



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

RYAN STEWART, ED.L.D.
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

2021 Charter School Renewal Recommendation – Six Directions Indigenous School

PED RECOMMENDATION

Though an argument could be made for a recommendation of non-renewal of the contract, the PED recognizes the recent growth under the new head administrator and would like to support the school's continued progress. The PED recommends **a renewal term of five (5) years with contract conditions (or a corrective action plan) that include specific goals for each of the first three (3) years to insure improvement regarding:**

- **continued growth in reading for all students**
- **significant growth in math for all students**
- **academic proficiency rates in both reading and math**
- **evidence that action steps have been implemented leading to compliance in organizational performance**

The school earned 39 points in 2018-2019, the most recent school year with state assessment data, on the cusp of the middle 50%. (The cutoff for Spotlight School designations was 53.33; the lowest 25% were at or below 40 points.) The school is identified as a school in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement. Both reading and math proficiencies are below the local district and statewide averages. The school was unable to meet the charter goals throughout the contract term.

Due to the high numbers of COVID cases in the area, the school intends to provide virtual learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Middle school students, grades 6-8, attend 6 classes on Monday and Tuesday and a Friday advisory class. High school students, grades 9-11, attend 7 classes Wednesday and Thursday and a Friday advisory class. Students take core classes of ELA, social studies, science, math, Indigenous language (Navajo or Zuni), and elective classes with high school students working toward fulfilling high school credits. Outreach and instructional support is provided at the end of the school day and on Friday's between 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In 2019-2020, the school's organizational performance ratings did improve over prior years yet

continued on next page

continued from page 1

continued attention is required for the school to meet the standards. The school leadership has been unstable with several changes in Head Administrator during the contract term. The school has demonstrated a commitment to address all weaknesses via the hiring of new Head Administrator and contracted support. The new administration has instituted many procedures and processes to address academic, organizational and financial compliance concerns in a short amount of time.

A rating of meeting the standards was earned in five (5) of 18 indicators, working to meet the standard in 13 indicators, and falls far below for one (1) indicator. Those areas include, but are not limited to:

- Repeat noncompliance regarding protecting the rights of students with special needs including inconsistent/incorrect calculations when determining levels of service (hours), lack of a licensed professional onsite to provide direct services to students, and direct service logs
- Repeat noncompliance with protecting the rights of EL students, specifically proper identification, resolution of reporting errors, and annual notification to parents
- Repeat concerns regarding recurrent enrollment (64.38% and 62.32% for the last two years)
- Noncompliance due to the lack of a SAT referral and intervention program
- Repeat noncompliance with governance and reporting, specifically lack of annual evaluations of the head administrator and at least one Governing Board member not completing hours of mandatory training each year
- Repeat noncompliance with conducting all required emergency drills and tracking immunization status for all students
- Repeat concerns regarding personnel files including evidence of NMPED licensure, official transcripts, employment verifications, and mentorship documentation; in 2019-2020 at least one teacher's file did not contain a background check

The school's most recently published financial audit report indicates only one (1) finding of "other noncompliance".

The school's membership shows improvement over last year and is currently exceeding their 2021-budgeted membership. In the two previous years, the school's operating expenses exceeded operational revenue, decreasing the cash reserves proportionately. The current year budgeted operational expenses also exceed budgeted operational revenue. Although current membership numbers are encouraging, keeping operational expenses within operational revenue is a concern based on past and anticipated spending.

The school spent an average of 45.25% of its annual operating budget on instructional costs (categories 1100, 2100, and 2200) over the last four (4) years, which is over 20% lower than the 68% recommended per 2020 NM HB002. The percentage of operating budget spent on administrative support has averaged 34.5% with an average funded membership of 66 students. Enrollment has increased (from 50 to 78 students) during the contract term and the percentage spent on administrative support has declined, both of which are positive changes.

The school does not have the support of a foundation.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Section	Indicator	Rating
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE		
1.a	Department’s Standards of Excellence	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Substantial Progress</i>
1.b	Specific Charter Goals	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Substantial Progress</i>
FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE		
2.a	Audit	<i>Demonstrates Substantial Progress</i>
2.b	Board of Finance	<i>Meets the Standard</i>
2.c	Financial Performance	<i>Some concerns</i>
CONTRACTUAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND GOVERNANCE		
3.a	Material Terms	<i>Demonstrates Substantial Progress</i>
3.b	Organizational Performance Framework	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Progress</i>
3.c	Governance Responsibilities	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Substantial Progress</i>

NMPED Accountability Data 2018-2019

	Overall	Reading Proficiency	Math Proficiency	Science Proficiency	English Learner Progress
Six Directions Indigenous School	39	25	9	19	<=20
Local District	48	31	17	23	21
Statewide	-	34	21	40	29

Public Education Commission (PEC) Performance Framework

Six Directions	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Category I. Academic Performance Framework				
I.A.01 NM 8-9 School Grading System	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
I.A.01 Required Academic Performance Indicators	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
I.A.02 Optional Supplemental Indicators (school specific items in charter)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Category II. Financial Performance Framework				
II.A.00-04 Operating Budget/Audit/Periodic Reports/Expenditures/Reimbursements/Audit Reviews/Notes	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Category III. Organizational Performance Framework				
III.A.00 Educational Plan: material terms of the approved charter application	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
III.A.01 Educational Plan: applicable education requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.02 Educational Plan: protecting the rights of all students	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.03 Educational Plan: protecting the rights of students with special needs (IDEA, 504, gifted)	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.04 Educational Plan: protecting the rights of English Language Learners (TEFL II)	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.05 Educational Plan: complying with the compulsory attendance laws	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
III.A.06 Educational Plan: meet their relevant enrollment goals	Not Applicable	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.07 Business Management & Oversight: meeting financial reporting and compliance requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
III.A.08 Business Management & Oversight: following generally accepted accounting principles	Not Applicable	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
V.A.00 Governance and Reporting: complying with governance requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
V.A.01 Governance and Reporting: holding management accountable	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
V.A.02 Employees: meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
V.A.03 Employees: respecting employee rights	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
V.A.04 Employees: completing required background checks	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
VII.A.00 School Environment: complying with facilities requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
VII.A.01 School Environment: complying with health and safety requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
VIII.A.01 School Environment: handling information appropriately	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Category: Organizational Performance Framework				
School Specific Items: data on any items specified in the school's Performance Framework	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard