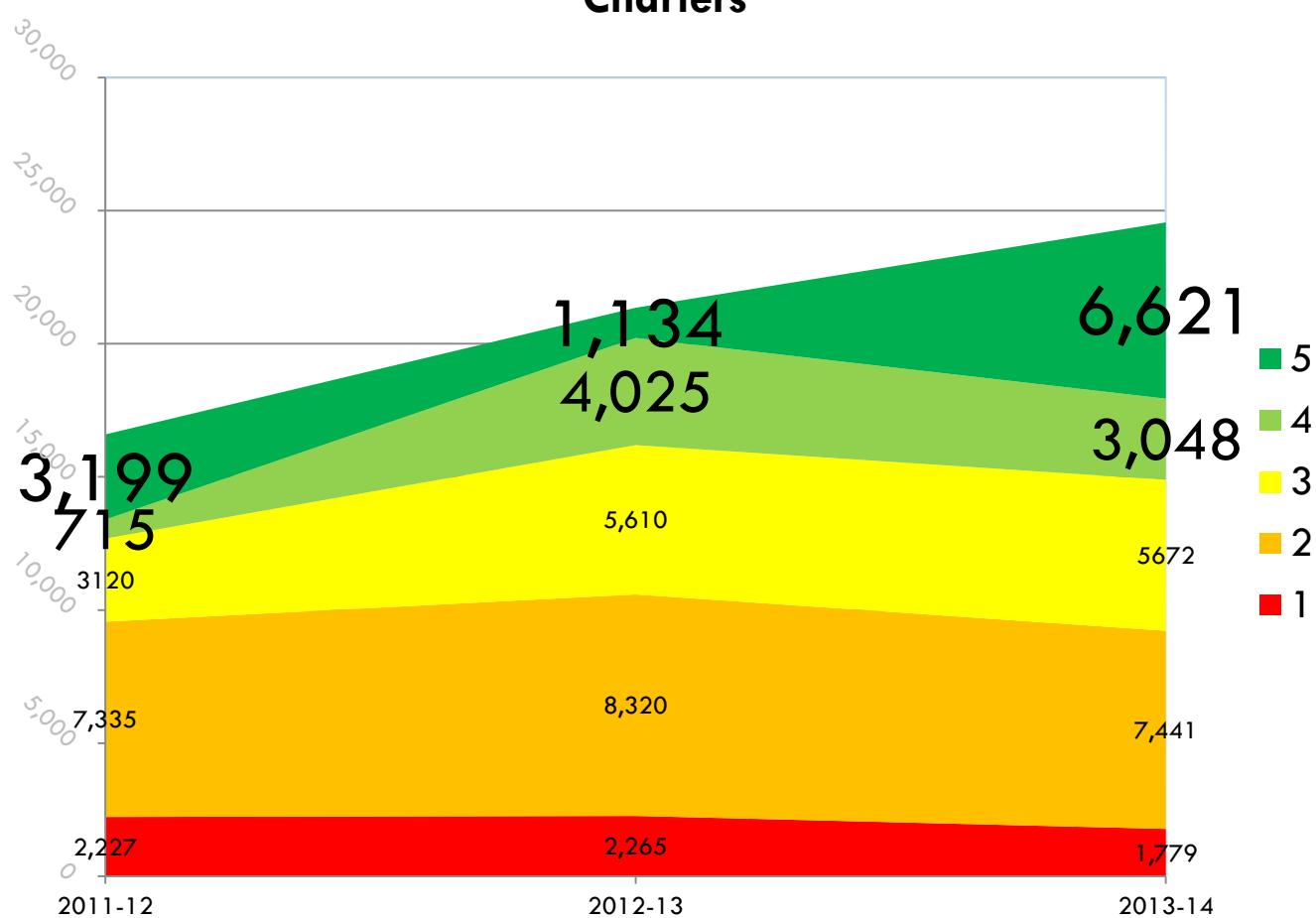
**Growth in Students Served at Each Star Rating--  
All NV Public Schools**



