



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

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 **Wednesday, January 8, 2014**. Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the January 8, 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).

**New Mexico Public Education Department
Options for Parents, Charter Schools Division
NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2014**

1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

| |
|-------------------|
| Freedom Institute |
|-------------------|

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

| Grade Levels to be Offered | Projected Total Enrollment |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3-5 | 150 |

- Primary Point of Contact

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------|----|-----|-------|
| Name | Erik Johns | | | | |
| Mailing Address | 152 Lisbon Ave. | | | | |
| City | Rio Rancho | State | NM | Zip | 87124 |
| Phone | 505-328-6594 | | | | |
| Email | kutseena4@yahoo.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 |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Jeremy Presser | Admin/Teacher | Level 3 with emphasis in Special Education and Behavior Management |
| Erik Johns | Admin/Teacher | Level 2 with emphasis in Special Education and Behavior Management and Administration |
| Sara Valenzuela | Teacher | Level 2 with emphasis in TESOL and Science |
| Ingrid Fason | Teacher | Level 2 in General Education and Thinking Maps Trainer |
| Monica Holt | Teacher | Level 2 Dual Certification and Reading Recovery |

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

| |
|------|
| STEM |
|------|

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.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

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.

| |
|---|
| <p>The Freedom Institute would replicate the ASK Academy here in Rio Rancho with an emphasis on meeting the needs of elementary level children. We will be replicating the ASK Academy model since currently there is not Elementary School in Rio Rancho City area that educates students by providing them an entrance into a STEM environment. Preparation of primary age students in the area of STEM is critical in New Mexico's highly-diverse technology industries.</p> |
|---|

**New Mexico Public Education Department
Options for Parents, Charter Schools Division
NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2014**

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

The Freedom Institute will inspire all students to reach personal and academic goals in STEM, as well as make meaningful contributions to the Science and Technology industries in our State and Globally. The Freedom Institute will do this by: preparing and equipping critical thinkers, create lifelong learners, and enhance social and collaborative skills.

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.

Sandoval and Bernalillo County

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

The ethnicity of RRPS student population is as follows: Hispanic:37.1%, Caucasian:53.5%, African-American:2.5%, Native American:2.6%, Asian:1.7%, Other Races:2.6. The current ELL student population of RRPS is 5.3%, and the current Special Education population of RRPS is 11.6% . On the current A-F School Grading System implmented by the PED 2 of 10 RRPS elementary schools were given a "B", 7 of 10 a "C", and 1 of 10 a "D". This is a very broad reflection of current academic performance of our target grade levels according to the new grading system.

- 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 are primarily being educated through the Rio Rancho Public School system. Families will choose the Freedom Institute to avoid overcrowding and limited resources, lack of exposure to the STEM model in Elementary School; and to provide project-based learning to their 21st century children.

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).

Locally, the Ask Academy is in high demand, however; only services students in grades 7-12. Additionally, we are conducting an ongoing community survey. Results from this survey will be shared upon completion.

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.).

We would propose a non-traditional four day instructional week. This would allow for additional collaboration time among staff, parent-teacher conferences, professional development, and small group individualized instruction opportunities for our students.

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.

Students at the Freedom Institute will have a more focused curriculum that provides access to resources, smaller class sizes, and collaborative learning. Students and staff will work to establish partnerships with colleges, universities, and surrounding technology based businesses.

**New Mexico Public Education Department
Options for Parents, Charter Schools Division
NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2014**

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]