



**2010 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION RECOMMENDATION & EVALUATION**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b> New Mexico International School  | <b>Projected Grades:</b> K-5          |
| <b>Projected Enrollment:</b> 240  | <b>Proposed location:</b> Albuquerque |
| <b>Founders:</b> Carlos R. Pagán and Nicole Montague  |                                       |
| <b>Recommendation:</b> I recommend that the Public Education Commission <b>Approve</b> the application with conditions. |                                       |

The New Mexico International School presents a compelling mission and educational plan for the school. The emphasis on an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program is strengthened with the acquisition of both Spanish and Arabic for English-speaking students is well articulated and grounded in educational research. The New Mexico International School promises to be one of the most innovative and well managed charter schools for the students and parents of New Mexico.

The reasons for recommending **approval** of this application are based on the evaluation of each of the sections of the application:

The New Mexico International School has developed a clear mission that provides a focal point to guide the development and operation of a successful International Baccalaureate (IB) school with a language-rich instructional focus.

The educational plan that is presented is well-thought out and provides an in-depth look at the underlying structures, supporting materials and programs, student assessments, and anticipated outcomes that an International Baccalaureate (IB) School has come to represent. The language immersion program is well-supported and the curriculum development plan demonstrates both a process for aligning content to the standards and benchmarks and a timeline for developing the thematic content that will be guided by the IB Primary Years Program. Meeting the individual student needs of special populations is clearly addressed and the student performance expectations and assessment plan contains a clear accountability structure.

The financial plan presents a clear picture of the proposed charter school’s financial viability. The budget is balanced and reflects an overall alignment between the 5-Year plan and the mission and educational plan proposed. Professional development to complete the curriculum development plan is supported and the resources necessary to provide the course offerings proposed and to support the management plan are defined.

The Governance and Management Plan provides a clear understanding of how the school will be governed and managed. The organizational chart, along with the narrative descriptions provided in the application, demonstrate a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties connected with the operation and management of the school.

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Dr. Don Duran, Assistant Secretary of Education  
**CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

**Date: September 2, 2010**

## **RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

I am recommending the charter be approved subject to the following conditions:

### **FINANCIAL PLAN**

The governing body of the charter school must submit an application to the commission and obtain approval from the commission that the governing body be designated as a board of finance. The charter school shall agree that all accounting records shall be audited annually by a public accounting firm engaged by the Public Education Department.

### **FACILITIES**

The charter school cannot occupy a facility with students until the Charter Schools Division receives a determination from the Public School Capital Outlay Council that the facilities of the charter school meet the educational occupancy standards pursuant to the requirements of Section 22-8B-4.2.A NMSA 1978.

### **LEGAL LIABILITY**

The charter school shall agree that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the charter school shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Public Education Department and the Public Education Commission, their members, officers, employees, agents, affiliates and representatives from and against any and all liabilities.

### **INSURANCE**

The charter school shall participate in and obtain insurance from the Public School Insurance Authority and comply with all applicable rules of that authority.

### **PLANNING-YEAR CHECKLIST**

Prior to the end of the planning year, and before the commission shall issue the authorization to commence full operation, the charter school must substantially comply with the requirements of the planning-year checklist developed by the Charter Schools Division.

### **MONITORING**

The governing body of the charter school shall agree that in order to permit the Public Education Department to fulfill its oversight function under the Charter School Act and ensure that the school is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and the terms and conditions of its charter, the staff of the Public Education Department, Charter Schools Division, has the right to request any data and records from the school and the school shall comply with any such request within fifteen days. The charter school shall provide documents upon reasonable written notice and consistent with its obligations, authority and rights under applicable laws and regulations governing student and employee confidentiality, and privileges applicable to charter schools and their governing bodies.

After the completion of each academic year of its charter, the charter school shall submit an annual report to the Charter Schools Division. The annual report shall be submitted by the deadline determined by the Division and shall provide data in the format specified by the Charter Schools Division.

The charter school shall comply with all the requirements of the monitoring process developed by the Charter Schools Division.

#### CONTRACT

The Charter shall be effective upon the signing of a Charter Contract between the Public Education Commission and the charter school.

**CHARTER SCHOOL MISSION AND STATEMENT OF NEED EVALUATION**

| <b>Inadequate</b>        | <b>Approaches</b>        | <b>Meets</b>             | <b>Exceeds</b>                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The New Mexico International School has developed a clear Mission Statement that provides a focal point to guide the development and operation of a successful charter school. Organizational goals that include designation as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school and target student academic and language proficiency are provided to ensure accountability. A well-developed statement of need cites sufficient research to support the International Baccalaureate and language-rich curricula for the proposed school.

**EDUCATIONAL PLAN EVALUATION**

| <b>Inadequate</b>        | <b>Approaches</b>        | <b>Meets</b>                        | <b>Exceeds</b>           |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The foundation of the New Mexico International School Educational Plan will be the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program aligned with the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards. Acquisition of languages (Spanish and Arabic for English-speaking students) will be accomplished through a one-way immersion approach. Sample curriculum and alignment documents are provided that will be fully developed by the end of the first year. Meeting the individual student needs of special populations is clearly addressed. The assessment plan is outlined and a student performance accountability structure is provided.

The application is well-thought out and provides an in-depth look at the underlying structures, supporting materials and programs, student assessments, and anticipated outcomes. Overall, the Educational Plan description is clear and comprehensive.

**FINANCIAL PLAN EVALUATION**

| <b>Inadequate</b>        | <b>Approaches</b>        | <b>Meets</b>                        | <b>Exceeds</b>           |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The financial plan and budget demonstrate the applicant’s working knowledge of the requirements to manage school finances and the budgeting process. The budget is balanced and reflects an overall alignment between the 5-Year plan and the narrative. The budget aligns with and supports implementation of the mission and educational plan. Overall, this section presents a clear picture of the proposed charter school’s financial viability.

## GOVERNANCE / MANAGEMENT PLAN EVALUATION

| Inadequate               | Approaches               | Meets                               | Exceeds                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Governance and Management Plan provides a clear understanding of how the school will be governed and managed. Roles and responsibilities of governance and management are outlined, and the organizational chart illustrates the relationship and accountability structure of individuals and groups.

Overall, the Governance and Management Plan provides a structure that is capable of ensuring accountability for student academic performance and expenditure of public funds.

## REQUIREMENTS EVALUATION

| Inadequate               | Approaches               | Meets                               | Exceeds                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The application addressed all of the required components in this section, thereby addressing the legal liability and responsibilities of the governing body.