



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
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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: By mail or personal delivery:

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

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:	Gadsden Academy (a part of Healthy Futures, Inc.)		
Primary Contact Person	Lorna Samraj		
Mailing Address:	P. O. Box 80001		
City: Albuquerque	State: New Mexico	Zip: 87198	
Phone: (505) 463-6115	Email: <a href="mailto:gadsdenacademy@gmail.com">gadsdenacademy@gmail.com</a>		

**RECEIVED**

JAN 5 2012

**Santa Fe Charter  
 Schools Division**

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
Ms. Brenda Avila	Administrative Systems Development, Bi-Lingual Curriculum Development, Media and Communication Design Strategies	Digital Media Consultant	Served as Assistant Director, Lead Spanish and Heritage and Social Studies Teacher for Escuela Luz del Mundo; former ESL instructor in Georgal, Mexico City; BA in Media Studies, UNM, Graduate study in Media Arts, UC Santa Cruz.
Dr. Glenn C Kharkongor	Focus on Administrative Systems, School Budgetary and Financial Controls, Auditing and Safety	Vice Chancellor, Martin Luther Christian University	Dr. Kharkongor has broad experience as an educational administrator, having served as Director of Educational Programs at Manipal University. He has published numerous articles on educational and health policy and administration.
Ms. Nancy Alejandrina Duhigg	Healthcare Curriculum Development and Design, Marketing Strategies and Parent Communications for Spanish speaking audiences	Lead Tutor, Andele Tutors, Inc.	Ms. Duhigg has been responsible for parent communications and marketing strategy with Hispanic families. Demonstrated expertise in web design and interactive communications. Graduate of UASLP (Mexico) in Mechanical Engineering.
Dr. Andrew Nevins	Development, monitoring and ongoing adaptation and improvement of Gadsden Academy's Computer Lab, Mathematics, Physics, and Science Curriculum	Reader (tenured Associate Professor) University College, London. Prior employment: Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Science, Harvard University.	BS and MS in Computer Science, MIT; PhD Linguistics, MIT. Dr. Nevins has taught college level courses in Brazil, England, Italy and Spain and at Harvard University. Dr. Nevins is a Fulbright Scholar and a recognized expert in the field of distance learning and the use of web based communication in classroom teaching. He is fluent in Spanish. Portuguese and Italian.
Ms. Lorna Samraj	Gadsden Academy founding team chair; responsible for overall design, curriculum development, marketing, staff recruiting, and selection parent and	President, Andele Tutors, Inc.	Ms. Samraj is Founder and President of Andele Tutors, Inc. a 501 (c)(3) approved educational service provider in New Mexico. She oversees an administrative and

	student communication.		educational staff of more than 25 persons; her capacity is responsible for assuring curriculum is consistent with NM state educational standards, and assuring high quality and demonstrable results. Previously, Ms. Samraj was Director of Admissions for Canadian University College. She has taught high school and college level English. Ms. Samraj has a BA and MA in English.
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3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):

Gadsden Academy will be the first charter school in New Mexico to emphasize a health science curriculum aligned with the state standards and benchmarks. The proposed school will offer a rigorous college prep program for grades 7-12 with required internships with local healthcare providers in order to augment the curriculum with hands-on experience.

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: X .

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

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.

N/A

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

Our vision is to assure that all students who enroll in Gadsden Academy graduate, and are prepared for challenging healthcare careers and college entrance. Our motto, "Enroll the student, engage the family", complements this vision. The mission of Gadsden Academy is to meet or exceed New Mexico educational standards by employing a technology-rich health science curriculum, a school culture of academic excellence, and individual educational plans to include specific career pathways, AP courses, electives, and internships that lead to health science careers.

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.

The target population (Grades 7-12) in the Gadsden Independent School District is best described by the following educational, poverty rate, and demographic benchmarks: of the 14,900 students enrolled in GISD schools, 97% come from Spanish speaking households, and more than 6,000, or 45.6% are classified as living in households below the poverty rate, as compared to the statewide school poverty rate of 23.3%. The most recent census data for Anthony, New Mexico (one of the two largest towns in the school district), shows median household income to be \$25,000, in comparison to the New Mexico statewide average of over \$43,000. The data for Sunland Park, NM is similar. With respect to educational attainment, based on AYP scores, none of the district's middle schools, and only one of the district's high schools (the exception is Chaparral High School which is in Corrective Action) have met AYP in reading; indeed, not one of the middle schools, nor any of the three high schools, have reached their AYP goals in math; all other GISD middle and high schools have been classified with an R-2 designation.

