



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
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HANNA SKANDERA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
GOVERNOR

December 5, 2014

Dear Public Education Commissioners:

Enclosed is the Final Recommendation for the Academy of Trades and Technology 2014 renewal application. Charter Schools Division (CSD) staff at the Public Education Department analyzed the renewal applications, reviewed past performance of the school, conducted site visits and gave full consideration to the information gathered in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Pahl".

Matthew Pahl  
Interim Director  
Charter Schools Division

## I. Recommendation

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

The Charter School Division recommends that Academy of Trades and Technology be approved and given a three year charter renewal with conditions to be determined through the development of an Improvement Plan. The school has demonstrated consistently poor progress on current results on the State Grade report Card with a three year average of a D and academic performance falls well below the proficiency levels of the state. Financial matters seem in good order and the school has not violated any provision of law.

### PROPOSED CONDITIONS

The Applicant will negotiate a contract with the Public Education Commission pursuant to 22-8B-9.1: to include:

1. A shortened contract term of two or three years
2. Completion of an improvement plan specific to the school
3. Two annual monitoring visits by CSD

DENY

Overall the application is either incomplete or inadequate; or during their Capacity Interview, the applicant(s) did not sufficiently demonstrate the experience, knowledge, and competence to successfully open and operate a charter school.

The Charter Schools Act, in paragraph 1 of Subsection L of Section 22-8B-6 NMSA 1978, states that a chartering authority may approve, approve with conditions or deny an application. A chartering authority may deny an application if:

- (1) the application is incomplete or inadequate;
- (2) the application does not propose to offer an educational program consistent with the requirements and purposes of the Charter Schools Act;
- (3) the proposed head administrator or other administrative or fiscal staff was involved with another charter school whose charter was denied or revoked for fiscal management or the proposed head administrator or other administrative or fiscal staff was discharged from a public school for fiscal mismanagement;
- (4) for a proposed state-chartered charter school, it does not request to have the governing body of the charter school designated as a board of finance or the governing body does not qualify as a board of finance; or

- (5) the application is otherwise contrary to the best interests of the charter school's projected students, the local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

By: 

Matthew Pahl, Interim Director of Charter Schools Division, or Designee

### CSD Summary and Final Recommendation

Academy of Trades & Technology (ATT) was chartered by the state on July 1, 2010. Prior to 2010, ATT was an Albuquerque Public Schools district charter. The mission of the school is “Academy of Trades & Technology combines career technological education and academic courses using project based learning to reach “at-risk” students, while developing their vocational, academic, social, personal, needs and skills required to attain quality employment.”

The Charter School Division recommends that Academy of Trades and Technology be approved and given a three year charter renewal with conditions to be determined through the development of an Improvement Plan. The school has demonstrated consistently poor progress on current results on the State Grade report Card with a three year average of a D and academic performance falls well below the proficiency levels of the state. Financial matters seem in good order and the school has not violated any provision of law.

The School Grade Report Card indicates that the school’s 3-Year average grade is a D with 44.0 points. ATT scores have remained relatively low with minimal progress, earning a score of 17.1 in 2011 (a grade of F), an increase to 57.36 in 2012 (a grade of a C), and 45.09 in 2013 (a grade of D). Currently, only 3.4 percent of all students are proficient in reading and 3.3 percent of all students are proficient in math. Since the first School Grade Report Card in 2012, ATT has never scored higher than a 10.3 percent proficiency in reading and 3.4 percent proficiency in math. Overall growth for ATT has been inconsistent with a grade of an F in 2012 to a grade of an A in 2013 and down to a grade of a D in 2014. ATT has demonstrated an increase in growth of highest performing students and improved from a grade of an F in 2012 to a grade of an A in 2014. The school ranks number 4 out of 33 for highest performing students on the 2014 School Grade Report Card. Compared to schools in the Albuquerque Public School District, ATT falls below in four out of six categories and earned the same grade on two categories on the School Grade Report Card. The most significant difference to note is that ATT earned an F on Graduation compared to a C for Rio Grande High School. Also, ATT earned a D for Opportunity to Learn compared to a B for Rio Grande High School. ATT has consistently earned an F for Graduation since the first School Grade Report Card. ATT does qualify to be a SAM school (Supplemental Accountability Model). ATT receives an additional rate that reflects their ability to graduate any student in a given year. ATT’s graduation rate for the 2013-2014 report card was a 39.7% and a SAM Graduation rate of 55.9%.

ATT provided insufficient or no data addressing the ten Student and Organizational Performance Goals. ATT met one goal during their charter term. In Part “C” of the Renewal Application, Looking Forward, ATT presented goals which address academic achievement and job readiness. The proposed goals are in SMART format and are an adequate foundation for negotiations if the school is renewed.

ATT has demonstrated compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to financial management and oversight expectations as evidenced by an audit devoid of significant findings and conditions, material weaknesses, or significant internal control weaknesses. Their audit does not include ongoing concerns disclosed in the notes or an explanatory paragraph within the audit report. ATT also has demonstrated complete and timely compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to sound financial principles and financial reporting requirements. The school’s FY2013 cash

balance is \$38,736.00 which is 2.68% of the operational budget.

ATT has had inconsistency in administration. The current administrator has been in place since July of 2013. The Governing Council has been stable with only a few changes in membership. The school has no material violations and it appears that the school operates efficiently in terms of Governance procedures, its reporting duties, and organizational stability. ATT has not violated any provision of the law and CSD finds that the school's leadership and governance are sound.

ATT has demonstrated that they have no material violations, have no fiscal management improprieties, and have no violation of any provisions of law. ATT's academic performance falls well below the proficiency levels of the state and consistently demonstrated poor progress on current results on the State Grade Report Card. The Charter School Division recommends that Academy of Trades and Technology be approved and given a three year charter renewal with conditions to be determined through the development of an Improvement Plan.