

Name of Proposed School: New Mexico Connections Academy

Team Members:

Rochelle Cherrin (Team Lead)

Lisa Grover

Rhonda Lovato

CAPACITY INTERVIEW TEAM ANALYSIS SCORE SUMMARY

<b>CAPACITY INTERVIEW SECTION</b>	<b>POINTS RECEIVED</b>	<b>APPLICANT SCHOOL'S POSSIBLE POINTS</b>
<b>12 STANDARD QUESTIONS</b>	23	24
<b>3 INDIVIDUALIZED QUESTIONS</b>	5	6
<b>OVERALL SCORE</b>	28	30

Educational Plan	1. Describe a typical day for a student in your school. Please be as concise and specific as possible; consider the teachers, the materials, the class, the parents, ancillary staff, etc.
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response is adequate and complete and provides a clear and comprehensive picture of what the various “typical” days may look in a virtual setting.
Educational Plan	2. What is your plan if the school’s actual enrollment population is different from the targeted population you originally intended to serve?
<b>2</b>	Comments: N/A – This response is adequate and complete. Historically, the school has served students from all over various states.
Governance	3. Please explain the delineated roles and responsibilities of, and the relationships between, the founders, the governing body, and the school’s administration during the transitional period between the planning year and the first year of operations. Describe how those relationships evolve over the full term of the charter.
<b>2</b>	Comments: This section is adequate and complete and demonstrates the capacity of the founders to transition into a permanent governing body. All relationships are understood and the board is eager to take on the opening tasks of the school.
Governance	4. How does the school’s governing body exercise its oversight and accountability? What does the governing body have oversight of?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response was adequate and complete and demonstrates the founding members’ knowledge of a governing body’s responsibilities in the areas of oversight and accountability.
Facility	5. Describe your plan for acquiring a facility and ensuring that the facility meets educational occupancy standards required by applicable New Mexico construction codes. Whose responsibility is it to carry out this major piece of opening a charter school?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response was thorough and well presented, and reflected an understanding of laws and regulations as well as the flexible facility needs of a virtual school.
Facility	6. If you cannot find a building that meets PSFA approval, what is your next steps plan?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The answer was complete and addressed all requirements defined in laws and regulations.

Finance	7. How are you going to open your school without federal start-up funds?
<b>1</b>	Comments: The response was incomplete. The applicants were not able to address how expenditures such as hiring staff, professional development, SIS and business management services, etc. would be addressed.
Finance	8. If something in your budget is not working as planned, for instance, you do not get the desired enrollment numbers for the first year, what will be your plan of action?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response is adequate and reflects a thorough and reasonable plan to address budget shortfalls due to enrollment.
Policies and Procedures	9. If your school requires a change to the original charter contract what is the process for your governing body to address that change?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response is adequate and complete and demonstrates the founding board's knowledge of the amendment process.
Policies and Procedures	10. What role do policies have in the operation of a school? What triggers the need for a policy?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response reflected a thorough understanding of and importance of assuring effective policies, especially as related to operating a virtual school.
Policies and Procedures	11. What do you anticipate your process will be for developing policies? How will you ensure that your policies and procedures are not only compliant, but current and effective?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The group is well aware of the process and importance of developing strong and compliant policies to assure a successful school. They will work with legal counsel as needed to assure a strong policy handbook.
Planning Year	12. What major challenges to you anticipate during the planning year as you work to open a new school? How do you envision organizing yourselves to carry out the tasks required to open a school?
<b>2</b>	Comments: A response with timeline was given in a previous prompt (#7). The response assures that the applicants are aware of challenges related to opening a school, and gave a reasonable timeline with identified tasks to be completed, and by whom, prior to opening the school.
Review Team's	13. Regarding Student Performance goals, please clarify for us the thought process of

Individualized Question	having all students either meet or exceed state-wide averages, when these will fluctuate on a yearly basis. What are your student performance goals?
<b>1</b>	Comments: The response helped to clarify some of the confusion in the written charter, but the applicant did not fully answer explain tying the annual fluctuation of statewide proficiency standards to their goal of having all students “meets or exceeds state average” averages.
Review Team’s Individualized Question	14. Further explain your understanding of the school level responsibilities for delivering special education services.
<b>2</b>	Comments: The response clarified and demonstrated a clear understanding of school responsibilities in regard to delivering special education services.
Review Team’s Individualized Question	15. What is the RFP process for securing the contract with Connections?
<b>2</b>	Comments: The group demonstrated a clear understanding of the procurement laws and the need to go to bid should the contract exceed allowable amounts. The group referenced the proposed scope of work found in the charter.