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**OPTIONS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES DIVISION  
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

**2018 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 9, 2018, **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](mailto:charter.schools@state.nm.us)
- By mail or personal delivery: PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department  
Attn: Options for Parents and Families/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

South Valley Innovation Academy

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

| Grade Levels to be offered     | Projected Total Enrollment |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kindergarten – 8 <sup>th</sup> | 400                        |

- Primary Point of Contact

|                 |                         |       |    |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------|----|-----------|
| Name            | Alma Sanchez            |       |    |           |
| Mailing Address | PO Box 72190            |       |    |           |
| City            | Albuquerque             | State | NM | Zip 87195 |
| Phone           | 505-610-2422            |       |    |           |
| Email           | Chacon_alma@hotmail.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

| Names              | Role on Team | Qualifications: Education, Employment, and Experience  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Alma Sanchez       | Lead         | <b>Education:</b> Master of Business Administration (MBA)<br><b>Employment:</b> Albuquerque public schools<br><b>Experience:</b> 11 years teaching Pre-K through 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade/ 2 years PreK-8 <sup>th</sup> grade administration experience. Reading endorsed / Business endorsed / Reading Intervention / Student Assistance Team (SAT) chair / grade level chair / Baldrige Chair / Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) chair |
| Joann Romero-Lopez | Teacher      | <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Arts (BA) + 60 additional hours<br><b>Employment:</b> Albuquerque public schools<br><b>Experience:</b> 35.5 years teaching elementary through middle school. TESOL endorsed / Dual Language Teacher/ Bilingual Coordinator / SFA Math Facilitator / Testing Coordinator / SAT Chair  |
| Joella Galindo     | Teacher      | <b>Education:</b> Master of Arts (MA)<br><b>Employment:</b> Albuquerque public schools<br><b>Experience:</b> 18 years teaching elementary through middle school with a focus on technology/GenYes  |

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

The focus of South Valley Innovation Academy is to create personalized learning paths for individual scholars in a blended environment utilizing the rotational model. Personalized learning paths means that scholars get the instruction they need when they need it to maximize their learning and close their achievement gap.

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)

**Mission:**

South Valley Innovation Academy will challenge scholars to continually advance their academic performance by providing personalized learning paths that are rigorous and targeted to their specific needs in a safe and caring blended learning environment supported through innovative technology, family path planning, and partnerships for project based learning.

**Vision:**

South Valley Innovation Academy will be a community of lifelong learners that continually challenge themselves to exceed their goals and excel in their future.

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.

The targeted geographical area is the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is a town in Bernalillo County. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) the 5-year population estimate is 41,660. The median age is 37.8 and there are approximately 2,423 companies operating out of the South Valley. The student population will be Kindergarten through 8th grade.

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

**KEY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:** Families living in the South Valley are made up of the following: White alone 27,258 / Black or African American Alone 481 / American Indian and Alaska Native Alone 694 / Asian alone 175 / Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone 0 / some other race alone 12,040 / two or more races 1,012 / Hispanic or Latino 33,738 / White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino 6,809.

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:** Math exam performance in Bernalillo county in elementary schools is 23% proficient and 18% in middle schools. The average math proficiency in New Mexico for elementary is 22% and middle school 18%.

Reading/Language Arts performance in Bernalillo county in elementary schools is 27% proficient and 23% in middle schools. The average reading/language arts in New Mexico for elementary is 25% and 21% for middle schools.

The graduation rates in Bernalillo county are 60%, lower than the state average of 68%. This is also lower than the Albuquerque Metro average which is 64%. Students with limited English graduate at a lower rate than average for New Mexico. The percentage is 52% in Bernalillo vs. 64% in New Mexico. However, students with learning disabilities have a higher graduation rate in Bernalillo county (60.2%) vs. the State (59.3%).

There are proportionally fewer elementary school students who were held back a grade in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo county shows .2%, Albuquerque Metro .5%, and New Mexico 1.7%.

