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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: [KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us](mailto:KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us) 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.

**I. General Information:**

Name of Proposed School:	Taos Community Preparatory School		
Primary Contact Person	Hillary McPartlon		
Mailing Address:	201 Herdner Rd.		
City: Taos	State: NM	Zip: 87571	
Phone: 505-920-1135	Email: taoscommunityprep@gmail.com		

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
Hillary McPartlon	Organizer	Taos Municipal Schools	Certified Teacher, Project CRISS Certified Trainer

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):  
 Taos Community Prep will offer a quality education, meeting the social and emotional needs of the local community using local resources. A strong emphasis on academic excellence and college preparedness will guide the curricula, professional development and vision of the school. The inspiration of the school is to offer all students the option to be ready for college, regardless if it is the path they choose. Students need to be engaged and excited about education. The idea behind TCP is to promote a desire to learn and self-efficacy.

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: .

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes:  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.

\_\_\_\_\_

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

The vision of Taos Community Prep is to promote life-long learning with a focus on college preparedness.  
 The mission of TCP is to offer a hands-on, project based instruction using community resources to address the need for academic excellence in the Taos area.

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 target population of students mostly being educated at Taos Middle School is 80% Hispanic, 8% Native American and are 100% Free & Reduced Lunch. These students have only one major choice of middle schools in Taos, and for at least four years it has failed to meet 50% proficiency in reading or math. Students currently are pooled together for middle school; the competition for placement into the alternative two charter public options in the district is fierce. Many students are from bilingual and/or monolingual Spanish and Native American speaking homes. Many of them pass through the current system for 3 or more years without attaining a basic understanding of written or oral English. Many students desire to learn and discover the world around them, but are discouraged by the current system. These students who seek an alternative without the financial resources and academic opportunities available will be the targeted population of Taos Community Prep.

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.

Public options in the Taos Municipal District include Taos Municipal Charter School, TISA and Taos Academy, the schools have waiting lists. The mobility rate at Taos Middle School is 27% and the graduation rate at Taos High School is 71%, leaving close to 30% of students excluded from the current education system. Secondary test scores have hovered around 50% proficiency in both math and reading for at least four years. Non-English speakers' needs

are not met by a Spanish-only bilingual program and Spanish speakers who acquire English skills tend to revert to Spanish only as they continue up the grade level ladder. The NM PED recently released the School Grading report scoring Taos Middle School with a 'D' overall and an 'F' in helping the growth of lowest performing students. Parents and business owners alike seek a well-educated competitive and locally sourced workforce. Students are not prepared for a competitive workforce because they cannot advocate for themselves when vying for a job. In the Higher Education Report 10-10 Report to the Legislative Finance Committee, (2010, August 11) almost half of the students going on to college are not ready and are required to take remedial classes.

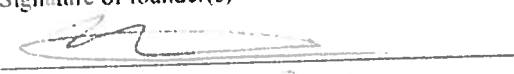
10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)

Some of the unique features of the TCP will be to implement a longer school day and pair with community organizations/businesses for internships and other hands-on experiences. The school seeks to partner with local resources to provide real-world experiences as well as national and international programs for service learning and exchange programs. TCP will utilize the numerous foundations for entrepreneurial success and real-world skills.

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.

With the current mobility/dropout rate in Taos secondary schools around 30%, students are not demonstrating success in an academic setting, and consequently lack college readiness. With student focused strategies for learning, hands-on community experience, and use of sponsoring colleges to facilitate a university focus, Taos Community Prep School will target individual student success. The smaller school site with site based management will encourage more attention to the wants and needs of each individual in the system making sure that the teachers and students alike are life-long learners. TCP would utilize the staff for administrative duties in conjunction with parent leadership, local business leaders, and teachers will share the collective reporting. Academic advising for students will occur weekly to ensure progress on their academic path. Students who show dormant academic potential will receive additional advising and internship time, and tutoring as needed. Good practices for maintaining a college career with success can be outlined in numerous articles such as "Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education" (Chickering and Gamson, 1987). These principles include, but are not limited to a form of advising, peer cooperative education, active learning, timely feedback, high expectations, and instructional differentiation. Schools that use the university focus have been able take struggling schools to success by motivating students to shoot for college such as in the findings of Jeff King and Damen Lopez in their book TurnAround schools - Creating Cultures of Universal Achievement. San Jacinto Unified School district in California went from a rating of underperforming to exemplary in under two years after using college readiness to changes the path of the schools. Using these best practices will be the guide for the development of TCP.

Signature of founder(s)



Date: 1/10/12

William R. McPartlin  
[PRINT NAME]