# Growth in Quality Seats: All Charters

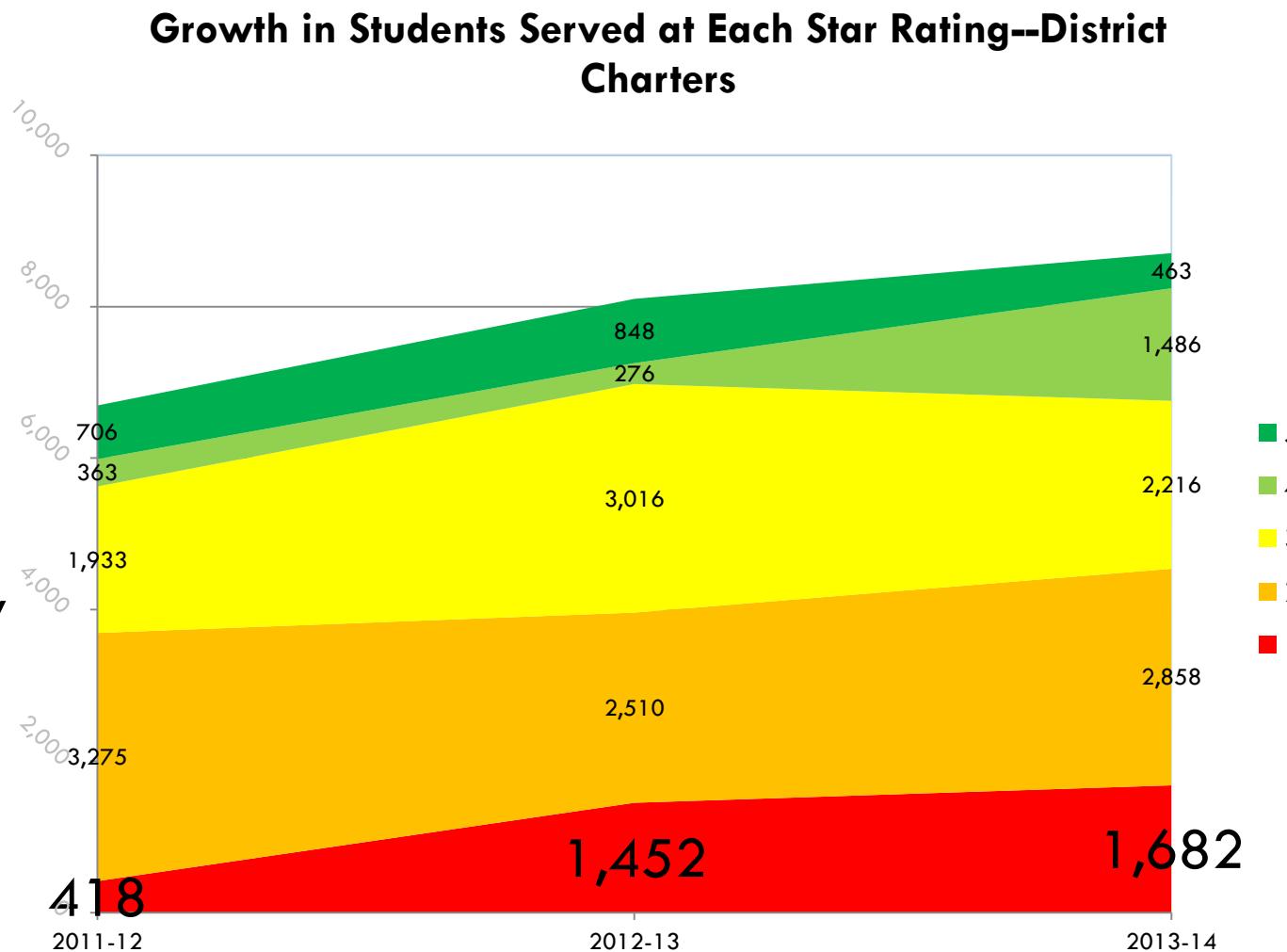
Number of students served by 4 & 5 star charter schools statewide grew 147% from 2011-2014

