



UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200 Phone:
801.538.7720 <http://www.utahscsb.org>

Date: April 09, 2020
To: Trudy Sorenson, Board Chair
From: Kristin Elinkowski, Board Chair, Utah State Charter School Board
Subject: Letter of Certification for North Star Academy

Certifications:

The Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) certifies or provides the following information for North Star Academy (NSA):

1. The charter is in place and to the knowledge of the SCSB, North Star Academy is in compliance with all chartering requirements under the Utah Code. North Star Academy is also in compliance with its charter agreement.
 - a. No outstanding or unresolved concerns exist.
 - b. North Star Academy has no deficiencies; in other words, North Star Academy is not on Warning or Probation status.

*See Exhibit A for details on how North Star Academy is meeting its charter agreement.

2. Enrollment history by school and grade

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	Max
2015	50	50	50	50	52	52	53	55	69	49	530	536
2016	50	51	50	50	52	52	54	56	58	57	530	536
2017	50	50	50	52	52	52	54	54	62	54	530	536
2018	50	50	52	50	52	52	54	56	66	41	523	536
2019	50	50	50	52	52	52	54	54	62	54	530	536
2020	50	50	50	50	52	52	54	54	64	53	529	536

3. NSA's most recent re-enrollment (retention) rate is above 80% (was 92.4% for SY2019 to SY2020).
4. NSA has maintained a ADM of greater than 90% in the most recent three years.

Year	ADM	% ADM to Oct. 1 Enrollment
2017	530	99%
2018	524	98%
2019	534	100%

Chair Kristin Elinkowski
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks

Director Jennifer Lambert
Cynthia Phillips

Michelle Smith
Jim Moss

Bryan Bowles
Kristle Bassett

5. NSA's academic performance is adequate to maintain enrollment.
- a. Performance Relative to Competing Schools:
(Percentage of points earned on state accountability)

Schools with Similar Grades Located Near North Star	2017	2018	2019	Average
North Star Academy	56%	66%	62%	61%
Riverton Elementary School	52%	54%	56%	54%
Oquirrh Hills Middle School	48%	60%	53%	54%
Rose Creek Elementary	53%	51%	51%	52%
Summit Academy Independence	45%	54%	52%	50%
Foothills Elementary School	50%	47%	52%	50%
South Hills Middle School	48%	54%	49%	50%
Hawthorn Academy South Jordan	50%	47%	49%	49%
Mountain West Montessori	41%	42%	47%	43%
Summit Academy Bluffdale	29%	41%	44%	38%
Athlos Academy	35%	43%	37%	38%
Providence Hall Elementary	34%	37%	36%	36%

- b. Analysis: Overall, Vista has average to slightly above average performance compared to surrounding schools. Vista has also maintained this academic performance for the last three years. During that time, Vista had strong enrollment. There is no reason to expect that Vista's academic performance will dramatically change, thereby negatively impacting enrollment. Thus, we determine that unless there is drastic change in Vista's academic program or instruction, Vista's academic performance is adequate to maintain its enrollment plans.

Exhibit A

Mission:

North Star Academy is established to provide K-9 students with a safe, challenging and individualized learning environment that will help them achieve their potential and become confident, competent, productive, and responsible young adults who possess the knowledge, skills, attitude, and character necessary to succeed in high school, post-secondary education, and ultimately in employment and community settings.

School Response on how is implementing this mission:

North Star Academy exists to ENGAGE and INSPIRE students to achieve their highest potential through a SAFE, CHALLENGING, and INDIVIDUALIZED learning environment.

Key Elements:

- 1) North Star Academy continues to improve student learning. North Star Academy meets this by:
 - i. NSA scored above the state average in all three subject areas in the most recent administration of the state mandated tests. This included 20% above state average in ELA - 67% compared to state average of 47%, 22% above the state average in Math - 67% compared to the state average of 45%, and 18% above the state average in science - 65% compared to the state average of 47%.
 - ii. Hands on activities and learning opportunities by provided in a multitude of ways which include; field trips, special interest field trips, Math Olympiad, geography Bee, and a wide variety of art and writing contests. This includes annual administration of the Renzulli Learning profile which identifies each student's interests and strengths and helps NSA support the current needs of each child. Every child is involved in a cluster where they are delving into a topic of interest for 12 weeks and developing a service or product to culminate the study. In addition to these enrichment learning experiences, 25% of the students have been compacted from lessons or units for additional enrichment activities with our SEM specialist.
 - iii. Ongoing student driven clubs and sports organizations are also available after school.
- 2) According to the Charter Agreement, NSA encourages the use of different and innovative teaching methods. NSA meets this by:
 - i. Results from the annual student interest survey that is administered in August each year, are used to address the unique talents and abilities and honor how each learner learns in different ways. North Star Academy provides annual training to assist every teacher in better understanding and teaching the curriculum. Every teacher creates a curriculum map that addresses their state standards prior to the year starting, but in a manner and sequence that may be unique to the individual teacher. Every teacher is a member of a Professional Learning Community (PLC), where he/she works collaboratively to develop a program that not only enriches the advanced student, but provides interventions and reteaching opportunities for the struggling child as well, thereby allowing each child to reach his/her potential. These PLC's meet on a monthly basis.

