



Emergency Drills

Reminder that schools are still required to conduct emergency drills during the 2020-2021 school year. Drills will need to be conducted while maintaining social distancing requirements.

To learn more information, please use this [link](#).

For one idea on how to conduct drill while maintaining social distancing, see the highlight of Horizon Academy West on page 2.

Leadership Roundtable

Thank you to school leaders who participated in the first Charter Schools Program (CSP) Educational Leadership Roundtable last week. The next Roundtables are on April 21, 2021, with a focus on equity, and May 26, 2021, topics to be decided with input from school leaders.

[Please use this link to register for the April or May Roundtables.](#)

To provide input on future Roundtable topics, [please complete this brief survey.](#)

Classroom Innovations Initiative PLC Opportunity

School teams are invited to [apply](#) by March 8 for the for the Classroom Innovations protocol, designed to engage teachers in professional learning communities (PLCs) working to implement the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards, one innovation at a time. Questions? Contact science specialist Christy Krenek at Christy.Krenek@state.nm.us.

2021-22 CTE Funding

The Career Technical Education Funding & Application Workshop will be held from 9 a.m.-noon March 2-4. Grant administrators and fiscal coordinators are the intended audience, and [pre-registration is required here](#). View the full schedule [here](#). Questions? Contact College and Career Readiness Bureau director Elaine Perea at Elaine.perea@state.nm.us or 505-469-3475.

Congratulations to the Charter Schools Approved for Hybrid Reentry (as of 02/26/2021)

- 21st Century Public Academy
- The Academy for Technology and the Classics
- ACE Leadership High School
- Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School
- Albuquerque Institute of Mathematics and Science
- Albuquerque School of Excellence
- Aldo Leopold Charter School
- Alice King Community School
- Altura Preparatory School
- Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School
- Cottonwood Valley Charter School
- Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School
- East Mountain High School
- Estancia Valley Classical Academy
- Gordon Bernell Charter School
- Horizon Academy West
- Hózhó Academy
- The International School at Mesa del Sol
- J. Paul Taylor Academy
- Jefferson Montessori Academy
- La Academia Dolores Huerta
- Mission Achievement and Success Charter School
- Monte del Sol Charter School
- Moreno Valley High School
- Mosaic Academy
- New Mexico International School
- Robert F. Kennedy Charter School
- Sidney Gutierrez Middle School
- South Valley Preparatory School
- Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics, and Science Academy
- Southwest Secondary Learning Center
- Taos Academy
- Tierra Adentro of New Mexico: The School of Academics, Arts, and Artesania
- Turquoise Trail Community Charter

School Highlights

The Charter Schools Division would like to highlight some of the awesome and innovative preparations charter schools are making as they expand to hybrid in-person learning.

Horizon Academy West



To make sure that social distancing is occurring during fire drills and student pickup, Horizon Academy West is using a system of ropes. Every teacher is given a rope that is knotted every 6 feet for a total of 10 knots per rope.



Here is an example of signage the school has posted around the building.

Coral Community Charter School

Check out this great video which Coral Community Charter School made for its students, explaining how re-opening will work.



Southwest Secondary Learning Center



During a recent walkthrough at Southwest Secondary Learning Center, Head Administrator Christine Lutz and Dean of Students Lisa Mora explained the COVID-safe protocols in place, including UV carts purchased by the school to disinfect the computer labs.

Congratulations to the Governing Board of The Public Academy for Performing Arts for completing all required training hours for FY21!

Board members have four (4) months left to complete all required trainings for the fiscal year.

A list of trainings provided by the CSD Technical Assistance and Training Team can be found [here](#).

To register, email charter.schools@state.nm.us

Include name, email, and school, as well as the session(s) you would like to attend.

Reminder
State Charter Schools must report ALL changes in GB Membership to charter.schools@state.nm.us

Please see the documents related to reporting these changes [here](#).

PED Links

- [PEC Meeting Information](#)
- [Charter Schools Processes](#)
- [Amendment Requests](#)
- [OPFD/Charter Schools](#)
- [Governing Board Trainings](#)
- [CSP Grant](#)
- [PED Home](#)
- [PED Bureaus](#)
- [PED Waivers](#)
- [Licensure](#)



Save the Date

Virtual

6th Annual NM Charter Schools ^ Conference
June 2-4, 2021

A Letter From Charter Schools Division Director Corina Chavez

Dear Charter School Community:

As the new Director of the Charter Schools Division, I just want to (re)introduce myself and offer a few words. In the past few months, I've seen many of you on the Charter Leader/Superintendents' Calls, at the Charter Voices sessions or at Public Education Commission (PEC) meetings. Folks who have been in the charter movement for a while remember that I was at NMPED's Charter Schools Division (CSD) from 2004-2011, did similar work for the New York State Education Department, then came back to New Mexico to help build the NACA Inspired Schools Network. These experiences allowed me to gain perspective and to appreciate even more the hard work of opening and running a charter school!

In the middle of the COVID-19 battle, I took a leap of faith: I believed that by joining the PED's executive team I could positively contribute to challenges, such as safely reopening of schools, addressing learning loss, ensuring equitable responsiveness, refocusing on and uplifting home grown charter innovations, protecting student interests, and reducing your compliance burdens.

I know this school year has been messy and stressful and guidance has shifted. Students have been confronted with uncertainty because of the pandemic, school closure, political strife, and family struggles. You have had to adapt and to find more and better ways to be there for your students. In your schools, teachers have had to be creative, seize the moment to thrive, leveraging technology, engaging with families, remaining flexible with contingency plans, and holding each other up like never before.

As education leaders, we all have a fundamental responsibility for meeting the needs of students and families while remaining accountable. We are in this together! As we enter the last few months of the school year, I want to hear from you: what are you celebrating, how are you innovating, what's in your way, how can we design more and better ways of leaning into this work, and how can we learn from each other.

I believe we will come out of this time stronger, more focused, and more creative. To that end, I hope you will join the next charter leadership roundtable (see details in this newsletter and on our website) or consider facilitating a session during the CSD's summer conference (details TBA). For state charters, please let me know what I can highlight to the PEC by taking the time to respond to the surveys I email you. Your feedback is so important!

Charter community--thank you for all you do, your work is incredibly valuable in New Mexico, especially at this time!

Stay well,

Corina

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