**Growth in Students Served at Each Star Rating--All Charters**



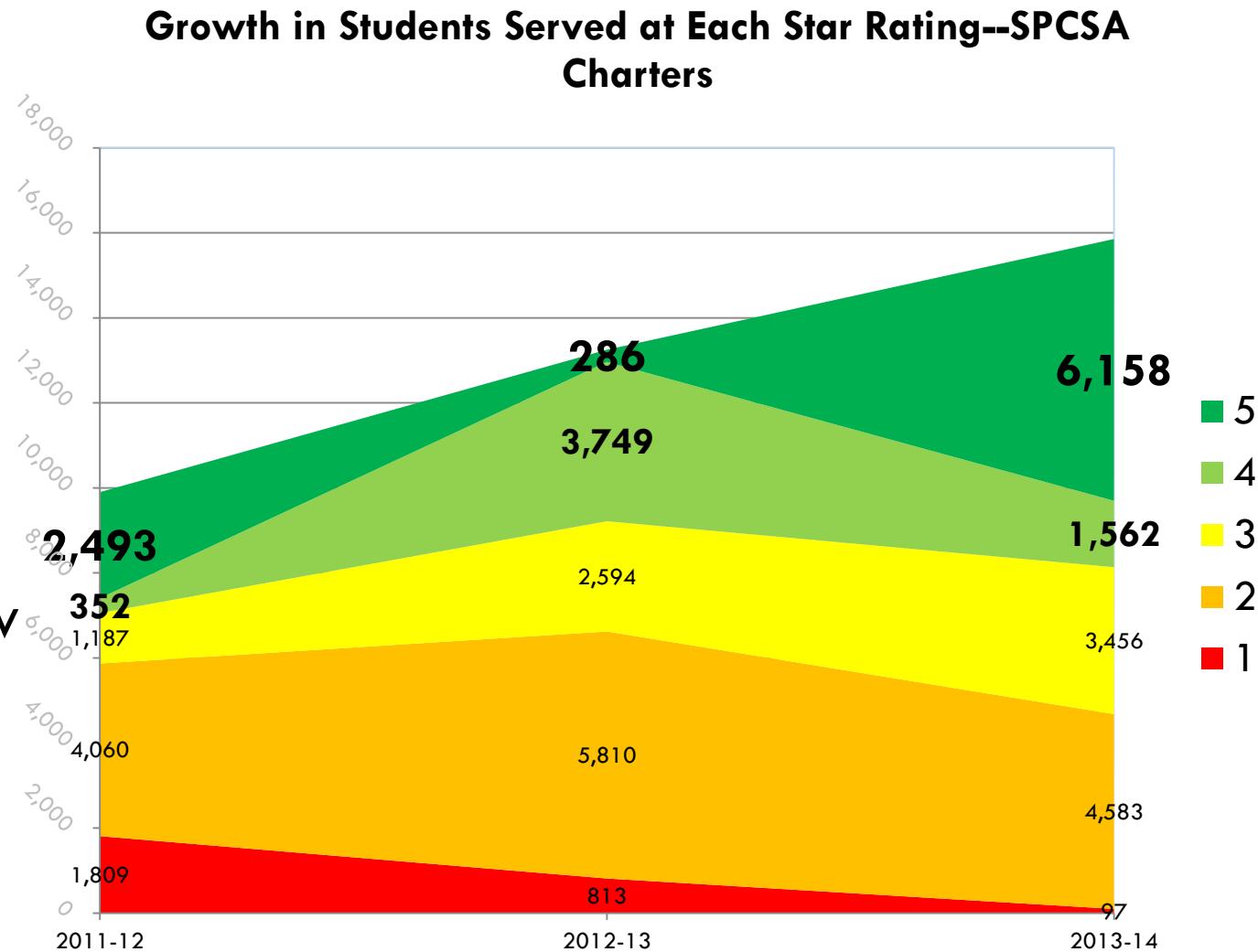
# Growth in Quality Seats: District Charters

Number of students served by 4 & 5 star district charter schools grew 82% from 2011-2014



