



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
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HANNA SKANDERA  
 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
 GOVERNOR

**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](mailto: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.

**1. General Information:**

Name of Proposed School:	Taos International School		
Primary Contact Person	Ms. Nadine Vigil		
Mailing Address:	Post Office Box 384		
City: Arroyo Hondo	State: NM	Zip: 87513	
Phone: 575-770-1220	Email: <a href="mailto:vigilnadine@yahoo.com">vigilnadine@yahoo.com</a>		

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
Ms. Nadine Vigil, MA	Lead Founder	Retired Elementary School Administrator, UNM – Taos Adjunct Professor, Northern New Mexico College-Adjunct Professor	MA in Educational Leadership, NM Level Three –B K-12 Administrative License Instructional Assistant, bilingual teacher, and administrator for more than 35 years, Founder of Dual Language program (K-5 <sup>th</sup> ) in Taos Municipal Schools District, holds Bilingual & TESOL Endorsements
Dr. Carlos Pagán	Founder	UNM - College of Education Assistant Professor, New Mexico International School Head Administrator	Doctor of Education; founder of two dual language, international schools in the Albuquerque area; instructional assistant, bilingual teacher, and administrator for more than 25 years; NM K-12 Administrative license
Ms. Amie Chavez-Aguilar, MA	Founder	UNM-Taos Student Success Director	MA in Educational Leadership UNM-Taos Spanish Instructor, General Studies: College Prep, College Success, Interim Associate Director for Student Affairs, Coordinator of Curriculum and Scheduling, Educational Advisor
Mr. Larry Torres, MA	Founder	UNM-Taos Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Cultures	MA in French Teacher of Spanish, Russian, French, English, Latin, Southwest Studies, linguistics and Bilingual Education for the past 37 years. Internationally recognized as a speaker and presenter in the field of Global Education in Foreign Language teaching. A Of New Mexico Author of several books/Hispanic culture writer, National Walt Disney

			Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher of the Year, Recipient of Milken Family Foundation National Educator of the Year, Golden Apple Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, and many other local, regional, and state honors.
Mr. Kenleigh Winters	Founder	Property Management/ Renovations/Construction Consultant, etc.	Speculation Home Builder/Entrepreneur: Design, fund, sub-contract, build and sell homes; Specialized training and certificates include geothermal installation certification, geothermal maintenance and repair certification, and polyethylene fusion training.
Ms. Marsha Winters	Founder	Salon Coordinator, Retail and Bookkeeper Assistant Manager/Ski Technician	Electrical Engineering Degree Salon Coordinator/Receptionist, Bookkeeper, Office Manager
Ms. Regina Vigil, MA	Founder	Retired Teacher UNM-Professor	MA in Curriculum and Instruction, Secretary, Instructional Assistant, bilingual teacher for more than 40 years. Holds Reading, Bilingual, and TESOL Endorsements

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

Taos International School's educational design is based on four important components: 1. New Mexico Content Standards and International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme; 2) Language immersion ; 3) Integration of art, music, and physical education throughout the instructional day; and 4) a comprehensive after school enrichment program.

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: X No: .

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.

**Schools:** Corrales International School and New Mexico International School– **Data:** New Mexico Standards Based Assessment and NWEA’s Measures of Academic Progress

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

Taos International School (TIS) will provide K-8 students an educational program focused on inquiry-based teaching and learning, the acquisition of languages, and the development of social, emotional, and rigorous academic skills necessary to function in our local, national, and international community. Students at TIS will learn respect for themselves; their community; and the larger diverse world in which they live while developing a moral consciousness that will help them build integrity into their lives.

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.

Taos county is a rural area and its schools demographic data currently consists of 78% Hispanic, 13.7% Caucasian, 6.6% Native Americans, 0.6% African American and 1.0% Asian. Taos has an ELL population of 15.7%, and 0.2% special education students. 100% of all these students are designated economically disadvantaged. The target population of the proposed school will reflect the demographics of the community schools, none of which met AYP requirements. Out of the seven schools in the district, two are listed under schools in improvement, one under schools in corrective action, and four under schools in restructuring.

