

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taos International School will be located within the boundaries of Taos Municipal Schools (TMS). TMS is located in a rural area in Northern New Mexico (Taos County). The district's student demographic data currently shows that 78 percent of district students are Hispanic, 13.7 percent Caucasian, 6.6 percent Native American, 0.6 percent African American, and 1.0 percent Asian. Taos Municipal Schools has an English language learners (ELLs) population of 15.7 percent and 0.2 percent special education students. Most recent data indicate that 100 percent of students are designated economically disadvantaged. Based on current school achievement data and school grading system, two schools in the district received a letter grade of "B"; one a grade of "C"; one a grade letter of "A"; and one received a letter grade of "D." (NM Public Education 2012)

Currently, not all students requesting the dual language program that is offered in one of the three public elementary schools have the opportunity to participate due to limited space. In addition, continuation of this dual language program is no longer offered for sixth grade students at the middle school level resulting in limited choices for students in the dual language program who are interested in continued their study of Spanish.

If approved, Taos International School will provide a greater focus on a multilingual curriculum and will address the international education and foreign language needs of New Mexico students living in the Taos area. In addition, Taos International School will be the only school outside Albuquerque offering the International Baccalaureate's Primary and Middle years Programme.

Additional TIS educational components include:

- Longer School Year and Day
- School-sponsored After School Enrichment Program
- School-funded Field Trips
- Art and Music Program
- Physical Education Program
- Introduction of Third Language: Mandarin Chinese

Taos International School's philosophy and instructional approach is research-based and incorporates best-practices in all aspects of instruction. The demand for more educational programs combining dual language immersion education with the International Baccalaureate elementary and middle school programs is significant. Schools with such programs in the Albuquerque area have long waiting lists. Students living in the Taos area should be provided an opportunity to enroll in a similar program.

### **School Information**

Name of Proposed Charter School: Taos International School

School Address: P.O. Box 384

Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513

School Location(City/Town): Taos, NM 87571

School District within which the school will be located: Taos Municipal Schools

### **Contact Information**

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