

ELECTUS ACADEMY

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**Santa Fe Charter
Schools Division**

PART B: CHARTER APPLICATION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

Students who enroll 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, with traditional courses divided into their constituent units and each unit becoming its own class. At the conclusion of each 4.5 week course students will take an exit exam 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 11th and 12th 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.

The Electus Academy student population 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).

In the area of high school completion, 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). Clearly there is a need for better college preparation programs to assist these subgroups.

Statistics published from the University of New Mexico find that 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. Such statistics show significant levels of freshmen drop-out, academic depression (loss of NM Lottery Scholarship due to academic performance), and academic uncertainty as a result of lack of adequate preparation in high school.

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, and will thus become a vital addition within the Albuquerque community.