



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

**2017 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 charter school's projected students including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, special populations) based on the local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate.
- Where the charter school's projected 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 local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate. 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 charter school's projected students, or the founder(s)' plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of these existing public schools in the local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate. 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

Proposed School Name: Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School (“Albuquerque Collegiate”) Within a structured and ambitious school community, driven by high-quality instruction and intensive academic supports, Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School ensures all K-5 students make dramatic academic growth each year and demonstrate measurable academic performance that puts them firmly on the path to college graduation.

Projected Student Population: The targeted geographical area will primarily be neighborhoods within the 87102 zip code. Demographic data from Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and APS elementary schools within the 87102 zip code is included in **Table 1**.

Table 1 - Student Demographics, APS District and 87102 Elementary Schools¹

Demographics		APS District	87102 Elementary Schools
Student Ethnicity	Hispanic	67%	89%
	Caucasian/ White	21%	7%
	American Indian	4%	2%
	African American	2%	2%
	Asian	2%	0%
% Economically Disadvantaged		68%	90%
English Language Learners		17%	34%
Students with Disabilities		15%	14%

Table 1 demonstrates that APS elementary schools in the 87102 zip code have significantly higher percentages of students who identify as Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, and English Language Learners than overall district rates.

Data from the 2016 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test indicates that only 20.5% of elementary students at APS elementary schools in the 87102 zip code met or exceeded expectations for English Language Arts. Less than one in four third through fifth grades students attending a district school in the 87102 zip code can read and write proficiently. 2016 PARCC results also indicate that 19.3% of third through fifth grade students at APS elementary schools in the 87102 zip code met or exceeded expectations for Mathematics.² These ELA and Math proficiency rates are lower than the third through fifth grade proficiency rates for both the local district and the state overall.

Where Projected Student Population is Being Educated: Since Albuquerque Collegiate plans to open with kindergarten and first grade in fall 2018, these students are either not enrolled in an early childhood public school program, are attending a Child Development Center (Ages 3-5 years) or are attending a pre-kindergarten program (Ages 4-5 years). There are two Child Development Centers and three pre-kindergarten programs in the 87102 zip code.

Albuquerque Collegiate is modeled upon the most successful, high performing urban charter schools across the country, and particularly those successfully educating and delivering strong academic results with similar demographics to the community we intend to serve. Furthermore, Albuquerque Collegiate is deeply committed to providing an intensive focus on foundational

¹ Albuquerque Public Schools (2016). *APS- About Us*. Retrieved from <http://www.aps.edu/about-us>.

² <http://ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AcademicGrowth/2016/WebFiles/Webfiles%20PARCC%20Proficiencies%202016.xlsx>

literacy and mathematics instruction. Our scholars will receive significantly more literacy instruction than they would at their neighborhood district school, and that instruction will be delivered within a two-teacher model supported by blended learning stations, thereby reducing the student to teacher ratio during all instruction to 15:1 and further reducing this ratio during all literacy rotations to 10:1, thus ensuring greater proficiency and success for every learner.

Evidence of Community Need: Founding members of the Albuquerque Collegiate team have met with hundreds of leaders and families throughout the community and across the city who share a common concern - a lack of access to high quality public school options for children throughout the city, especially those living in low-income areas, and the profound desire to have an education that will set all children on the path to school and life success. Meetings with community members and families have included individual meetings, presentations to community and business organizations, as well as informational events throughout the community, in particular at Community Centers in the Wells Park and Barelás neighborhoods.

Currently, every APS school in Albuquerque's most affluent zip code, 87122, is rated as an "A" school, while not a single school in the 87102 zip code, Albuquerque's poorest zip code, which has more than eight times as many schools, are "A" rated schools.³ As a result, parents and families living in the 87102 zip code have extremely limited options to send their students to high achieving schools, particularly neighborhood elementary schools, which set the foundation for all future K-12 learning and beyond. The desire to bring a quality school to the community is high and continues to be expressed by families, parents, and community leaders at all of our community outreach events and activities.