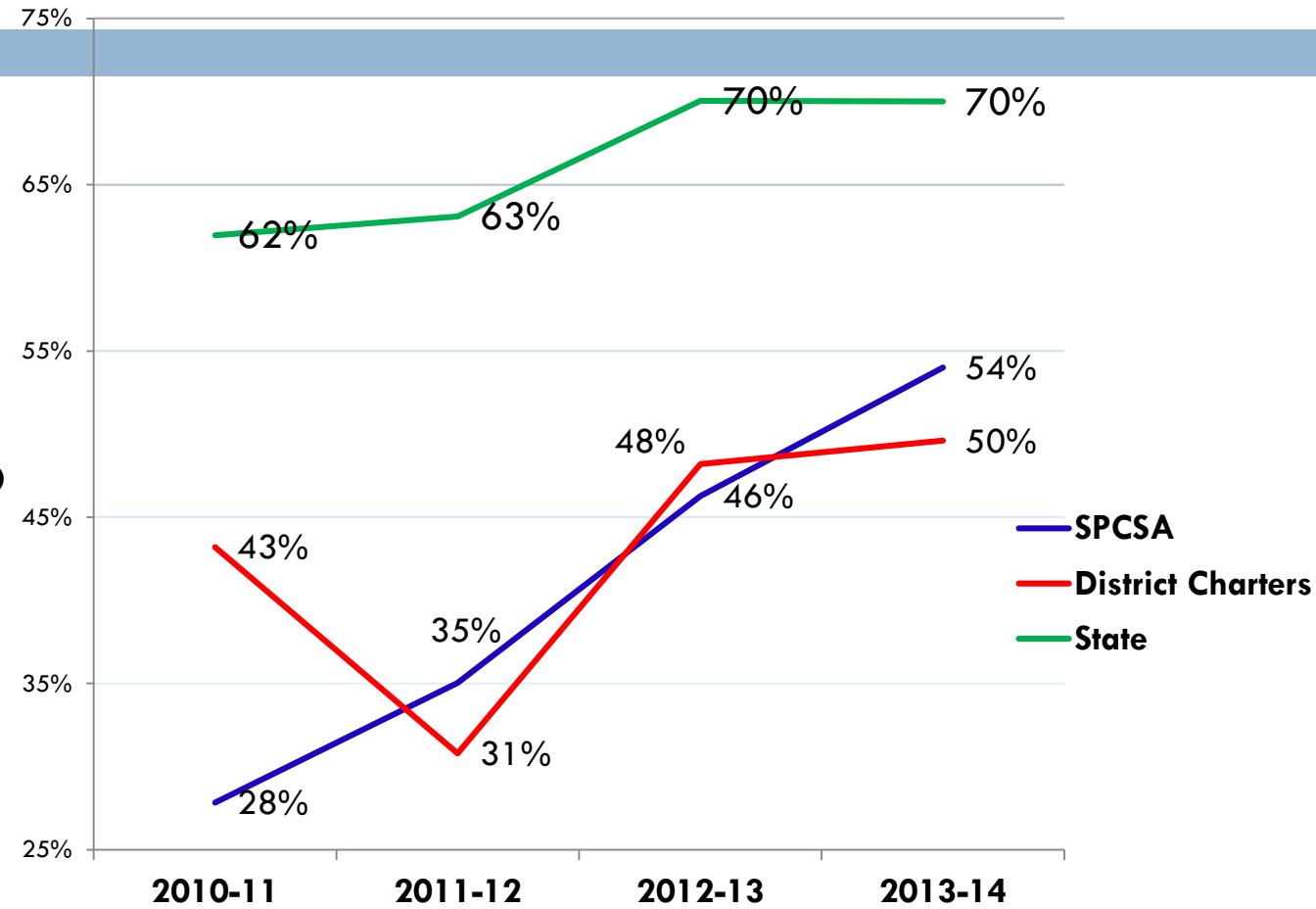
# Growth in Quality Seats: SPCSA Charters

Number of students served by 4 & 5 star SPCSA charter schools grew 171% from 2011-2014



# Increased Graduation Rates

□ SPCSA charter graduation rates have increased 26 points vs. 7 points for district charters\* & 8 points statewide



\* Preliminary district charter data

# Why The Difference?

- 2011 Legislation made other changes
  - Emphasis begins to shift from technical compliance to quality
  - Aligned many, but not all, elements of application process to best-in-class practices nationally
  - Essential Question: Will this school be an academic, organizational, & financial success?
  - Applicants are evaluated based on their **capacity** to execute the program they've proposed
    - Does the proposed board have the capacity to oversee all three elements?
    - Do proposed staff have the capacity to implement the program?
    - Does the proposed model and any EMO have a strong track record of success in all three areas?

