



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 **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).

**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

The GREAT Jr. Academy

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
6-8	120

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Jasper Matthews				
Mailing Address	8201 Golf Course Rd NW Suite 216				
City	Albuquerque	State	NM	Zip	87120
Phone	505-980-8545				
Email	jmatthews@thegreatacademy.org				

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
Jasper Matthews	Operations	Master's degree in Special Education, Ph.D Candate, 18 years of experience, Level 3 Teaching Lic, Admin Lic., 11 years of admin exp. Executive Dir/Founder of The GREAT Academy, and Current Letter Grade "B"
Keisha Matthews	Academics	-Master's in Curriculin and Instructional Leadership, 12 years educational experience, Level 3 Teaching Lic, 5 years admin experience, Dir. of Academics/Co-Founder of The GREAT Academy, and Current Letter Grade "B"

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

The GREAT Jr. Academy has a hybrid curriculum using both virtual and face-to-face instructional methods. It has a transition/STEM/college prep focus. The Edgenuity middle school virtual curriculum is aligned to the common core standards. The courses were designed with tools, assignments, multimedia resources and embedded scaffolds that enable students to build essential academic and study skills that are needed for both high school and college and career success. The curriculum uses interactive tools across all content areas, provides real-world connections through projects & activities, and differentiates instruction for all students, including those with special needs and second language learners. Face-to-face courses include: leadership/character education, communication, service learning. The students will participate in advisory classes that will teach study skills, note taking skills and best practices in working with a virtual curriculum. Students will also take STEM focused Smart Lab courses that allow them to explore a variety of industries/careers through fun, hands-on projects and activities.

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.

N/A

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

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)

The GREAT Academy Charter School's mission is to ensure that students gain real-world experience through active transition.

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.

The GREAT Jr. Academy plans to draw students from the Albuquerque metro area.

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

It is suspected that the student population will not be unlike that of the surrounding district. While some students will have language needs, it is suspected that this population will be small. The special education population is suspected to be similar to that of the surrounding district.

- 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.

Prospective GREAT Jr. Academy students are currently attending both APS and charter elementary schools across the Albuquerque area. Charter middle school options in the Albuquerque area are few. Many parents are looking for the small learning environment and attention to individualized academic need that they have become accustomed to in elementary schools and small charter schools. Parents are also looking for school environments that include components that will help their children become more well-rounded and successful individuals. Parents and students are drawn to the virtual curriculum that allows students to have a one-on-one learning experience that allows students to be in control of their learning with the support of certified instructors to provide monitoring and support towards their success. The GREAT Jr. Academy would provide a much needed, quality, middle school option. The GREAT Jr. Academy's program includes a strong focus on strengthening the socio-emotional aspects of middle-schoolers lives using courses such as leadership, character education, and service learning. This paired with a strong academic focus gives the community a very unique educational option.

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).

APS currently has 27 middle schools with student populations ranging from 349 students (Garfield Middle School) to 1437 students (Truman Middle School). APS middle schools serve a total of 19,601 students with an average of 726 students at each school. To date, there are 5 charter middle schools; this illustrates that there is a need. The majority of these schools are at capacity for their middle school programs. We have gotten many inquiries about a middle school program from many of our current high school families.

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

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.).

The GREAT Jr. Academy students will have more hours of instruction, attending school from 9am-5pm. The school's 5 components are: Virtual Learning, Academic Improvement Plans for all students, Service learning, Leadership/Character education and seamless Transition into high school. Students will participate in STEM focused labs that will give them a foundation in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. In addition, a case management system will be used to progress monitor the students weekly so that targeted interventions and academic decisions can be made in a timely manner to increase student success. The data from progress monitoring will also be used to create Academic Improvement Plans. Each student will have an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) or an Academic Enrichment Plan (AEP) and intervention periods will be built into the daily schedule to support progress towards their AIP/AEP goals. The GREAT Jr. Academy will provide the STEM focused Smart Labs and for its Summer Leadership STEM Academy. The STEM focus will foster students that perform better in science and math. This exposure also increases the likelihood of students being more willing to be involved in careers in the areas of math and science and decrease the likelihood that they will need remedial math/science courses in high school and in college.

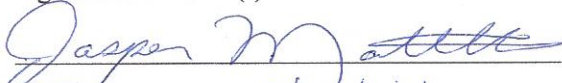
11. Describe how the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

The GREAT Jr. Academy will use a case management system to progress monitor the students. This weekly progress monitoring and a team approach that includes the parents will be used to create Academic Improvement Plans. Each student will have an Academic Improvement Plan or an Academic Enrichment Plan. These processes require frequent communication/collaboration with parents which creates a wrap-around effect to help students feel more supported and knowledgeable about their progress. The benchmark assessments used three times a year will give teachers specific information about academic needs of each student so that interventions can be more effectively targeted. Each student will receive targeted interventions that will help to ensure academic growth and content mastery. These methods foster student academic growth towards proficiency.

Edgenuity's curriculum has a well researched track record of academic success with middle school students. This online learning curriculum allows students to pause, rewind, and replay instruction as frequently as desired. This leads to a greater level of engagement and a deeper level of learning. In one case study, students taking Edgenuity courses in Earth Science World History and Geometry were 10%-26% more likely to pass their End of Course exams (EoCs) than those that did not. (edgenuity.com - Research Brief Bedford County Public Schools) In another case study, from the West Aurora School District in Aurora, IL, Edgenuity was used with middle school students who were not passing their reading or math courses. After the implementation, they saw 86% of their students complete their reading and math courses with passing grades. (edgenuity.com - Case Study - West Aurora School District) The instructional methods mixed with the multimedia that Edgenuity uses gives students more control of their own learning and the personalized instruction and rigorous curriculum increases student engagement. We believe that the academic programming The GREAT Jr. Academy plans to employ will foster the high level of student confidence and achievement that middle schoolers need to be successful in high school and beyond.

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)


Jasper Matthews
[PRINT NAME]

Date: 1/3/14