

Explore Academy Input from Public Comment Site

Email	Name	School	Comments
kocartel@yahoo.com	Andrew Garrison	Albuquerque - Explore Academy 8/22/13	<p>Dear Public Education Commission, I write this letter in support of the Explore Academy application and the unique curriculum the founder promotes. This applicant presents a very unique educational design that warrants opportunity: - The school plans to operate with shorter classes, called seminars (22 school days in length), leading to greater accountability. Assessment of students is more precise and specific given the shorter units of study. - At the conclusion of each course, students will take an exit exam over the content covered within the seminar to determine whether they receive credit. - Each seminar will be offered in three versions, allowing for student choice for every class in which they enroll. - The school will offer 20 seminars for core-class credits. Students have three learning options for each seminar and thus there exists myriad ways each student can earn those credits. - Beginning in their sophomore year, each student will explore one of over twenty degree programs designed to provide students with exposure into the content and rigor of the areas of study to prepare them for what they will see in college. The application claims that no two students will share the same educational experience and will receive preparation for college through the school's degree programs. Over the last two approval cycles, this ambitious seminar structure has created questions regarding the issue of capacity—the ability to follow through on rich educational promises. I have not scrutinized this year's rendition and but hope issues of capacity have been resolved. I look forward to seeing this unique school structure come to fruition. I wish you all the best in this very thorough approval process. I enjoyed being a part of it for six years. Sincerely, Andrew Garrison M. Andrew Garrison Former Member, Public Education Commission</p>
erivera22@gmail.com	Edward Rivera	Albuquerque - Explore Academy 8/21/13	<p>Members of the Commission, I submit my support on behalf of Explore Academy. As a teacher, citizen, and parent of a student of appropriate age, I feel that this school would meet the needs of so many students in the Albuquerque area. Its greatest strength is in that it can meet the needs of the individual student, a promise that most schools make but no school has the ability to keep. Explore Academy is built around that notion, not just as a talking point, but as an element that is core to its philosophy. As a parent of a student who would potentially attend the school next fall, I am excited to finally see this school get a chance to positively influence the educational landscape of the Albuquerque area. Its philosophy is so innovative, and yet simplistic, that I am confident it will serve as an example from which other schools will model themselves in the future. Thank you for your attention- E. Rivera</p>