



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

**OPTION FOR PARENTS
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

2016 NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) the Notice of Intent to Submit a Charter Application (“NOI”) must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below **AND** to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. *Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.*

The NOI must be submitted by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on January 12, 2016, **the second Tuesday of January.** Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the deadline may result in the application being rejected. When you send the NOI to the superintendent of the school district in which your charter is to be located, you are strongly encouraged to send it by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact the local district regarding electronic filing.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered by one of the following methods:

- Electronically to: Charter.Schools@state.nm.us
- By mail or personal delivery: PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
Attn: Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is intended to provide the Public Education Commission with the primary point of contact among the charter developers, and preliminary information about the charter proposal, such as the school’s mission statement, the school’s focus, the representative student population in the intended location, enrollment projections, key innovations, etc. (not to exceed 5 pages).

1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

A Window of Hope Elementary School

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
K-3 in Year 1 with the potential for a 4th/5th classroom beginning in Year 2	Year 1: 200 in K-3 Year 2-3: 225

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Rianne Herrera		
Mailing Address	26 Armin Rd		
City	Tijeras	State	NM
		Zip	87059
Phone	5054801860		
Email	Awindowofhopeelementaryschool@gmail.com		

2. Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on the applicant team, and qualifications of the team members to establish a high-quality charter school

Name	Role on Team	Qualifications: Education, Employment, Experience
Rianne Herrera MA, NBCT	Founder	MA. Special Education emphasis in Gifted Education; B.A. Dual Certification General Education K-8; B.A., Special Education K-12 emphasis Social Studies; National Board Certified Teacher 2007-Current- Mild to Moderate Disabilities Birth-21; Highly Qualified in Math, English Language Arts, and Social Studies K-12, Apple Vanguard Coach 2015; Albuquerque Public Schools 2001- current
Sara Trujillo MA	Founder	MA. Special Education K-12 emphasis Math and Learning Disabilities; B.A. History and Religious Studies; Highly Qualified in Math, English Language Arts, and Social Studies; Apple Vanguard Coach 2015; Albuquerque Public Schools 2003-current
Janea Menicucci MA	Founder	MA. Special Education K-12 emphasis Learning Disabilities; B.S. Elementary Education K-8 endorsed English Language Arts, History and Mathematics; Wilson Reading System National Trainer 2007; Apple Foundation Trainer 2014; Universal Design for Learning Presenter 2014; Microsoft Innovative Trainer 2015; Albuquerque Public Schools 2001-Current

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g., performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM, Montessori, IB):

The focus of A Window of Hope Elementary School is to provide small-group, full-inclusion learning settings providing support for academics while maintaining high expectations for all learners. A Window of Hope Elementary School will be built on the 4C Framework (Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking and Collaboration) and will be supported while utilizing collaborative strategies. A Window of Hope Elementary School will provide early intervention services through STEAM and utilize research-based strategies, to ensure student success. Curriculum will utilize the principles of Universal Design for Learning to meet the needs of students in all academic areas, including: Social and emotional development, limited English proficiency needs, and additional ancillary support as needed. By establishing a partnership with the Coalition for Community Schools, we plan to provide families with community connections and resources.

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? Yes: No:

If YES, describe the entity and the role it will have in the school's operational plan.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: No:

6. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

Our mission is to create access to high-academic achievement by providing unique learning environments within inclusive learning settings. Our school community will foster social-emotional development by inspiring and empowering diverse learners through perseverance and career-readiness skills. We will emphasize and cultivate self-advocacy and self-worth among all individuals while providing a window of opportunity to enhance life experiences.

7. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area of the proposed school from which you expect to draw a significant number of your students.

Albuquerque Metropolitan area

- Describe the student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL, and special education populations in the location in which the school intends to locate.

Current demographics (APS, 2015):

70% students who qualify for free or reduced lunch

67% Hispanic

21% Caucasian

4% Native American

2% African American

2% Asian

16% English Language Learners

23% Students identified with disabilities

Our school will reflect the demographics of the Albuquerque Metropolitan area, but will emphasize a higher percentage of students identified with disabilities, ELL and low socio-economics status.

- Identify where these students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.

Most students in the Albuquerque area attend the district's public schools or district- authorized charter schools, with a smaller, but increasing portion enrolled in state-authorized charter schools or local area private schools. Based on the school mission, our desire is to recruit a diverse population of learners and employ faculty members who are Highly Qualified (i.e.- Nationally Board Certified, PhD, Master level teachers, etc.). Families will choose our school based on the educational opportunities being provided along with the ongoing commitment to provide high quality academics while addressing the social-emotional needs of the students. By choosing our school, families will acknowledge the ongoing community building opportunities that will open a window for students to become valued and contributing members of society.

8. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school of the nature that will be proposed in the application (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program).

Founding members have assessed the need for A Window of Hope Elementary School through conversations with community members, parents/families, teachers and ancillary support personnel, regarding opportunities and needs for this type of schooling establishment. Currently, there are 35 state charter schools and 19 Albuquerque Public School charter schools in the Albuquerque and surrounding area. 9% of those are K-5 schools in the immediate Albuquerque Metropolitan area thus limiting parents the choice of schools. Of these schools, the majorities reside in the farthest southwest or northwest parts of town, which limits families the means for opportunity and access to their child's education. The Founding members are community members within a major school district and understand this type of educational model is not currently available. Community feedback continues to be overwhelmingly in support of this endeavor. The founding members will continue to collect data to support the need for this educational opportunity.

9. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement in order to help it realize its vision / mission (e.g., non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).

Our school culture will move beyond the typical boundaries of traditional education by practicing strategies to support a fully collaborative learning environment among faculty, students and family, and community members. Through implementation of the Universal Design for Learning Framework, we will better meet the needs of multiple intelligences as well as encourage expansion of community based learning. These key features will be supported through: a year-round school calendar; an extended school day for enrichment or intervention purposes; before and afterschool therapies/programs, i.e. expand education to stakeholders and community for GED, ELL, technology classes, etc. In addition, plans include a partnership with the Coalition for Community Schools to provide family education and supports as described above.

10. Describe how the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

A Window of Hope Elementary School will provide student-centered learning through collaborative engagement strategies, multi-modal and multisensory academic learning. The student to teacher ratio will be optimal for a successful inclusive learning environment. By implementing the Universal Design for Learning Framework that incorporates multiple intelligences, students will have equal access to high quality instruction with a rigorous academic curriculum. In addition, students will have access to educators who exceed the state standards for highly qualified educational professionals.

Please Note: Should your charter be awarded, the founding governing body could undergo a background check to determine if it qualifies to be a board of public finance in the state of New Mexico.

Signature of founder(s)

Rianne Herrera MA, NBCT

Date: December 23, 2015

Rianne Herrera MA, NBCT

[PRINT NAME]

Sara Trujillo

Sara Trujillo MA

[PRINT NAME]

Janea Menicucci

Janea Menicucci MA

[PRINT NAME]

Revised 11/13/2015