# 2013 Statutory Changes: AB205

- From 1997 to 2013, charter school accountability was based not on the statewide accountability system but on the promises made in the charter application
  - Less rigorous, compliance oriented process resulted in less accountable schools—the charter contracts were impossible to enforce
- Automatic Closure—begins with Fall 2013-14 school year (NRS 386.5351)
- Charter Agreement and Performance Framework Provisions
  - Clear metrics for school performance above and beyond NSPF

# Automatic Closure

- Adopted in 2013 via AB205--requires automatic closure in the case of 3 consecutive years of lowest possible rating on statewide system of accountability (Star system)
- Sets a minimum floor for performance statewide
- First year measured: 2013-14
- Challenges
  - 2014-15 is likely to be a “pause” in statewide accountability due to new testing program
  - While some legacy schools have embraced accountability, others struggle to change and need more support (e.g. governance training)

# Performance Framework: Elements

- Statute replaced old, less accountable written charter with new charter contract incorporating performance framework for all new and renewal schools
- Answers Essential Questions in Three Domains

Academic	Financial	Organizational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the academic program a success?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the school financially viable?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the organization effective and well-run?</li></ul>

- Builds on NDE sources and publicly available data
- Used to inform replication, expansion, renewal, and closure decisions
- Embedded in all new and renewal contracts since '13 (currently 11/22 schools)
- Three tiers of intervention: Notices of Concern->Breach->Closure

# Performance Framework: Results

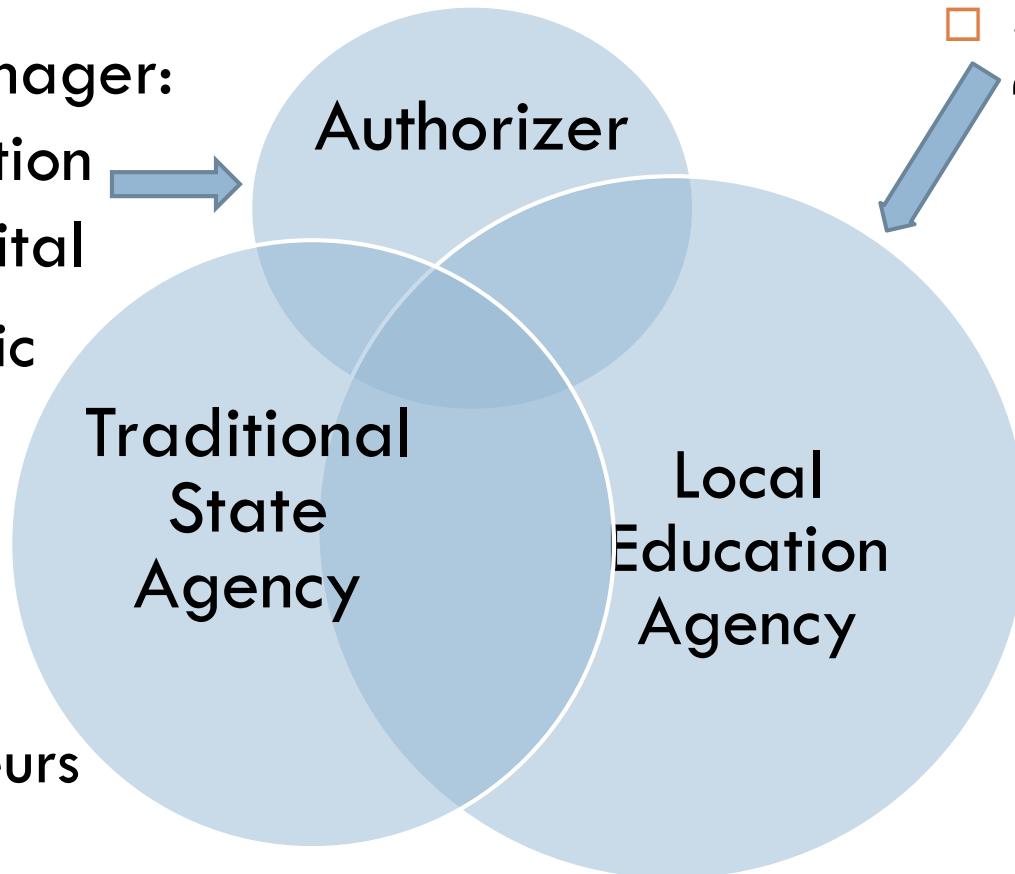
- Two schools are currently in breach due to academic performance based on data reported since the end of the 2013 legislative session
  - Schools must take corrective actions and improve performance to avoid Notice of Closure
- Two schools are in breach due to organizational performance based on data reported since the 2013 legislative session
  - Schools must take comply with Authority interventions and investigation, take corrective actions, and improve performance to avoid Notice of Closure



