

Abstract of Proposed Charter School:

The mission of The MASTERS Program (TMP) is to support the goal of a college education as an option for every student by expecting all students to perform at rigorous academic levels when provided challenging educational activities by inspired, talented teachers.

The educational philosophy and approach of TMP will be designed with an emphasis on **Mathematics, Arts, Science, Technology, Engineering, Reading and Service (MASTERS)**. A STEM curriculum will be offered. Teachers will be trained in the Paideia Philosophy of education which focuses on higher-level thinking and communication.

The educational strategy is that students will be taught utilizing different modalities depending on the student's needs. Courses will be offered utilizing Licensed and Highly Qualified New Mexico teachers in the TMP classroom, IDEAL-NM high school courses on line and/or take SFCC dual credit courses. Additionally each student will work with teachers to obtain work-related and community service credits. Individual tutoring will be offered to each student.

The School will be located at Santa Fe Community College and will serve students in grades 10-12 as an early college high school. Enrollment is planned at 120 the first year and then adding 20 students per year for a total of 200 at year five. TMP will target students who are at risk, English language learners, students with special education needs, gifted students, those who desire an accelerated learning curriculum, wish to discontinue their home school studies and those who require a more flexible schedule – all of which can lead to low academic achievement and loss of interest in traditional secondary school education. TMP will also target students who have an interest in the STEM curriculum.

The STEM Curriculum was chosen because of on-going research that points to low math and science achievement for U.S. students. Recently, an assessment of 15 year old students showed that the U.S. ranked 28th in Math Literacy and 24th in Science Literacy. STEM emphasizes not only math and science but integrates both areas with engineering and technology.

TMP's educational philosophy is that all students can learn a set of reasonable objectives with appropriate instruction, support and sufficient time to learn. TMP recognizes that students typically master content and integrate their skills as scholars at different rates. Respect for individual student differences requires that students be given the time they need at any curricular level to familiarize themselves with content and/or to acquire the skills and work habits that will help them achieve academic success and become life-long learners. TMP is dedicated to developing core competencies in all students. TMP will strive to prepare all students to master all skills and learning necessary to succeed in a post-secondary educational environment and/or career of choice.