



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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HANNA SKANDERA
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SUSANA MARTINEZ
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**OPTION FOR PARENTS
 CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) this Notice of Intent to Submit 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 is due by close of business, January 10, 2012. Notice by mail will be timely if it is postmarked on or by January 6, 2012.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered one of the following methods:
 Electronically to: By mail or personal delivery:

KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
 c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
 Attn: Ms. Kelly Callahan, General Manager
 Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
 300 Don Gaspar, Room 301C
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is to provide information for the primary point of contact, enrollment projections and a concise proposal overview (not to exceed 5 pages).

You are strongly encouraged to send notice to the Superintendent of your local district by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact your local district regarding electronic filing.

I. General Information:

Name of Proposed School:	Santa Fe Classical Academy		
Primary Contact Person	Elizabeth Mayes		
Mailing Address:	1216 Vallecita Drive		
City: Santa Fe	State: NM	Zip: 87501	
Phone: 505-455-8220	Email: santafeclassicalacademy@gmail.com		

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2012

**Santa Fe Charter
 Schools Division**

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	Employment	Qualifications
Jim Ledyard	Board member	Principal of SF School of the Arts	Extensive experience with charter schools and school administration
Patrick Barry	Board member	Lawyer	Expertise in legal aspects of school founding
Elizabeth Mayes	Board member	Interpreter, Writer	Ph.D., former university professor; multilingual
Don Clark	Board member	US State Department	Multilingual; expertise in business and multiculturalism
Lauren Capitani	Board member	Self-employed	Expertise in management of children's institutions

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):
 College prep., Core Knowledge, Great Books

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation?

Yes: Describe the entity and role it will have in the school's operational plan. No: X.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: No: X.

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

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

Santa Fe Classical Academy will provide a rigorous, content-rich educational program to develop the academic potential of every student utilizing curricula not currently available in northern New Mexico for grades K-12. The Core Knowledge Sequence, to be used in grades K-8, has been proven through numerous studies and in a wide variety of locations to improve test scores in all included subject areas and lessen performance gaps between white and minority students, and affluent and disadvantaged students. Our high school will build upon the Core Knowledge Sequence through a rigorous Great Books-based college preparatory curriculum with clearly articulated and sequenced content and skills. All students will study our core curriculum, which will teach the essential building blocks of world history; the masterworks of literature; a globally proven math curriculum; all the major sciences including geology and geography; history of art and music; Latin and mastery of one to two modern foreign languages.

8. Student body to be served, including key demographic data and targeted geographical area of the proposed school. Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL, and special education populations). 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.

The Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) student population of 12,591 students is 77% Hispanic, 18% Anglo and 3% Native American, according to the *Santa Fe Public Schools Accountability Report 2009-2010*. Approximately half of all students are English language learners, and 63% qualify for free or reduced price lunches. While nationally 70% of students entering 9th grade will graduate on time with their peers, among Hispanics this figure is closer to

50%. Among SFPS schools struggling to improve such statistics, very few have made Adequate Yearly Progress. Many eyes focus on those students who fail to meet expected norms. To ensure that all students meet standards, teachers often level their curriculum so that the at-risk population can complete the work. Thus, students with academic aspirations, and those with high levels of academic success, are not always challenged. SFCA will provide a rigorous curriculum ideal for students willing to work to exceed existing standards – whether to gain entry to or succeed in college, or simply to receive a top-notch primary and secondary education. Santa Fe Classical Academy will serve students and their families who seek a curriculum of academic rigor in an intimate environment. Students and their families will be asked to commit the time and effort necessary to meet high learning expectations. Core Knowledge has been shown to lessen the performance gap between affluent white and minority students, a central issue in northern New Mexico. It also has raised test scores well above state averages in many schools with diverse populations, including schools characterized by large populations of Hispanic and disadvantaged ELL. Our goal is that all students, regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic standing, will be given the opportunity to learn from exciting proven curricula which are not available elsewhere in this region.

9. Evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature: Detail any objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program.

As previously stated, test scores in the district indicate that Santa Fe schools are in need of educational innovation. Core Knowledge is a curriculum which has been extensively studied, and has been proven to increase test scores for virtually all student populations and in extremely varied demographic settings. This curriculum is not currently offered in northern New Mexico. Thus, it can play an important role in the effort to improve levels of educational achievement in this district.

Also, there is a huge demand for charter alternatives in this district. Existing charter schools report enormous lottery lists each year, up to 800 lottery applicants each year in the case of the two middle/high school charters. This suggests area families are hungry for educational alternatives, and would support a new charter.

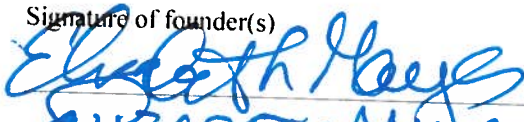
10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)

The school will utilize a traditional school year – approximately from Labor Day to Memorial Day – and a regular school day of seven hours. This school will be unique in offering a curriculum – Core Knowledge in K-8, extended through a modified Great Books program in 9-12 – which is unavailable elsewhere in central to northern New Mexico.

11. 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.

This school will utilize a curriculum proven to increase test scores in diverse populations and settings. A large body of data shows that students at Core Knowledge schools routinely exceed state test score averages by large margins. Our application provides detailed information on the proven ability of Core Knowledge to improve test scores.

Signature of founder(s)


ELIZABETH HAYES
[PRINT NAME]

Date:

1/9/12