# The SPCSA Today

# One Agency: Multiple Roles

- ❑ Portfolio Manager:  
Public Education  
Venture Capital
- ❑ Invest public  
funds and  
entrust NV  
children to  
education  
entrepreneurs



- ❑ 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest  
“District”
  - ❑ Provide all  
NDE/USDOE-  
mandated  
support and  
oversight to  
schools

# Who We Are

- 10 FTE Staff (Estimated Allocation)
  - 4 Special Education, Federal Programs, and Assessment Management Staff & 1 Technology Support Position (90% LEA—Core School Support Functions/10% Authorizing)
  - 1 ASO II (80% Agency--Finance/Purchasing/10% LEA/10% Authorizing)
  - 2 Management Analysts (40% Fiscal/40% LEA/20% Authorizing)
  - 1 Admin Assistant (60% Agency/20% LEA /20% Agency Functions)
  - 1 Director (60% Authorizing/20% LEA/20% Agency Functions)



# The Next Four Years

# Student Population: Challenge

- Vast Majority of Portfolio & Growth is in Clark County Suburbs

- Low Income Population 25 Points Less Than State & 29 Less Than Clark

- Black & Hispanic Population 24 Points Less Than State & 31 Less Than Clark

		Ethnicity							Pacific Islander	Two or More Races
		Am In/AK Native	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White				
		%	%	%	%	%	%			
2010-11	1.31%	5.98%	15.64%	8.58%	62.74%	1.21%	4.55%			
2011-12	1.32%	5.70%	14.84%	9.65%	63.65%	1.69%	3.15%			
2012-13	1.50%	5.99%	14.72%	9.93%	63.25%	2.09%	2.53%			
2013-14	1.35%	6.08%	16.11%	9.40%	61.61%	2.07%	3.38%			
State 2013-14	1.06%	5.59%	40.56%	9.92%	35.98%	1.33%	5.57%			

		Special Populations							Free/Reduced
		Special Education		ELL		Lunch			
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2010-11	529	7.01%	32	0.42%	849	11.25%			
2011-12	465	4.19%	30	0.27%	1,682	15.16%			
2012-13	713	5.12%	93	0.87%	2,908	20.87%			
2013-14	1,055	6.62%	350	2.20%	4,387	27.54%			
State 2013-14	51,946	11.5%	67,836	15.02%	239,170	52.95%			

# Opportunity: Increase Equity & Outcomes

- Overcrowding and Underperformance Are Both Challenges: We Are Addressing Overcrowding But We Are Falling Short on Equity
- Incentivize Best in Class Charter Management Organizations Serving Low Income and High Need Students to Come to Nevada
  - View Recruitment of Top Flight Operators as a Long-Term Economic Development Engine
  - Remove Barriers to Entry and Make Adjustments to Education Ecosystem That Support Excellence
  - Demonstrate the Demographics Are Not Destiny: Proof Points
  - Grow Our Best Local Operators
- Continue Organic Growth of Suburban and Rural Movement While Making Strategic Investments in Urban Core
- Fast-Track Closure of Long-Term Underperformers and Allow Best-in-Class CMOs to Take Over Low-Performers in High Need Areas → Increase Likelihood of Federal Dollars

# How to Meet the Needs of High Quality CMOs



# Reflections

- Accomplished a great deal in the past 4 years
- Recognize there is still a great deal of work to do
- We are likely to continue to grow at 30%+ per year
  - Governor's budget request positions us to grow even faster
- Our infrastructure lags our portfolio & revenue growth
- Tension: dynamic, fast moving portfolio vs. traditional state agency
  - We pride ourselves on flexibility and teamwork
  - Capacity to respond to or proactively address school needs & challenges is a persistent concern

# Questions?