Innovative and Unique Programmatic Features: In alignment with our mission, Albuquerque Collegiate will provide an excellent college preparatory public school option through a structured and ambitious school community, driven by high-quality instruction and intensive academic supports for every student. The central elements of our innovative school design include an extended school day, a prioritized and expanded focus on literacy and mathematics, a two-teacher model in all kindergarten through 2nd grade classrooms, and a comprehensive coaching and development program for all teachers and school leaders. Each of the central elements of our design are directly informed by the successful practices of high-poverty, high performing charter schools across the country.

Effectiveness of the Program: The Albuquerque Collegiate Founding Team has established a networking relationship with the highly-regarded Building Excellent Schools (BES) national non-profit, which trains and supports high-capacity leaders to found and lead high-performing, independent, charter schools across the country. Ms. Rivera, our Lead Founder, participated in the BES Fellowship, which consisted of an intensive year-long professional development program, closely studying over 40 of the country's highest performing charter schools and has trained in areas of organizational leadership, finance, curriculum, and school culture. Ms. Rivera has completed a leadership residency at BES school Vista College Prep in Phoenix, AZ. At Vista College Prep, 97% of scholars qualify for free or reduced price lunch, 93% of scholars are Hispanic or Black, and 50% of scholars are identified as English Language Learners. Results from the 2016 Arizona statewide assessment indicate Vista College Prep's third grade scholars outperformed all of their peers across Arizona by 56% in literacy and 24% in math. Among Arizona schools where over 90% of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch, Vista

³ New Mexico Public Education Department. (2016). *NM PED School Grades 2015-2016*. Retrieved from <http://aae.ped.state.nm.us/>.

College Prep’s third graders had the highest literacy score in the state.

It is upon such model that Albuquerque Collegiate is designed. Through a research-based design and close partnerships with Vista College Prep and other top performing schools with a proven track record of academic success nationwide, Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School will develop and establish a high expectations, high supports school for the students of Albuquerque, ultimately improving student achievement and academic performance for all scholars.

Founding Team and Proposed Governing Board

Name	Qualifications: Education, Employment, Experience
Jade Rivera, Lead Founder	MEd Curriculum & Instruction, BA Psychology/Sociology Current: Fellow, Building Excellent Schools – Nationally renowned training program focused on the development of leaders for successful charter schools Experience: Former education policy advocate and classroom teacher with deep knowledge of classroom management and curriculum development
Cynthia Al-Aghbary, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	MSN Community Health Nursing, BS Nursing Current: Executive Director of Government Programs Clinical Operations, Blue Cross Blue Shield Experience: Community behavioral physical health professional with a 34-year proven track record of managing large scale program implementation and systems integration initiatives nationwide
Beverly Cruz, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	BA Communication & Journalism Current: Senior Vice President, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Experience: Large scale project and budget management, extensive experience with financial statement analysis and contract negotiation. Former elementary education teacher
Joshua Gallegos, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	BA Sociology Current: Senior Academic Advisor, University of New Mexico, Anderson School of Management Experience: Higher education academic advisement for incoming students with focus on recruitment and retention of first generation students
Tomas Garcia, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	Juris Doctor of Law, MA Public Policy, BA Political Science Current: Associate Attorney, Modrall Sperling Experience: Law and public policy expertise, school governance and board experience
Scott Hughes, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	PhD History, BA History Current: Associate Research Professor, University of New Mexico, Center for Education Policy Research Experience: Education research, policy and finance expertise local to New Mexico and nationwide
Rosa Pynes, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	BBA Finance and International Management Current: Recruitment Manager, Teach For America Experience: Pre-K-12 educator recruitment, district level leader related to early childhood education initiatives, bilingual elementary education teacher
Katie Rarick, Founder and Proposed Governing Board Member	MEd Secondary Education, BBA Management Information Systems Current: Senior Managing Director of Planning & Analysis, Teach For America Experience: Large scale financial non-profit management, fundraising and development supervision and training