



**New Mexico Public Education Commission
Charter Schools Division**

**2015 New Charter School Application Kit
Part B. Executive Summary**



Part B: Executive Summary

This section should be two to three pages long and address in a narrative form the following points:

- Your proposed school's name and a description of the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, special populations) and the targeted geographical area of the proposed school.
- Where the targeted students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.
- Evidence that there is a community need for a school of this nature in the location proposed. Note: NMSA 1978 § 22-8B-6(L)(5) provides, "[a] chartering authority may approve, approve with conditions or deny an application. A chartering authority may deny an application if...the application is otherwise contrary to the best interests of the charter school's projected students, the local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate." Evidence of community need is required. Specific data and evidence is required in the application itself. Therefore, specific statistical information does not need to be provided here.
- The key innovative and unique programmatic features the school will implement to accomplish its mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).
- How you project that the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, or the founder(s)' plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of these existing public schools in the targeted service area. Provide a brief summary of any data you have to support this assumption.
- The founders of the proposed school, their background, and expertise.
- If different from the list provided above, the founding governing board.

To complete the following form, click on the text box and begin to type.

New Charter Application Executive Summary

Executive Summary

SAHQ Academy will be a free charter school serving students in grades 7-12 primarily in the Albuquerque Metro Area. It will be located in the Lead / Coal corridor just east of I-25, near UNM, CNM, Presbyterian Hospital and Downtown in a 27,000 square foot building. For nearly four years, the founders have operated a non-profit community center at this location, providing sports training and tutoring to youth and adults. Student Athlete Headquarters (SAHQ) has also served as a meeting space for neighborhood associations, sports teams, charter schools, a church and charitable organizations. All programs are run 100% by volunteers.

SAHQ Academy's long term vision is to not only create a unique and effective educational program but also to positively impact the community. Our school's uniqueness is rooted in its structure, taking what young people are passionate about and applying it directly to their academic approach. It draws from the strong relationships athletes share with coaches and teammates along with their daily effort to prepare and improve performance. Student - Athletes have special qualities and character traits that focus on outcomes as the result of consistent, daily effort. Cross accountability between teammates and doing your best for the benefit of the team is well understood and accepted.

SAHQ Academy's mission is EXCELLENCE TOGETHER! Our vision is summarized below:

A rigorous, team based academic schedule is the foundation of SAHQ Academy. We build relationships that maximize a student's emerging talent, energy and curiosity in a community centered facility. We prepare and expose students to careers in sports and health science and graduate productive members of a global economy who thrive under pressure, well prepared for higher education. SAHQ Academy draws on a student's love for sports to empower, motivate and inspire excellence in every aspect of their lives and expands their ability to solve complex problems.

SAHQ Academy will appeal to those students looking for a small school, strong relationships, technology enhanced curriculum, and an opportunity to explore their intelligence surrounded by like-minded, high energy people. Other schools in New Mexico that utilize the same base curriculum are Taos Academy and Rio Rancho Cyber Academy, both "A" rated schools.

At SAHQ Academy, relationships drive everything we do. All of the student's stakeholders will meet regularly and work together to set academic and college goals that are integrated into a student's daily routine. Teachers collaborate and problem solve together. Each student has a Success Coach that they meet with daily and who stays with them through graduation.

No one joins a sports team to be mediocre and it should be no different in the classroom.

In other Albuquerque schools, D's get diplomas. At SAHQ Academy, our curriculum is mastery based and we establish a student's minimum acceptable standard based on data, goals and stakeholders input. If it is determined that a student should be capable of getting at least a "B" in a particular course, they are expected to learn the material and perform no lower than that standard. All work must be completed at the minimum acceptable standard or be repeated. Through the abundance of data available through technology, teachers can assess a student's academic needs in real-time and address them as they occur through small group classes and high dosage tutoring.

A 2013 LFC report found that in New Mexico high schools, 77% of NM students who completed Algebra II still needed to take remedial math their first year in college and 42% of those who completed trigonometry in high school needed remedial work, revealing an extreme lack of rigor in our schools. Our academic success as a state has a profound economic impact. If NM high schools graduated all students ready for college, the state would save \$31.8 million a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings. SAHQ Academy is not only committed to teaching; we are committed to the breadth, depth and extension of each individual student's learning. Raising the bar for education in our state will enrich our base of human capital and positively impact our economy.

