



**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

The Proposed application is to support Entrepreneurship Leadership High School, the fourth school in the Leadership High School Network in Albuquerque. The mission of Entrepreneurship Leadership High School (ELHS) is to prepare academically underserved students for entrepreneurial careers that reflect the values and needs of the Westside and South Valley Communities through collaboration with entrepreneurs and an emphasis on social, emotional and intellectual growth.

***The Landscape of Albuquerque:*** This is a thrilling moment for entrepreneurship and innovation in our Albuquerque. Mayor Berry, the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College, ABQ ID, the Living Cities Initiative, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce and others are investing time, energy and resources into building an entrepreneurial community in Albuquerque. The founders of ELHS have tapped into this energy and convened many of its leaders in two day-long summits to develop the school. The participants deliberated the framework for the underlying principles of the entrepreneurial sector and articulated some principles that will guide the school's planning. These principles also are a starting point for thinking about our curriculum. While they are not the final word, they give a sense of what a student would learn:

1. Strategy: How do you evaluate risk, use agile thinking, and innovate to plan your enterprise for the future?
2. Teams and Partnerships: How do you mobilize people and use their talents to improve performance? How do you attract, train, and retain the right people and place them in their optimal roles?
3. Capital/Resources: How do you raise capital (financial and human) and prioritize its use to execute your strategy?
4. Value Proposition: How do you engage internal and external clients to ensure that what your enterprise has an impact in the market place?

Students, Families and Community: ELHS is committed to providing the best education for the students who need it the most. Roughly 1/3 of students will have dropped out of high school and the majority of the remaining 2/3 will be off-track to graduation.

While students can come from any part of Albuquerque, the school is designed to meet the needs of students in the South Valley and Westside of Albuquerque.

These students are in need of a relevant highly personalized approach to learning. Many studies have documented the need for relevancy and purpose in their learning for at-risk students and the school is committed to making school directly related to their future ambitions to become business or social entrepreneurs.

These students who would ordinarily drop out of our high schools will be reengaged in their education and marketable within the workforce. A new entrepreneurship focused high school could increase the number of highly qualified professionals in the sector. This school will be located in a community where there is great potential for collaboration with the traditional high schools to serve students who need a different option.

Prospective students will come from communities that are traditionally underserved as evidenced by chronically low graduation rates and high rates of poverty. We expect that these young people will choose ELHS because of the potential to control their own destiny. Our partnerships with local entrepreneurs are a fantastic opportunity to change their future by putting them on a course to become leaders in the sector.

Support for ELHS is strong in the community. The founders have reached out to the South Valley and Southwest Mesa, and the reception has been enthusiastic as evidenced by the large number of community leaders who have written letters of recommendation for the school. The community's embrace has been mirrored by entrepreneurship sector leaders. They have worked with us to create a blueprint for the curriculum that will guarantee that a diploma from the school will have currency in the marketplace. The promise of real and authentic learning that is connected to a self-determined career path represents a change that has long lasting impact on our city.

### **The Model**

#### Three Pillars of Effective School Design

The skills, knowledge and attributes of a graduate from our school are cultivated through an architecture that includes three inter-dependent functions. Each plays a role in ensuring that students are cared for and fully engaged in their learning.

**360 Degree Support**—This pillar is responsible developing school culture. Specifically, it leads mental and physical health, fitness, and nutrition programs at the school. This is a leadership role that collaborates with the Community Engagement Center (CEC) to engage families and create partnerships with community-based service providers who can support our students and families (immigration services, mentorship programs, etc.) Finally, this pillar ensures that Positive Youth Development practices are present in order to build a culture that is has high academic expectations and is intellectually and emotionally safe for students.

**Curriculum and Assessment**—This pillar is responsible for “Learning by Doing, Every Day in Every Class.” We believe that engaging project-based learning is the pathway to student higher levels of student performance. Also, we are committed to a “Mastery” based system where students demonstrate their learning through a variety of assessments as opposed to traditional “grading” which is concerned with coverage and seat time. Teacher development and industry partnerships are the central to a responsive and adaptable curriculum that keeps the school on the cutting edge of teaching and learning.

**Community Engagement**—This pillar is responsible for creating relationships with external partners that are reciprocal in nature. This person shares an office with community-based

organization (Sawmill Advisory Council at ACE Leadership) and together they leverage partnerships that are attentive to community and school needs. Service, mentorships, and off-site programs are under this person's purview. Finally, this person is responsible for understanding community assets and connecting our faculty to partners that can further our mutual interests.

The mission driven goals of the school are rooted in preparing young people for a prosperous future through:

- Demonstrate mastery through student exhibitions that are culminating evaluations of learning that is rooted in real-life technology industry projects. Students are expected to solve complex problems and demonstrate mastery of Common Core standards.
- Social and emotional growth based on a list developmental assets that predict success in school (relationships with caring adults, respecting boundaries, engaging in positive and enriching experiences outside of school, etc.).

The Founders of ELHS are school development experts:

Tony Monfiletto, Executive Director of the New Mexico Center for School Leadership (the Center). He has more than 20 years of public school experience. He cofounded Amy Biehl, ACE Leadership, and Health Leadership High Schools. Each of these institutions is highly regarded for its innovation and quality.

Moises Padilla, Principal in Residence is a veteran teacher and high school administrator from the community (Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, Jimmy Carter Middle School, Polk Middle School and Foothill High School in the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center). He is a life-long community member, a Kellogg Fellow, and is currently working towards his administrative license.

The founding governing board has extensive experience in the variety of skills needed to effectively govern a Charter School. Members include Russell Combs, Entrepreneurial Expert; Edward Tabet-Cubero, Bilingual Education Expert; Javier Martinez, Attorney, Policy Expert and State Representative; Taylor Chavez, Entrepreneur and Student; Jessica Aranda, Program Director for Social Enterprise Non Profit; and Daniel Trujillo, CPA (See Organizational Framework for more detailed information.).