

### **Abstract of Proposed Charter School:**

**Provide an abstract (summary) in narrative form that succinctly describes the proposed charter school. Include in the narrative, the school's proposed location, grade levels, enrollment, mission, and educational philosophy and approach. This abstract is to be limited to one page.**

The mission of the Senator Dennis Chavez Academy is to provide a 21st century individualized public charter school education to approximately 500 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade beginning in the fall of 2010 using innovative and engaging technology, curriculum, and instructional methods--preparing students to meet the challenges and demands of post secondary education and the work force as future entrepreneurs and leaders. In cooperation with the community and its businesses, the Academy also seeks to develop life and career skills in its students. The Academy will blend traditional learning in a "brick and mortar" Learning Center with distance learning to connect students, parents, and teachers in a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning community focused on results. The School will be governed by a board whose members will have track records which demonstrate successful performance in education, business, and commitment to the State of New Mexico and its communities.

As a public charter school, the Senator Dennis Chavez Academy will be open to any New Mexico student, although the Academy expects to primarily attract students within commuting distance of the school's Learning Center (in the greater Las Cruces area) including special student populations such as gifted and talented students, students attending schools designated as "needs improvement", those who are struggling academically, those having special needs, and those students in need of a quality educational option. Students will receive daily coursework from New Mexico licensed, highly qualified teachers—both in the Learning Center and when they are studying at a distance. Academy teachers will work in conjunction with mentors (parents/guardians or any caring adult that the parent/guardian selects) to ensure student success.

Academy students in grades K-8 will be enrolled in six courses including math, social studies/New Mexico history, physical education, Language Arts/English, science, art and world languages or music. The Academy's curriculum will provide students in grades K-12 multiple levels of World Languages in Spanish, French, Latin, German, and Chinese. The Academy will offer K-8 students sessions at the Academy's facility a minimum of one day per week. High school students in grades nine through twelve will be in enrolled in at least six courses—those required for graduation and electives. Math, English, Science, and History courses will be offered in multiple levels to meet the needs of diverse learners. The Academy will offer high school students sessions at the Academy's facility a minimum of two days per week. The hybrid distance learning program will combine lessons accessed on the Internet with hands-on materials kits. Students will be able to check out a computer and printer while enrolled in the school.

Assessment and accountability will be an integral part of the learning program including benchmark assessments at the beginning of the year; individual learning plans for each student; regular diagnostic performance assessments throughout the school year to measure growth; ongoing lesson, unit, and semester assessments to demonstrate mastery of the learning objectives in the curriculum; and New Mexico Statewide Assessment Program (NMSAP) tests to demonstrate that Academy students are meeting and exceeding the state learning standards.