The state's low graduation rate has a negative impact on jobs, tax revenue, workforce qualifications, attracting corporate investment, crime rates, teen pregnancy, and health in both rural and urban communities and the strength of our nation as a whole. Considering the urgent needs of our state and resources are finite, the statistics are staggering. 1 out of 2.5 New Mexicans are on Medicaid; More than 13,200 students did not graduate from NM's high schools in 2009; the lost lifetime earning in NM for that class of dropouts alone totals more than \$3.4 billion. SAHQ Academy recognizes the long term financial and societal impacts and we feel a strong sense of responsibility and urgency to reverse NM trends by graduating students on time with the necessary tools to be successful in college and the workforce as they ultimately become contributing members of our community.

SAHQ Academy will provide individualized instruction, strong relationships, high dosage tutoring and an active environment that inspires kids to show up.

As a ***SAHQ Backer***, you will be investing in the non-voting, non-tax paying, yet to be educated with no power or influence to give you in return but it will be ***One of the best business decisions you will ever make!!***

Founding Members

Coach Mike Madonia

Michael Madonia is a Project Management Consultant with over 25 years' experience supporting industrial and government customers. He has developed and applied solutions in scheduling, cost estimating, performance tracking, and risk management; applied to programs in excess of \$500M. Mr. Madonia has had direct project management control on multiple projects ranging to \$12M. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with technical background in engineering and nuclear sciences.

Dr. Richard Luarke

Raised by his grandparents at the Pueblo of Laguna, Richard was exposed to an upbringing that was rich with New Mexico Pueblo culture & values, a deep tradition of contribution to community, and with inspiration to live a great life.

Most recently, Richard has served two-terms as the Governor for the Pueblo of Laguna. In the role of governor, Richard engaged at the local, state and national levels on education issues, policy, data and fiscal management. Education and self-improvement continue to be motivators of Richard's work.

Richard has a passion for strategy, analytics, designing of economies & economic advancement. His professional experience includes being a small business owner, as well as working for international companies like American Management Systems and AT&T - Global Strategy & Solutions. The majority of Richard's professional career has been in the areas of technology, strategy & economic advancement. Richard has grown his credibility as a thought leader and speaker on topics ranging from economics, strategy, culture, inspiration and leadership. Currently, Richard is the CEO of 96 Degrees, a professional services firm focused on Strategy, Data and Analytics, and Economic Advancement.

Richard has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of New Mexico, a Masters of Business Administration from New Mexico State University, and a Ph.D. from Arizona State University-School of Social Transformation.

Michael Vigil, CPA is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Mexico and is a Level II Licensed Business Manager. Michael has worked in public school finance since 1990. Michael's previous work experience includes over 16 years in the Albuquerque Public School District in the positions of Director of Internal Audit, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Business Officer, Associate Superintendent; and lastly, Superintendent for Business. Michael was the Executive Director and the Chief Operations Officer of the New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools for approximately 2 years. Michael has previously worked in a local CPA firm and the financial industries arena in various capacities. Michael has been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant since 1983. Michael graduated from the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico.

- **Coach Lindsey Kerwin** received her bachelor's degree from the college of education at the University of New Mexico and is a licensed NM teacher. She spent seven years at the Martineztown Community Learning Center facilitating an after school literacy program. She is the currently the Math department chair at an Albuquerque charter school working on curriculum and staff development. Ms. Kerwin has been awarded two National Community service awards and has been a volunteer at SAHQ since day one.
- **Coach Brennan Rode** is an emerging leader and female pioneer in the boys' basketball community. She has a degree in international business from the University of San Francisco, received a full scholarship to play basketball at Cal Berkeley out of Rio Rancho High School where she received All American honors. She coached collegiately at SFSU and Dominican University but returned to Albuquerque to found Student Athlete Headquarters and serve New Mexico Youth.
- **Coach and Officer LaReylle Cunningham** is a New Mexico State Policeman and Student Athlete Headquarters Lead Trainer. He is a graduate of Cal Berkeley where he played football and is a fluent Spanish speaker. Officer Cunningham received Officer of the Year in his division and is an outstanding role model for our youth. He is one of the most feared, loved and respected coaches we have because of his no nonsense, high expectation approach. Coach Cunningham moved to New Mexico from California to help found Student Athlete Headquarters and spends time everyday contributing as a trainer, coach, mentor and friend.
- **Coach Charlotte Rode** is a New Mexico native, lifelong community volunteer, education advocate, mother of seven, grandmother and basketball coach. She attended both Pepperdine University and UNM and has been married for almost 30 years. She is a full time volunteer at Student Athlete Headquarters, an appointee to the Bernalillo County Sports Commission, the Youth Health Equity Commission and a former State Fair Commissioner.