

Required Appendix I

State of New Mexico
Public School Facilities Authority



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February 25, 2015

Mr. Mark Casavantes, M.Ed.
Academic Opportunities Academy
817 East Missouri Avenue, Suite B
El Paso, Texas, 79902

Dear Mr. Casavantes:

PSFA has received and reviewed the Facility Master Plan/Educational Specification (FMP/Ed Spec) for the proposed Academic Opportunities Academy Charter School. The FMP/Ed Spec's purpose is to guide you in the planning of and/or selection of a facility to ensure that it meets state-wide adequacy (NMAC 6.27.30) and accommodates your educational program and method of instruction. Based upon our review, PSFA is pleased to announce that the Plan meets our requirements. In accordance with House Bill 283 (HB283), your next step is to include your plan along with this letter in your charter school application to the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC).

Through our review of the FMP/Ed Spec, PSFA understands the following:

- You are seeking to locate a school in Deming, NM.
- You plan to locate the school in a 27,380 SF building located at 8th and Florida Street in Deming.
- Your proposed site is currently vacant but if PEC approves your charter school, you plan to enter into a build to suit lease. You also plan to lease the land with the potential to purchase.
- You plan to have a cap of 400 students consisting in grades 6th-8th. The plan calls for opening with 200 students with the additional 200 students enrolling in the school within five years.
- Your educational program/philosophy is based on Mastery Learning, Constructivism, and Progressive Learning with instruction in both English and Spanish.
- You have reviewed our adequacy standards, planning guide and HB 283.
- The plan's space summary indicates that the school will contain approximately 15 classrooms, including a main academic space, pullout classrooms, dance/PE classroom, science classroom, art classroom, and music classroom. The sizes of the academic, pullout, specialty, and science rooms all comply with the PSFA adequacy standards.
- You will enter into a local contract for food service and students will eat in the main academic space. You do not require a preparation kitchen.
- You will have an area for a nurse in your facility.
- You intend to deliver library/media arts education via e-books and on-line resources and do not require a library or media arts space.

- This approval letter acknowledges that some of your proposed spaces appear to be under adequacy (physical education/media arts). However, PSFA allows charter schools to waive compliance with adequacy for these spaces based on programmatic need.

Prior to moving into the potential facility, PSFA will need to assess your building to ensure that it meets e-occupancy and code. Please contact our office before you are ready to occupy the facility. If you are a successful applicant, please remember to work closely with PSFA's Planning and Design team as you review your potential facility. Since your building is in design and not yet constructed, PSFA is available to meet with you to discuss your plans at any time. You can reach us at (505) 843-6272.

Sincerely,



John M. Valdez, AICP
Facility Master Planner

cc: Martica Casias, Planning and Design Manager
Travis Coker, Regional Manager