

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Pursuant to the New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 22-8B-6(B), the initial co-founders and application team members, David Ceballes, Dr. George Straface, and Adrienne Salas, herein give required notice of intent to submit a charter school application to the New Mexico Public Education Commission and the Superintendent of the Alamogordo Public Schools.

### 1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

**Kids First Academy**

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be offered	Projected Total Enrollment
Opening	
Fall 2021 K-1	120
Fall 2022 K-2	180
Fall 2023 K-3	240
Fall 2024 K-4	300
Fall 2025 K-5	360

- Primary Point of Contact

<b>Name</b>	David Ceballes		
<b>Mailing Address</b>	PO Box 2741		
<b>City</b>	Alamogordo	<b>State</b>	NM
<b>Phone</b>	(575) 430-4118		
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:ceballeslaw@gmail.com">ceballeslaw@gmail.com</a>		
<b>Zip</b>	88311-2741		

- ### 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

Names	Role on Team	Qualifications: Education, Employment, and Experience
David Ceballes	Initial Co-Founder and Application Team	<b>Former President Alamogordo Public Schools (APS) Board of Education. APS Board of Education Member – 10 years.</b> Attorney – 28 years. University of New Mexico Continuing Education Instructor – 13 years. Former District Attorney. Former Deputy Cabinet Secretary and General Counsel, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Juris Doctorate – University of New Mexico School of Law. Master's in Public Administration – The Maxwell School, Syracuse University. Sloan Foundation Fellow – The Graduate School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Finance and Human Resource Management), Georgetown University.
Dr. George Straface	Initial Co-Founder and Application Team	<b>Former Superintendent Alamogordo Public Schools (APS) 2011-2014. Educator and Administrator – 47 years.</b> Former Superintendent for three Colorado school districts. Former Deputy Superintendent for Denver Public Schools. Area Superintendent for Cherry Creek School District. Former Director of Principal Preparation at the University of Denver. Principal and teacher.
Adrienne Salas	Initial Co-Founder and Application Team	<b>Former Superintendent Alamogordo Public Schools (APS) 2014-2018. Educator and Administrator – 27.5 years.</b>

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

**Our school's model will ultimately pattern the documented best practices of the most highly successful schools in the world. Initially considered, our school's model and objectives will be to enable our students to develop the academic and character skills necessary to achieve success in high school and be college and career ready, be entirely self-sufficient in the competitive world beyond, and build a better tomorrow for themselves and us all.**

**The underlying component of our school will be our commitment to our student's academic needs, hopes, and dreams. Our students will always come first at our school.**

**Our school's design will focus on high expectations, character development, teacher and school leadership excellence and development, and supporting students on their journey to and through college and career readiness. In order to support high expectations, we will focus on ensuring that our teachers deliver high-quality, rigorous curriculum and instruction. We will utilize state of the art technology to best deliver instruction to our students. We will actively use student data to monitor students' progress so we can devise strategies to tailor instruction to ensure every child receives the appropriate level of support and challenge. Character development will play an important role in our school's work. We will engage with parents, require, and/or strongly encourage their participation and commitment to our school's vision and mission.**

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? **No. However, the idea will be studied and considered by the application team prior to submission of our application.**
5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? **No**
6. Vision/Mission statement (2-3 sentences)

**Vision: Kids First**

**Mission: For our students, to build together, the premier public school in New Mexico and beyond. To empower our students to become productive 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens by being college and career ready. To provide superior positive educational opportunities that nurture self-discipline, cooperation, and mutual respect. To improve our student's tomorrow by learning today.**

7. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area of the proposed school from which you expect to draw a significant number of your students.

**Alamogordo public, private, and home schools.**

- Describe the student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, English Learners (ELs), and special education populations) in the location in which the school intends to locate.

**All inclusive. Challenging. Diverse, but majority Caucasian and Hispanic. At least**

**seventy-three percent (73%) free and reduced lunch eligible.**

- 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.

