



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 SUSANA MARTINEZ
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION 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: **Columbus Academy**

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
6th 1st year; 6-7th 2nd year; 6-8th 3rd year and so on eventually serving students in grades 6-12	70; 140; 210 respectively by year of enrollment and upto 285 students

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Jack Long				
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 529				
City	Columbus	State	NM	Zip	88029
Phone	(575) 694-3171				
Email	jacklong42235@yahoo.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
Jack Long	Founder & Team Coordinator	BA Public Administration, MA Education, Retired, public health service, building and international development work in Guatemala
Roberto Gutierrez	Founder & Academic Counsel	BA Science-Biology, BA Arts-Chemistry, bilingual educator, businessman 25yrs+, public office 10yrs+
Emma Armendariz	Founder	EDD, Retired Principal ALBQ SD, Director Bilingual Education in LCSD,
Jeffrey Smith	Legal Aid	Licensed Public Attorney specializing in immigration and international business, Self employed
Victor Zizumbo	Founder	Marine Veteran, International businessman, parent, self employed
Mark Casavantes	Application Writing	BA. Architecture, BIS Math Education, M.Ed. School Administration Current Employment Math Teacher at David Carasco Job Corps Center
Ben Tice	Application Writing/Advisor	Retired Superintendent of El Paso Academy East and West
Wes Clarkson	Advisor	Retired Central Office Administrator with El Paso ISD School Administrator with Carlsbad Public Schools
Leo Viramontes	Business Incubation/ Fundraising/Advisor	Manufacturing, Electronics and Computer Science Professional
Martha Molina	Application Writing	Business Owner/Business Teacher
Debra Garcia	Application Writing / Grant Writing / Liaison / Special Ed/504	BA Speech Therapy, MPA Public Administration

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

Dual language and STEM.

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. **Not applicable.**

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)

We will help increase the graduation rate of students, develop an appropriate academic program that meets the students needs and addresses the education gap problem between middle and high school, and focus on establishing a support system of family, educators, peers and the community.

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. **Initial student enrollment will be the 5th grade graduates that would have to travel to Deming for 6th grade but the Academy would be open and available to all students in Luna County. The average number of students being bussed from Columbus to Deming for higher education is roughly 70 per grade level; less students reach the high school after completing the 8th grade. An independent study will be conducted to better identify the actual number of graduating students from southern Luna County including the use of existing data available. Other students from which to draw enrollment from includes: Red Mountain Middle School, Deming Middle School and eventually Deming High School. Our students would simply stay within the Village of Columbus city limits with an extended school day that incorporates after school activities that engage the student in a controlled setting while applying skills they are learning or are mastering. The students will have the opportunity to learn and grow in familiar surroundings with proper technology tools, academic leaders and the emotional support they are accustomed to without having to travel over 2 hours to Deming and back daily. We anticipate filling the gaps that causes high school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, academic under-crediting, language barriers, social skills and all other levels of readiness for high school immersion to successful graduation. We expect students to be better equipped for transition and personal success by committing to work through areas of need individually or as a group by utilizing smaller class sizes which have been proven to be more effective.**
- 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. **Most students from Columbus Elementary School come from homes where English is the second language but rarely used or spoken by the parents. Nearly all students entering the education system in Columbus lack the academic skills in their native language making it much harder to teach in another language such as English. Our students would simply stay within the Village of Columbus city limits with an extended school day that would incorporate after school activities that will engage the student in a controlled setting while allowing them to apply skills they are learning or mastering with the use of technology and tools otherwise not available to them. Our students will have the opportunity to learn and grow in familiar surroundings with proper tools, caring academic leaders, and the emotional support they are accustomed to without having to travel over 2 hours daily to and from Deming schools.**
- 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. **All of our students are from the Deming Public School District, attending either Deming Intermediate School, Red Mountain Middle School, Deming Middle School, and Deming High School. In the past, the majority of the parents sought to keep the 6th grade students here and succeeded until recent**

years when the DPS Board reverted to their plan of busing all 6th graders to the Deming Intermediate School and then having to build to fill the extra need. Columbus School has more parental involvement than other schools within the district and that suffers when students are being taught 31 miles away. The biggest advantage is students will not have to travel over 2 hours a day and suffer the related negative effects but could utilize that time instead for learning. Parents will be able to become actively involved in parent-teacher conferences, and other activities.

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). The idea of a Charter School in Columbus has been supported for over 2 decades by the community but lack of resources and expertise in program development and curriculum have thwarted past efforts. The Columbus Academy will not take anything from the Deming Public Schools, we are adding to it with the same goal. Eventually leaders in the area will seek to become an Independent School District where Columbus would be responsible for the education of their own student population. Parents and residents alike would take more ownership of their child's education believing in and establishing the foundation of responsibility of "it takes a village to raise a child" and educate him as well.
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.). Students and their families are already accustomed to the non-traditional year around school year that would be kept in place. The teaching in a school day would increase by the nearly 3 hours saved from traveling over 62 miles every day. Instead of riding in a bus the students would be in social environment conducive for learning and applying their new skills by mentoring other students. Our school, the Columbus Academy, would partner with existing organizations to try to integrate their program into our curriculum to avoid duplication of efforts. This would include educating parents in the advantages of academic success so they can encourage and guide their children in the process. We will also make available classes in English as a second language to parents and residents of the area. After-school programs and extracurricular activities that engage the students in learning other cultures and social integration.
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. Our new school, the Columbus Academy, will provide area students with additional support and academic resources to help improve our student graduate rate. Historically, there are a lot more students leaving Columbus School than there are graduating from Deming High School. Our community specific student needs include smaller class settings, provide a higher level of social and emotional support, a wider base of community engagement that leverages collaborative relationships with public, private and community agencies that support our school. Students will have access to greater learning and potential that will increase their chances of higher education opportunities in college, or whatever their alternative career field choice may be. To obtain data, studies will be conducted periodically to measure growth and development and compare statistical historical data and make adjustments to ensure that students are in fact improving and graduating with their classes. Testing and assessments will be used as measuring tools for improvements to the students work and growth instead of demonstrating failing resources or misconstrued data of information.

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):

Jack Long

Date:

01/10/2016