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OPTION FOR PARENTS CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2013

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) the Notice of Intent to Submit a 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 must be submitted by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on **Tuesday, January 8, 2013**. Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the January 8, 2013 deadline may result in the application being rejected. When you send the NOI to the superintendent of the school district in which your charter is to be located, you are strongly encouraged to send it by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact the local district regarding electronic filing.

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

- Electronically to: Linda.Olivas@state.nm.us
- By mail or personal delivery:
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
Attn: Ms. Linda Olivas, Administrative Assistant
Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is intended to provide the Public Education Commission with the primary point of contact among the charter developers, and preliminary information about the charter proposal, such as the school's mission statement, the school's focus, target student population to be served, enrollment projections, key innovations, etc. (not to exceed 5 pages).

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1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

Explore Academy

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
9-12	500

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Justin Baiardo				
Mailing Address	2720 Avenida Corazon				
City	Rio Rancho	State	NM	Zip	87124
Phone	(505) 306 5283				
Email	exploreacademycharter@gmail.com				

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 on Team	Qualifications: Education, Employment, Experience
Justin Baiardo	Founder	National Board Certified teacher, curriculum writer

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

College preparation

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? Yes: No:

If YES, describe the entity and the role it will have in the school's operational plan.

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

N/A

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

Explore Academy will bring a revolutionary educational system to the Albuquerque area, one which focuses on increased student accountability and college readiness through the philosophy of academic choice. The innovation of

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Explore 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 Explore Academy students will possess the freedom to choose how they will receive their education as they complete the standards required by the State of New Mexico.

8. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area of the proposed school from which you expect to draw a significant number of your students.

Albuquerque, Rio Rancho

- Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL, and special education populations).

There is no specific target demographic. The goal of Explore Academy is to provide a college preparatory program free of cost for any student from any background.

- 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 in the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho communities are found primarily in one of the two main central school districts: Albuquerque Public Schools and Rio Rancho Public Schools. In addition, students may come from other public charter schools, private schools, or home-schooled environments. Students will be attracted to Explore Academy based on its diversity of course offerings, flexible nature in student learning, and advanced programs of study, none of which has comparison in either the Albuquerque or Rio Rancho community.

9. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school of the nature that will be proposed in the application (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program).

Based on the analysis of high school curricula within both the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho school districts, there is no school that offers a college preparatory program as advanced and diversified, nor as individualized as what Explore Academy will offer.

Given the significant number of applicants turned away from the area's local private schools (over one thousand students rejected per year), all of which are based in college readiness, it is clear that there is a demand for an institution more focused in preparing students for transition to and success at the college level. Given that Explore Academy will be a public school, it can meet the demands of this demographic as well as any other public school student in the Albuquerque area who is interested in an advanced, no-cost college preparatory program.

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 direct result of lack of preparation in high school. Based on these statistics, there is a need for more advanced college preparatory programs in the area.

10. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement in order to help it realize its vision / mission (e.g., non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).

Greater student accountability based on shorter class duration (4.5 week classes) and more effective common short cycle assessments.

A significant diversity in course offerings, allowing students greater flexibility in course selection. This diversity allows students a set of three options for each course to focus on student interest/aptitude.

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Distinct college and career readiness pathways (academic majors) for students to specialize their studies as they prepare for college.

11. Describe 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.

Explore Academy students will have a choice in every course they take, which will immediately provide them with advantages in learning as they will learn in the manner of their own choosing. Through a diverse set of course offerings, students will have the ability to construct their own individualized academic pathway based on their own strengths and interests. Explore Academy's program makes education customizable to a level never before seen in any academic educational institution, public or 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 semester format. At the conclusion of each course, students be required to pass an exit exam to earn credit for the standards covered within that course. This more specific format of assessment will make students accountable for learning in every individual academic area, and will provide greater insight into student learning and allow for more effective adjustments to instruction including remediation, tutoring, etc.

Students at Explore Academy will further choose from a variety of majors (comparable to those seen at the college level) and will spend a significant 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.

Please Note: Should your charter be awarded, the founding governing body could undergo a background check to determine if it qualifies to be a board of public finance in the state of New Mexico.

Signature of founder(s)

Date: _____

[PRINT NAME]