**Our future students are now most likely being educated at Alamogordo public, private, and home schools.**

**We expect parents to choose our school over other Alamogordo public, private and home schools because most parents truly want what is best for their children. Parents want a school where they can be assured that their children will have the very best opportunity for their future success. And, "Kids First", our school's proposed vision and foundation, is at the heart of our efforts. Accordingly, we plan to execute upon our mission to ultimately build and deliver the finest educational opportunity in New Mexico, and beyond.**

**Our school will have superior excellence and stability. Our founders bring unmatched educational leadership, instructional knowledge, and experience to our school. As founders, we will require that all our teachers are highly qualified, master's degree, level 3 certified, and/or experienced and effective instructors, that truly care about their students. We will limit class size. We will engage and partner with parents and the community.**

**Parents will know who we are and what we do. Parents will know that we value the best interests of their children above all else. Parents will know our commitment to excellence. Parent will participate in the governance of the school. Parents will know what is best for their children, and consequently they will choose our school.**

8. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school of the nature that will be proposed in the application (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the Proposed educational program).

**The applicant team is keenly aware of the community need for a higher quality public school than that which is currently being offered. Alamogordo needs a public school where parents will have the option to place their children in a school where they can be assured of superior quality instruction, and an educational environment where their student will always come first with school leadership and teachers.**

**The applicant team is also keenly aware that some parents who are now making the financial sacrifice to enroll their children in private school in pursuit of a better education. As a public charter school, our school will provide a superior no-cost option for these parents and military families.**

9. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement in order to help it realize its vision/mission (e.g., non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).

**To constantly strive for our "Kids First" vision and to ultimately achieve our mission, we plan to implement documented best practices, and to explore and adopt other innovative features including: year-round calendar; extended school days; flexible grouping of students (by ability**

rather than grade level); to require parental partnerships and participation; to seek out community support and volunteerism; to require highly qualified expert teachers teaching subjects rather than grades; to foster significant teacher leadership in all aspects of school governance; to offer extensive extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to languages and the arts; and, to aggressively use technology to enhance instruction.

10. Describe 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.

Our initial smaller school environment will develop into a strong community of team/family where everyone will be responsible and accountable for the success of all students – students, teachers, school leadership, parents, and of course the community itself. We will begin with only K-1 students so that our school will have time to develop, build and grow purposefully, all the while focusing directly on the needs of our students. Clearly, our foundational focus will raise the mastery of standards and the ultimate success of our students. Our teachers' focus on the teaching of their desired subjects will greatly enhance our instructional effectiveness. Our collective experience tells us that at our school, our students will get what they need to achieve all their hopes and dreams. Ultimately, at our school, our students will learn and love learning in the process.

Signature of founder(s):

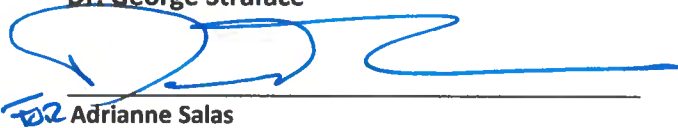


David Ceballes



Dr. George Straface

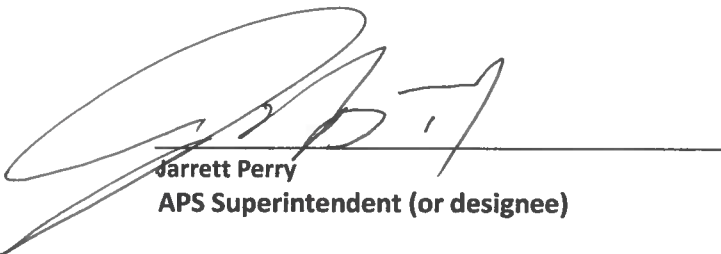
Date: Jan. 14, 2020



Adrienne Salas

A copy of the foregoing Notice of Intent to Submit a Charter School Application was hand-delivered to the Superintendent of the Alamogordo Public Schools, or their designee, by 5:00 pm Mountain Time, Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

Received:



Jarrett Perry  
APS Superintendent (or designee)

Date: 1/14/20