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.

Demand for workers in healthcare professions, including college bound high school graduates skilled in math and science continue to outpace employment opportunities for other workers. According to the MacArthur Foundation, in the United States medical advances and an aging population have significantly increased the need for healthcare workers; WHO reports the number of nurses migrating to the United States jumped to more than 20,000 last year from about 6,000 in 1983. The US Department of Labor forecasts the demand for pharmacy technicians is expected to increase by 25% through 2018. The New Mexico Department of Labor expected "that from 2006- 2016, health care & social assistance sector is the second fastest growing sector within the economy. In 2006, healthcare employment was 101,610 and is projected to increase to 127,020 by 2016, adding over 25,400 jobs. This represents a 25.0 percent growth rate compared to a national growth rate of about 24 percent. The ambulatory health care services subsector is forecasted to grow from 39,620 jobs in 2006 to 50,790 by 2016, adding 11,170 jobs for a growth rate of 28.2 percent. The social assistance employment is projected to increase by 41.7 percent, increasing from 18,170 jobs." Clearly the healthcare sector will continue to offer well paid high demand careers for qualified workers. The Gadsden Academy curriculum and core values will be shaped to prepare students for these challenging and rewarding jobs.

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.)

The first innovative feature of the proposed Gadsden Academy charter school will be the focus of the academic program on preparing students for health science careers. The second innovative feature is the strategy to partner with local healthcare providers, hospitals and public healthcare clinics in Dona Ana County, to provide students with internships in health science. The third unique feature will be collaborations with community colleges and universities, in order to allow students to take dual enrollment courses in science, math and related healthcare courses, not readily available in the Gadsden Independent School District.

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.

Gadsden Academy will be more effective at raising student achievement by offering a longer school day and year, exceeding the state's minimum graduation requirements; providing ongoing outreach to families and the general community; and using a research-based curriculum that combines academic rigor with required internships with practicing healthcare professionals. The Gadsden Academy will embrace a higher set of academic expectations, supported by engaged families as our partners in student success, blending 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, with traditional classroom instruction, and providing opportunities for real world internships, students enrolled in Gadsden Academy will exceed the academic performance of their public school cohorts on required NMPED examinations and, quarterly formative assessments.

Gadsden Academy plans to recruit 100 students for grades 7 and 8 for the first school year; thereafter we shall recruit 50-75 students per year, as we add another grade each year, until the Gadsden Academy achieves a maximum enrollment of 400 students for grades 7-12, inclusive.

As indicated earlier, none of the middle or high schools in the district has met NMPED benchmarks. How then are these students to prepare for challenging careers and college entrance? The vision and mission of Gadsden Academy with a unified approach to building viable career pathways will clearly offer a quality educational alternative for students and families to embrace.

Signature of founders

  
LORNA SAMRAJ

Date: 1/4/2012

  
NANCY DUHIGG

Date: Jan. 4, 2012

# HEALTHY FUTURES, INC.

P.O. Box 80001, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87198  
gadsdenacademy@gmail.com

January 4, 2012

Mr. Efren Yturralde, Superintendent- GISD  
4950 McNutt Road  
Sunland Park, NM 88063

via certified mail

Dear Superintendent Yturralde,

In accordance with the Notice of Intent to submit a Charter School Application ("NOI") and NMSA 22-8B-6(B), filed both with the Public Education Commission, and the district in which the proposed Gadsden Academy intends to be located, in this instance, the Gadsden Independent School District, please find the enclosed NOI dated January 4, 2012, and sent to you by certified mail.

The Healthy Futures, Inc. team looks forward to working with you, your staff, teachers, parents and the GISD community, to help complement the fine work you are accomplishing in the district.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone, or email (gadsdenacademy@gmail.com) if you wish any further information.

Very truly,



Lorna Samraj  
President

Enclosure: NOI

✓ c to K Callahan