**HOME LANGUAGES:** Households that only speak English equal 46.0%. Households that speak a language other than English equal 54.0%. The most dominant language spoken other than English is Spanish. Spanish speaking students between the ages of 5 and 17 equal 10.5%.

**ELL:** There are proportionally more elementary school students whose ability to speak English does not meet the state's standard of level achievement in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo county has 22.4% students with limited English proficiency while Albuquerque Metro has 20% and New Mexico 20.6%.

There is an average proportion of middle school students whose ability to speak English does not meet the state's standard level of achievement in Bernalillo County compared to New Mexico. Bernalillo County shows 14.7%, Albuquerque Metro 14.3%, and New Mexico 14.8%.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION POPULATIONS:** There are proportionally fewer elementary students who are classified as learning disabled under IDEA or Section 504 in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo County shows 12.5%, Albuquerque Metro 13.2%, and New Mexico 14.2%. However there are proportionally more middle school students who are classified as learning disabled under IDEA or Section 504 in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo County shows 18.6%, Albuquerque Metro 17.7%, and New Mexico 15.2%. There are proportionally more elementary school students who participate in a Gifted & Talented education program in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo county has 5.7%, Albuquerque metro 4.8%, and New Mexico 3.4%. There are proportionally more middle school students who participate in a Gifted & Talented education program in Bernalillo county than average for New Mexico. Bernalillo county has 11.2%, Albuquerque metro 9.5%, and New Mexico 7.2%.

*\*Data obtained from Start Class which populates results from: Economic Policy Institute, Office of Civil Rights, National Center for Education Statistics, Forecast Package, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Post-Secondary Education, American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau, and Dun & Bradstreet)*

- 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 Bernalillo county (89%) are attending public schools. Most students in the public school system don't have a choice as to which school they attend. They must attend a school within their home zone.

Families are expected to choose South Valley Innovation Academy (SVIA) because of the personalized learning paths that will be developed for their child(ren) specifically. SVIA will also appeal to families that have multi-aged children in Kindergarten through 8th grade and only needing to transition once, into high school. The small class sizes, family involvement, blended learning environment, engaging and rigorous project based learning will also be reasons families will choose SVIA.

*\*Data obtained from Town Charts which include both Census Designated Places (CDP) and Census County Divisions (CCD) which are defined by the Census Bureau along with local authorities*

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).

An objective survey was conducted both in person and online. Community members were asked "Do you feel there is a need for school choices in the South Valley?" 81.7% responded "yes", 9.2% responded "no", and 9.2% responded "maybe". Community members were also asked "Would you enroll your child in a K-8 charter school that offered personalized learning paths?" 85.3% responded "yes", 5.2% responded "no", and 9.5% responded "maybe". Overall the majority of respondents felt there was a need for school choices in the South Valley and they would enroll their children in a charter school that offered personalized learning paths.

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.). South Valley Innovation Academy will feature personalized learning paths for each individual scholar. These learning paths will be evaluated and adjusted every six weeks by the academic advisor and/or learning facilitator (teacher), family member, and scholar. Based on the outcomes the scholar will be offered new personal learning challenges. We will also partner with organizations as part of the project based learning, presentations, and feedback. For example if students are presenting a project on energy conservation, they might be in contact with PNM during the research phase and a member of PNM will then attend the presentation and offer feedback to the team. The Kindergarten through 8th grade schedule is also innovative with scholars only needing to transition once into high school. The daily schedule will be based on the community survey. The majority of respondents would like to see a longer school day Monday through Thursday with ½ day Fridays.
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.

South Valley Innovation Academy will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population because of the personalized learning paths that will be developed for each individual scholar in a blended learning environment. Scholars will excel through their learning based on their individual needs. Evaluating and revising their path every 6 weeks assures they are continually meeting and/or exceeding their academic performance standards and their individual needs are being met. The advantage of offering Kindergarten through 8th grade is that students only have to transition once, into high school. Students will be better prepared both academically and socially for high school.

*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):

Date: 12-20-2017

  
Alma Sanchez      Joann Romero-Lopez      Joella Galindo  
[PRINT NAME]