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## 2021 Charter School Renewal Recommendation – Taos International School

### PED RECOMMENDATION

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 regarding:

- demonstrating significant growth in reading and math for all students
- increasing academic proficiency rates in both reading and math
- positive yearend operational fund balance

The school earned 44 points in 2018-2019, the most recent school year with state assessment data. (The cutoff for Spotlight School designations was 53.33; the lowest 25% were at or below 42 points.) The school is identified as a school in need of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Both reading and math proficiencies are below the local district and statewide averages. The school's current contract was for only three (3) years and mission goals were not included.

The current contract for the school contained three (3) conditions:

1. Earn an overall school score of "C" or better in 2017-2018 through 2019-2020: *Inconclusive due to change in Accountability data in 2018-2019 and waiver of state assessments in 2019-2020. The school earned a "C" letter grade in 2017-2018 and 44 points, which was in the middle 50%, in 2018-2019.*
2. Obtain International Baccalaureate Certifications
  - a. Middle Years Programme: *Obtained in December 2019*
  - b. Primary Years Programme: *Pending; Verification site visit was postponed from April to October due to COVID; Visit occurred virtually on October 25th and 26th and the school is awaiting the final report which typically takes 6-8 weeks.*
3. Meet or exceed state proficiency averages in English Language Arts and Math in both 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years: *This goal was not met in 2018-2019 and is unable to be verified for 2019-2020 due to waiver of state assessments that year.*

For remote learning during the pandemic, the school's schedule is closely aligned to the regular, in-person schedule with instruction occurring throughout the day, four days per week. In addition, the school offers all specials.

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In 2019-2020, the school’s organizational performance ratings were excellent, meeting standards in 16 of 18 indicators with the remaining two (2) indicators rated as working to meet standard.

The school’s published financial audit reports are stellar with zero findings for the past two years. However, there are concerns regarding declining membership, ending each fiscal year with a negative cash balance, and the potential of having to report monthly to NMPED School Budget Bureau.

The schools membership appears to have rebounded according to the first reporting period of fiscal year 2021 exceeding budgeted expectations. In every year of the contract term, the school’s annual operational expenses exceeded annual operational revenue, reducing operational cash proportionately. FY21’s first quarter reporting shows a decrease in operational expenses, over last year during the same period, however continued close monitoring is advised to ensure the school sustains the positive financial outlook throughout the year and into annual financial close of each year in the upcoming contract term.

The school spent an average of 62.3% of its annual operating budget on instructional costs (categories 1100, 2100, and 2200) over the last three (3) years, which is close to the 68% recommended per 2020 NM HB002. The percentage of operating budget spent on administrative support was 19% with an average funded membership of 164 students.

The school does not have the support of a foundation.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

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

**NMPED Accountability Data 2018-2019**

	Overall	Reading Proficiency	Math Proficiency	Science Proficiency	English Learner Progress
<b>Taos International School</b>	44	13	6	13	32
Local District	55	35	19	41	26
Statewide	-	34	21	40	29

**Public Education Commission (PEC) Performance Framework**

Taos International		2018-2019	2019-2020
<b>Category I. Academic Performance Framework</b>			
	School Grade: C		
Indicator 1	Components of School Accountability System	44 points	
Indicator 2	Subgroup Performance	42.875 points	
Indicator 3	Mission Specific Goals	Falls Far Below (or Does Not Meet) Standard	Not Applicable
<b>Category II. Organizational Performance Framework</b>			
Indicator 1a	Educational Program: mission and educational program of approved charter application	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 1b	Educational Program: state assessment requirements	Falls Far Below (or Does Not Meet) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 1c	Educational Program: protecting the rights of students with disabilities	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 1d	Educational Program: protecting the rights of English Language Learners	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
Indicator 1e	Educational Program: meeting program requirements for all PED and federal grant programs	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 1f	Educational Program: NM DASH Plan	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Indicator 2a	Financial Mgmt & Oversight: meeting financial reporting and compliance requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 2b	Financial Mgmt & Oversight: following generally accepted accounting principles	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 2c	Financial Mgmt & Oversight: responsive to audit findings		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 2d	Financial Mgmt & Oversight: managing grant funds responsibility		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 2e	Financial Mgmt & Oversight: staffing to ensure proper fiscal management		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 3a	Governance & Reporting: complying with governance requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 3b	Governance & Reporting: complying with nepotism and conflict of interest requirements		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 3c	Governance & Reporting: meeting obligations timely / appropriate internal controls		Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 4a	Students & Employees: protecting the rights of all students	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
Indicator 4b	Students & Employees: attendance, retention, and recurrent enrollment	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
Indicator 4c	Students & Employees: meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 4d	Students & Employees: respecting employee rights	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Working to Meet Standard
Indicator 4e	Students & Employees: completing required background checks / reporting ethical violations	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 5a	School Environment: complying with facilities requirements	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
Indicator 5b	School Environment: complying with transportation requirements		Not Applicable
Indicator 5c	School Environment: complying with health and safety requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
Indicator 5d	School Environment: handling information appropriately	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard
<b>Category III. Financial Performance Framework</b>			
	Financial Self-Assessment Survey	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard	Meets (or Exceeds) Standard