- 3) According to the Charter Agreement, NSA creates new professional opportunities for educators that allow them to participate in designing and implementing the learning program. NSA meets this by:
- i. North Star Academy teachers begin their year a week ahead of the students in an effort to begin professional development and promote the dynamic learning environment. Onsite professional learning experiences are scheduled following the spring survey of teacher identified needs, and schoolwide improvement goals developed by a wide variety of stakeholders.
 - ii. At the start of each year, students will be surveyed as well as teachers. From these surveys and based on both the interests of teachers and students, teachers facilitate multi age Enrichment Clusters. Clusters include the following grade bands this year: K, 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9. Clusters this year include 12 weeks of study into the interest area of their choice. Some examples this year include: Read-y to craft, photography, exercise science, Animation, Science Tech Engineering Art Math (STEAM), nature art, clowning around, travelling around the world, interior decorating, cake decorating, Do It Yourself building cluster, cooking and movie making.
- 4) According to the Charter Agreement, NSA Increase choice of learning opportunities for students. NSA meets this by:
- i. North Star students have participated in the following competitions already this year: National Geography Bee, Writing Contests, Anti Vape video contest, Reflections contests, State Charter School Science Fair, Athletic Team Events, Math Olympiad, Mathletes, Lego League, as well as Art and Utah Law Sculpture Contest. Service projects thus far have included cards for children in the hospital, letters to Veterans in November, canned food drive for local food pantry, “penny war” which raised \$1300 for children in a Mexican orphanage, and a backpack drive with school supplies for Utah refugees. Our annual Showcase is scheduled for March 20 and our annual Day of Service is scheduled for June 2. During our annual day of service students will choose which charity and service they would prefer to do. Some of those scheduled to choose from this year include: making snack bags for students in low income schools, tie fleece blankets for children at Primary Children’s Hospital, create craft kits for children at domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter, make dog & cat toys for animal shelter, sew little dresses for children in Africa, create felt monsters for police officers to give children in trauma, sew heatable rice bags for patients at Huntsman Cancer institute, shovel bark for Draper park and trails, or clean up around the school. All of Vista’s Technology teachers are certified in their instructional areas. 3 or the 4 teachers have advanced degrees.
- 5) According to the Charter Agreement, NSA Establishes new models of schools and new forms of accountability that emphasize measurement of learning outcomes and the creation on innovative measurement tools. NSA meets this by:
- 6) NSA meets this by:
- i. Following the initial week of professional learning opportunities, each teacher sets their own professional goals to foster their personal plan for implementation of new teaching strategies which is submitted to the administrator. Administration provides accountability, as well as additional coaching or training support to assist teachers in meeting their goals. Each member of the Board of Trustees sets personal goals which are submitted to the Board President who provides accountability, as well as additional coaching or training support to successfully meet their goals. Vista has adopted GVC’s for all grades and courses.

- ii. The Director sets annual goals which are submitted to the Board of Trustees who provide accountability, as well as support to assist the director in successfully meeting her goals.
 - iii. Formal evaluations are held twice each year where constructive feedback, encouragement, and suggestions for improvements are shared in a professional manner to foster continuous growth.
 - iv. Paraprofessionals also set annual goals and meet with their supervisors for constructive feedback, encouragement, and suggestions for improvements as well. Both parents and students set two annual goals a year which are shared, monitored, and celebrated when achieved. Parents will be encouraged to set one of their goals to support their specific child, whereas the second goal should support the North Star Community as a larger whole.
- 7) According to the Charter Agreement, NSA Provide greater opportunities for parental involvement in management decisions at the school level. NSA meets this by:
- i) North Star Academy continues to value the parent as an important part of the child's educational team.
 - ii) Although no specific hours are required, all parents are encouraged to volunteer 20 hours throughout the year. Hours are tracked and managed through our Parent Teacher Organization which is extremely active. Parent volunteers are encouraged in each classroom to support small group instruction. Committees welcome parent volunteers to provide unique perspectives. Parents currently serve on the technology committee, Schoolwide Enrichment Model Committee, Curriculum Committee, Board of Trustees, PTO, Health & Safety Committee, School Land Trust Committee, Attendance Committee, and Character Committee. All five parents serving on our Board of Trustees are parents of current students as well. The weekly school newsletter advertises opportunities and an effort is made to include opportunities a parent can do from home whenever possible as well.

Vista has three goals identified in their charter:

*See Exhibit B