Currently, not all students requesting the dual language program that is offered in only one of the three public elementary schools have the opportunity to participate because of limited space. A continuation of this dual language program is no longer offered for sixth grade students resulting in limited choices to a monolingual monocultural schooling system. Therefore, this substantiates the need to provide these essential educational services to the predominately disadvantaged students in our community. TIS will provide greater focus on a multilingual curriculum enhancing student’s long-term achievement and performance through the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme. TIS will not only meet and exceed state content standards but will also provide skills necessary to compete in the global economy and workforce.

Enhanced learning and best practice strategies will be implemented to meet and exceed the content area standards. This will reduce the identified academic achievement gap as reflected in the 2009-2010 New Mexico Public Education Department School District Report Card. One of the schools required components will be that students be proficient in two languages by the end of fifth grade. By the beginning of fourth grade students will begin studying a third language: Mandarin Chinese.

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.

The evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature is that only one of the three elementary public schools offers a dual language program with limited space available. For this reason, there is a need for additional classrooms and enhanced learning opportunities. Secondly, an IB program is currently not being offered within any school in the community. Thirdly, the failure of these schools to meet AYP standards and the data reflecting a serious academic achievement gap among Hispanic and Native American students substantiates the need for this type of school. Informal discussions with parents and community members have taken place. These discussions have identified a need for a higher quality of education being afforded to their children. Many have expressed an interest in using an IB curriculum model that focuses in rigorous academic skills while embracing world cultures and languages.

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.)

Taos International School’s (TIS) curriculum materials and instructional strategies will focus on carrying out educational goals identified in our mission statement. Upon approval, TIS will immediately begin implementing components of *International Baccalaureate’s (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP)* and seek designation as a world school. The Primary Years Programme has been proven to be an effective way to help students acquire rigorous academic skills while embracing world cultures and languages.

The study of a second and third language will be a required component of the TIS educational program. Students at TIS will be expected to be proficient by the end of fifth grade in both English and Spanish and to begin studying a

third language, Mandarin Chinese, at the beginning of fourth grade. Spanish proficiency will be measured not only by the student's ability to speak the language, but also by the student's ability to engage with native-like fluency in writing and reading activities. TIS will use a *one-way immersion* approach to teach languages.

Taos International School will develop a school calendar that reflects *180 student instructional days*. The school year will begin after Labor Day and end 180 days later. The school day will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM with a 30 minute lunch period. An optional, but highly encouraged *After School/Extended Day* Program will begin immediately at 3:30 PM and end at approximately 4:30 PM everyday except Wednesdays. Students will be released at 2:30 PM on Wednesdays in order to provide time for staff professional development.

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.

Taos International School will increase the number of opportunities available to students in the Taos area to become proficient in a second language, conversant in a third language, and to improve their knowledge of world geography, cultures, and civilizations **beyond the fifth grade**.

The use of language immersion as an instructional strategy has been proven effective in other New Mexico schools. Corrales International School in Albuquerque, for example, has met Annual Measurable Objectives for the past four years. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or other academic and demographic measures for Corrales International are available on the NM PED website.

As a replication school, Taos International will closely follow educational models at Corrales International and New Mexico International Schools. Adjustment to the model will be made based on student demographics upon completion of enrollment/lottery procedures. These adjustment could include, for example, increased instructional time on target languages.

[PRINT NAME]

Marsha Thesen-Winters

Date: 1/6/12

Marsha Thesen-Winters

[PRINT NAME]

Keleish Winters

Date: 1/6/12

Keleish Winters

[PRINT NAME]

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[PRINT NAME]

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Signature of founder(s)

Nadine M. Vigil

Date: 01/06/2012

Nadine M. Vigil  
[PRINT NAME]

Carlos R. Pagani  
[PRINT NAME]

Date: 1/5/2012

Larry Torres

Date: 01/06/2012

Larry Torres  
[PRINT NAME]

Amie Chavez - Aguilar

Date: 1/4/2012

Amie Chavez - Aguilar  
[PRINT NAME]

Regina Vigil

Date: 1/6/2012

Regina Vigil

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