



**State of New Mexico**  
**Public School Facilities Authority**

*Jonathan Chamblin, Director; Martica Casias, Deputy Director*

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May 1, 2019

Mr. Justin Baiardo, Founder  
Ms. Elisha Varela, Operations  
Explore Academy Las Cruces (Proposed)  
Via email; [baiardo@exploreacademy.org](mailto:baiardo@exploreacademy.org); [varela@exploreacademy.org](mailto:varela@exploreacademy.org)

Dear Mr. Baiardo and Ms. Varela:

PSFA has received and reviewed the Facilities Master Plan/Educational Specifications (FMP/Ed Specs) for the proposed Explore Academy Las Cruces Charter School. The FMP/Ed Specs guide you in the planning and/or selection of a facility to ensure that it adequately accommodates your educational program and supports your method of instruction. Based upon our review, PSFA is pleased to announce that the FMP/Ed Specs meet our requirements for applicant charter schools and approves the plan. Your next step is to include your FMP/Ed Specs along with this letter in your charter school application to the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC).

In reviewing the Explore Academy Las Cruces Charter School FMP/Ed Specs, PSFA understands:

- Explore Academy Las Cruces is seeking a Las Cruces NM or vicinity location in which to operate.
- The proposed school has contacted the Las Cruces Public School district to inquire about available space in any of its facilities but has not received a response.
- At this time, Explore Academy's FMP/Ed Specs does not identify a prospective property but does outline the space and requirements room criteria it needs in a facility to deliver its curriculum and educational program.
- Your proposed school intends to enroll students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> with an enrollment focused on Choice Theory, which allows a student greater personal choice in his/her education and choose from more than 20 academic focus areas.
- Explore Academy Las Cruces proposes an enrollment cap of 700 students, with phased enrollment by grade level until reaching the full cap in approximately Year Six.
- Each classroom will hold no more than 22 students requiring 24 general education classrooms for a total of 35, at full enrollment cap.
- In addition to the general classrooms, the FMP/Ed Specs also identify the need for specialty classroom space and other support areas including:
  - Art/Music classrooms;
  - Physical education space (not the size of a full gym) that includes spaces for exercise equipment, weights, and yoga;
  - Office and administration space;

*PSFA, in partnership with New Mexico's school districts, provide quality, sustainable, and well maintained school facilities for our students and educators.*

- Open spaces/Common Areas, which serve a variety of functions including student dining, collaboration space, tutoring, and/or independent study/homework;
- Storage; and
- The school does not plan to have a library/media center or kitchen of any sort since it proposes alternative methods of delivery for these services. For library/media center, the school proposes using digital and electronic media issued to students. For student meals, the school intends to utilize a caterer who will deliver pre-prepared meals.

If you are a successful charter school applicant, PSFA is ready to meet and work closely with the Explore Academy Las Cruces Charter School on your facility issues. Once you choose or narrow down your choice of prospective facilities, PSFA will need to assess your chosen building to ensure it meets e-occupancy, code and meets/exceeds the average wNMCI. Please contact our office before you occupy the facility. Feel free to contact PSFA if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Sincerely,



John M. Valdez, AICP  
Facilities Master Planner

c: Jo Eekhoff, Planning and Design Manager, PSFA  
Larry Tillotson, Maintenance and Operations Manager, PSFA  
Jorge Au, Regional Manager, PSFA