

NOTICE OF INTENT ON JANUARY 9, 2017

Dear Superintendent Archuleta and Cuba Independent School District Board Members:

Dianna Maestas, President

Pamela Cayaditto, Vice President

Dr. Carl Stern, Member

Taylor Pinto, Member

Vivian Keetso, Secretary

We are submitting to the Cuba Independent School District, PO BOX 70, CUBA, NM 87013 a charter application and a request for the CISD to be acting as our authorizing agent. We look forward to developing a Flagship Charter School and relationship with our future authorizer, Cuba Independent School District .

Torreon Chapter Early College Charter School Proposal 2017

January 9, 2017

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Proposed School: Torreon Chapter Early College Charter High School

Grades: 9-12 as a charter school and a full day pre-school

*Our preschool can be under the charter, a magnet school or authorized by the Cuba School District.

Projected Enrollment:

150 students for the high school and 50 students for the Pre-School

Primary Point of Contact:

Ray Begaye 505.386.8337 or 505.382.3580

6639 Mountain Hawk Loop, NE

Rio Rancho, NM 87144

rbkinichiinii@yahoo.com

eaglefeatherdine@gmail.com

2. Names, and roles, qualifications of the team members and founders

Ray Begaye, BAE:

NA and Charter Advisor with 14 years as a Former NM State Representative. Mr. Begaye was on the Legislative Education Committee and several other committees and a former Teacher

Mr. Begaye will develop the vision of the Charter, Navajo Language and Cultural Leadership Education and Training, Grant Writing.

Pamela Engstrom, MA:

Pamela Engstrom has extensive experience as an educator and six years of experience as a charter

Pamela Engstrom has a proven track record in academic success. Ms. Engstrom was also a Bureau of Indian Education Trainer for Special Education. Pamela Engstrom will be the Technical Writer of Charter Application, and coordinator of events and calendar.

Christle Bearheels, MS

Christle Bearheels is a NM Licensed Speech Pathologist and specializes in facilitating language learning. She will also be a technical writer for our charter application and advise on improving educational opportunities for students.

Arlinda Sandoval:

Ms. Sandoval is a Parent and is expert on student transportation for the Torreon Chapter. Ms. Sandoval will be lead Survey collection and Community Outreach.

3. Description of School Model

Our model will be a Faith Based Initiative with the academic focus on grades 9 to 12, including a preschool within the model of an early college high school through on-line and blended learning with culturally relevant curriculum, which will also encompass a night/distance learning school with emphasis on language, art, culture and technology. Our technology program will offer coding basics and web design.

Goals to achieve:

Improve Graduation Rate by 25% above CISD average

Place top five in graduating students as compared to the state total of schools with a population of 50% or more Native American Students in New Mexico

Increase the retention rate of teachers of three years or more by 25% as compared to state average

Students will complete their post-secondary goals 75% of the time

Afford students the opportunity to learn the Navajo language.

Attract at least 25% of new student growth that were not recruited from CISD through outreach.

Provide a benefit to the community by providing students who dropped out to return and receive a high school diploma, give an opportunity to have electricity to study during night hours, improve community computer and internet access and reduce travel time and expenses for community members.

To provide a pre-school program through a public school model with dual language instruction in Navajo. Three Head Start Programs were in existence but two Head Start Programs were fully occupied but shut down. There is a desperate need for quality pre-school programming in our community to increase language skills and school readiness.

4. Contracting

We anticipate contracting IT/E-Rate services through K. Winters of Torreon, Yvonne Shay, Ray Begaye, The Falmouth Institute for education related expertise.

We will also contract for special education services such as Occupational Therapy, Speech, etc. We will contract as needed through a thoroughly vetted process.as needed. We do anticipate contracting with the school district to absorb any additional fte available and for their expertise. This may also include contracting with CISD business manager, if this is supported.

5. Members currently operating any other schools?

No.

6. Vision/Mission:

The mission of the Torreon Chapter Early College Charter High School is to graduate students who are prepared for post-secondary success and who are willing to embrace an education that emphasizes, values, language, culture, arts and technology.

7. Student Population and Geographical Setting

The Torreon Chapter is located within the Navajo Nation and within the boundaries of the Cuba Independent School District

We hope to attract students including adults who are returning to school and who are struggling academically or do not quite fit in a typical high school in or around the surrounding boundaries of the Cuba Independent School District (CISD). We would also like to have our public preschool fill a void of our two discontinued Head Start Programs and assist our students who are parents through the Pre-School Program in parent classes and a GLAD Program or another similar support program for our parents. Our population is identified as: students who desire to a high school diploma that is enriched with a culturally relevant curriculum that emphasizes language, culture, arts and technology with on-line and/or blended learning. If students are only enrolled in the on-line program they may be required to visit the school at least once a week, or a liaison will be sent home to ensure the home has the resources to support the student. The Torreon Chapter is 100% eligible for the Free Lunch Program and Title I criteria.

8. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school and 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).

Torreón is a community with some parts who do not have access to water or electricity. Some of our students cannot study as they do not have enough sunlight in which to study. A bus ride can be as long as an hour and half to Cuba Schools and this further interferes with their study time at home. A lack of internet

and computer access also limits their time to acquire knowledge as compared to their typical peers. Once students drop out or age out they have no transportation or access to earn a diploma or GED Certificate. The average income is between \$7,000.00 and \$21,000.00 for a family of four. The community school would also operate during non-school traditional hours to act as a resource for the entire community as an on-line vehicle for University learning for credit, a meeting place, a library, etc. Head Start had two out of its three programs shut down and the community has not filled the void. A full day preschool would fill this void.

9. Identify innovative features

Torreón will have their first full time Pre-School.

Community outreach will help our community members who have dropped be able to complete their high school education.

Our school will be Faith Based.

Internet and computer access would be available to community members.

On-line college access for post-secondary education.

Our adult school will run Monday through Friday and no school on Wednesdays. Wednesday will be designated for tutoring for our students and teacher lesson planning and professional development. The Pre-School will run Monday through Friday. This will allow our parents a day off to work, study or attend appointments.

Innovative may not be the same as an urban definition for Torreón, but address our basic needs in close proximity to our residents will elevate Torreón in education levels and employment opportunities and ultimately increase income levels.

10. Describe how the charter 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.

These contributing factors significantly affect our community. A minimum of 20% of the chapter's community is without water and/or electricity, due to the Torreón Chapter residing in the "Checker Board" area. Oral hygiene is poor due to lack of access to water in homes. This area has very few internet sources, poor cell phone service, and horrible road conditions that cost students more additional lost school days. A high rate of teen parents; members who have dropped out of school; alcohol and drug abuse and poverty. A higher than average rate of individuals living in a house hold make studying difficult. A higher than average rate of alcohol and drug abuse contribute to instability and stressors that effect academic outcomes for entire family units..

A high rate of high school drop outs and unemployment all could be improved with a community school that provides:

- a night school
- a quality preschool for students with children
- job training
- mental health, and career counseling
- visiting health services,
- on-line university access for dual credit or post high school access,
- high school diploma programming offered with flexible hours day and night
- and life-long tracking and support through our community school.

The long term ultimate goal is to lift the entire community with hope because of our community school.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Ray Begaye'.

Ray Begaye

**CC: Walter Toledo, Torreon Chapter Manager,
NMPED Charter Division, and the McKinley School Board**

