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OPTION FOR PARENTS CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2014

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 **Monday, January 14, 2014**. Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the January 14, 2014 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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Options for Parents, Charter Schools Division
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1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

Academic Opportunities Academy

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
6 th - 8 th	400

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Mark Casavantes				
Mailing Address	817 East Missouri Avenue, Suite B				
City	El Paso	State	TX	Zip	79902
Phone	(915) 471-7104				
Email	AOA1USA@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
Mark Casavantes	Superintendent, Application Writing	M.Ed., Administrator, Math Teacher, Architectural and Civil Engineering Designer
Wes Clarkson	Associate Superintendent, Application Writing	M.Ed., Administrator, Teacher
Ben Tice	Associate Superintendent, Application Writing	M.Ed., Charter School Superintendent, Administrator,
Raul Cruz	IT, STEEAM Curriculum	Adjunct Professor of Mathematics and Engineering
Ellen Liberatori	Application Writing, Research, Grant Writing, Consultant	Adjunct Professor at NYU, Writer, Researcher, Grant Writer, Consultant

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

AOA's proposed model of education represents a two-way dual-language, self-paced, individualized, multi-grade, STEEAM (Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, Engineering/Architecture, Fine Arts, and Mathematics) educational program that will offer all students choices that fit their desires, strengths, learning styles, interests, and educational needs.

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.

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N/A

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.

Not a replication

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

Academic Opportunities Academy (AOA) integrates the values of integrity, teamwork, innovation, and continuous improvement in all its endeavors by providing dedicated service to ensure the success of each student in a safe and bully-free environment. Additionally, AOA vision is to create a democratized education that is accessible to the most underserved families who are in low-economic situations, recent immigrants, as well as disadvantaged children who are physically challenged, displaced, children in foster care and/or in homeless situations.

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.

Luna County, New Mexico

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

As of the census[8] of 2000, there were 14,116 people, 5,267 households, and 3,628 families residing in the city. The population density was 1,512.0 people per square mile (583.5/km²). There were 6,192 housing units at an average density of 663.2 per square mile (256.0/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 69.66% White, 1.37% Native American, 1.23% African American, 0.48% Asian, 0.01% Pacific Islander, 24.19% from other races, and 3.07% from two or more races. 64.58% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. There were 5,267 households out of which 34.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 49.0% were married couples living together, 15.5% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.1% were non-families. 27.8% of all households were made up of individuals and 15.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.63 and the average family size was 3.23.

In the city the population was: 30.9% under the age of 18, 8.2% from 18 to 24, 23.1% from 25 to 44, 19.3% from 45 to 64, and 18.6% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females there were 89.7 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 85.9 males. The median income for a household in the city was \$20,081, and the median income for a family was \$23,030. Males had a median income of \$25,379 versus \$16,462 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$10,943. About 28.5% of families and 32.9% of the population were below the poverty line, including 47.4% of those under age 18 and 16.6% of those age 65 or over. (Wikipedia.com)

- 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.

Deming Public Schools currently have 3 campuses with a school report card of F, 2 campuses with a school grade of D, 3 campuses with a school report card of C, and 1 campus with a school report card of B, and no campus with a grade of A. We also believe we will enroll students that currently attend private schools in Luna County, New Mexico.

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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).

No Deming Public School has earned an A or B rating and most schools are not able to meet AYP. We have collected letters of support from community members interested in attending our charter school.

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.).

Uniqueness comes from AOA's innovative pedagogy and curriculum that blends small classroom size, individual attention, dual language and most of all a STEEAM curriculum –all of which have been proven in other communities and provide the evidence-based assumptions that reduce the risk.

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.

Currently Deming Public Schools uses the industrial age assembly line model of education where teachers teach students in a classroom regardless of the student's needs.

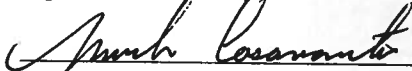
AOA will use Curriculum Mapping and Database software to continuously assess the academic needs of each individual student in a real time environment.

The cornerstones for effective and successful educational curricula emphasize giving student's individual attention, and small group learning, in an open non-threatening bully-free setting. AOA's model will have enhanced testing, a rich and stimulating STEEAM curriculum that allows for student development through personal interest and selection. AOA will provide these basic elements along with a model that pays close attention to areas that secure success.

1) Customized Educational Programming; 2) Student Testing and Analysis; 3) Evaluation and Management for Continuous Improvement; 4) Empowered and Informed Parents and Guardians; 5) Empowered and Informed Students, Teachers, and Administrators

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: 1/7/2014

Mark Casavantes
[PRINT NAME]