



DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

THE NAVAJO NATION

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Ben Shelly
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January 14, 2014

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Options for Parents

Public Education Commission
C/O New Mexico Public Education Department
Attention: Ms. Linda Olivas, Administrative Assistant
Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

RE: Dzil Dit Looi School of Empowerment, Action and Perseverance (DEAP)

Dear New Mexico Public Education Commissioners:

Yá'át'ééh. On behalf of the Navajo Nation's Department of Dine' Education, and as the Assistant Superintendent of Education, I am writing this letter in support for DEAP, and its founders who have sent you a letter of intent to submit a charter school application in 2014.

Through our participation with a working group over the past several months, we have met to explore the feasibility of having a charter school in the area. We are committed to working with the charter school, its founders and leaders as the specific plan develops.

This charter school represents an incredible opportunity for the Red Lake Chapter and surrounding communities to provide a high quality educational option for children and families. With plans to create close ties to the local community and teach using Dine' philosophy, cultural and language, Fuzzy Mountain aligns well with the Navajo Nation's mission to promote and foster lifelong learning and to protect our cultural integrity as Dine' people.

We look forward to collaborating with a New Mexico state-chartered school that honors youth as assets to our community and that considers the community an asset as well.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION

Timothy Benally
Acting Superintendent of Schools

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