



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](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)

HANNA SKANDERA  
 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
 GOVERNOR

**OPTION FOR PARENTS  
 CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) this Notice of Intent to Submit 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.*

This year the NOI is due by close of business, January 10, 2012. Notice by mail will be timely if it is postmarked on or by January 6, 2012.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered one of the following methods:

Electronically to:

[KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us](mailto:KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us)

By mail or personal delivery:

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
 c/o New Mexico Public Education Department  
 Attn: Ms. Kelly Callahan, General Manager  
 Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division  
 300 Don Gaspar, Room 301C  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is to provide information for the primary point of contact, enrollment projections and a concise proposal overview (not to exceed 5 pages).

You are strongly encouraged to send notice to the Superintendent of your local district by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact your local district regarding electronic filing.

1. General Information:

Name of Proposed School:	Electus Academy	
Primary Contact Person	Justin Baiardo	
Mailing Address:	2720 Avenida Corazon	
City: Rio Rancho	State: NM	Zip: 87124
Phone: (505) 306 5283	Email: <a href="mailto:justin@baiardo.net">justin@baiardo.net</a>	

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	Employment	Qualifications
Justin Baiardo	Founder, Academic Director	Teacher (currently)	Teaching experience

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

*College preparation, career readiness, elective choice for all course offerings*

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation?

Yes:  Describe the entity and role it will have in the school's operational plan. No: .

The school intends to utilize the NM Coalition for Charter Schools for assistance in financial management/oversight, and with startup assistance in the areas of finance, governing body training, advertising, etc.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes:  No: .

6. If the proposal is a replication, identify the school(s) you are replicating and what data that you have to support this model should be replicated.

7. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

The Electus Academy will bring a revolutionary educational system to the Albuquerque area, one which focuses on strong core education and college readiness through the philosophy of academic choice. The innovation of the Electus Academy is based on *choice theory*, guided by the premise that individuals best succeed when they are internally motivated through the power of personal choice. To this end, all students at the Electus Academy will have the ability to choose *how* they will learn each standard required by the State of New Mexico, thus creating an individualized curriculum as never seen before.

8. Student body to be served, including key demographic data and targeted geographical area of the proposed school. Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL and special education populations). 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.

Students will be drawn from the greater Albuquerque area, including Bernalillo, Rio Rancho, and Albuquerque itself. No specific type of student will be targeted; the goal will be to provide a college preparatory program free of cost for any student to enroll and prepare for college.  
 The greater Albuquerque area has a diverse demographic of high school students, including: 53% Hispanic, 5% Native American, 37% on free/reduced lunch programs, 13% requiring some special education assistance, and 9% classified as English-Language Learners (ELL).  
 The Albuquerque area high schools currently demonstrate a 65% graduation rate, with proficiency rates for Hispanics reported at 38% in math and 45% in reading (based on AYP standards).

9. Evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature: Detail any objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program.

Based on the analysis of high school curricula within the Albuquerque Public Schools district, it is clear that no public high school offers a free, college preparatory program with extensive areas of study in comparison to local private schools (Albuquerque Academy, Sandia Preparatory, Bosque School, etc.); the Electus Academy will be that school, open to the public and providing for an extensive, rigorous college and career readiness education. Based on University of New Mexico statistics, entering freshmen, the largest proportion of which graduate from Albuquerque-area high schools, show significant difficulty in the academic preparation required for success at the college level. Statistics show significant levels of freshmen drop-out, academic depression (loss of NM Lottery Scholarship due to academic performance), and academic uncertainty for incoming freshmen as a result of lack of preparation in high school.

10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)

Smaller class duration (4.5 week classes) to accommodate more effective short cycle assessment, choice in each seminar (4.5 week classes are referred to as seminars) from a set of 3-4 options to focus on student interest/aptitude, exit exams at the conclusion of each seminar to provide greater insight into student learning levels, college and career readiness seminars in a variety of career pathways (academic majors) for students to specialize their education and to prepare them for courses they will experience in college.

11. 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.

Electus Academy students will have a choice in every course they take, which will immediately provide them with advantages in learning, as they will learn *how* they want. Through a diverse set of themes through which each course will be offered, students will have the ability to choose the theme in which they are most interested. This makes education customizable to a level not seen in the Albuquerque area in educational institutions both public and private. Because not all students learn in the same manner, this form of differentiated instruction will allow for significantly higher levels of student success. Class lengths will be trimmed to 4.5 weeks from the common 18-week/36-week semester format. Classes will be divided up into different topics or units, and each will become its own class. At the conclusion of each 4.5 week class (called seminars) students will take exit exams to gain credit for that given academic unit. This format of assessment will, for the first time, make students accountable for learning in every individual academic area, and will thus result in better education, including adjustments in instruction, remediation, tutoring, etc. Students at Electus will further choose from a variety of majors (comparable to those seen at the college level) and will spend a portion of their time in both 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in a career track that will not only expose them to the demands of a given college major/career, but will provide them with a jumpstart in preparation for courses they will see in college. No school in the Albuquerque area, public or private, offers such specialized pathways of instruction to prepare students for success in college.

Signature of founder(s)

Date: 01/07/2012

Justin Baiardo  
[PRINT NAME]