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PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
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OPTIONS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES
DIVISION - CHARTER SCHOOLS Year: **2022**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) the Notice of Intent to Submit a Charter Application (“NOI”) must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below **AND** to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. *Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.*

The NOI must be submitted by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on **January 11, 2022** (which, in accordance with statute is the second Tuesday of January). Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission **and** the superintendent of the local school district by the deadline may result in the application being rejected. When you send the NOI to the superintendent of the school district in which your charter is to be located, you are strongly encouraged to send it by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact the local district regarding electronic filing.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered by one of the following methods:

- Electronically to: charter.schools@state.nm.us
- By mail or personal delivery: PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
Attn: Options for Parents and
Families/Charter Schools Division 300 Don
Gaspar, Room 301
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is intended to provide the Public Education Commission with the primary point of contact among the charter developers, and preliminary information about the charter proposal, such as the school’s mission statement, the school’s focus, the representative student population in the intended location, enrollment projections, key innovation, etc. (not to exceed 5 pages).

1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

Phoenix Learning Academy

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be offered	Projected Total Enrollment
Kindergarten-Grade 5	250

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Tiffany Walker				
Mailing Address	332 Cielo Grande				
City	Alamogordo	State	NM	Zip	88310
Phone	(575) 442-2347				
Email	mrstwalker@msn.com				

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
Tiffany Walker	Founder	Education: Master’s in Educational Administration, Bachelors in Elementary Education, Level 2 Teacher License with English Language Arts and Gifted Education Endorsements, Education Administration License Experience: 18 years in education (Elementary and Middle School), Tutor for at-risk students (Community and Online), Online ESL Tutor, Gifted Facilitator (Grades K-5), Gifted Educator Support (Grades 6-12)
Johnnie Walker	Co-Founder	Education: Master’s in Educational Administration, Bachelors in Philosophy, Level 3 Special Education Teacher License, Education Administration License Experience: 17 years in education (Middle and High School), Previous Principal for Alternative High School, Previous Athletic Director, Previous

		Title IX Coordinator, Tutor for at-risk students (Community)
Shirley Phillips	Director of Student Support and Academics	Education: Bachelor in Children Behavioral Studies and Elementary Education Experience: Previous Holloman Air Force Base School Age Coordinator, Church Youth and Teenage Girls Group Director
Vaughn Cahill	Director of Operations	Education: Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering Experience: Previous President of Otero County Association of Realtors (OCAOR), MLS Bylaws Rules and Regulation Chair, and Director, Qualifying Broker

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

The Phoenix Learning Academy, the proposed school, will strive to offer the highest quality of education possible. The Phoenix Learning Academy team will provide an intensive academic program with a focal point and emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). This STEM model will call for Project/Problem Based Learning lessons, capstone projects, and enrichment learning programs with student activity periods. PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Launch curriculum will also be implemented at the elementary grades, providing strategies for students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that bring learning to life.

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? Yes No

If YES, describe the entity and the role it will have in the school's operational plan.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes No

6. Vision/Mission statement (2-3 sentences)

Phoenix Academy's vision/mission is to inspire endless possibilities for student success and achievement through challenging academic programs that focus on high student engagement and quality instruction.

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.

Geographically, Phoenix Learning Academy will service students from Alamogordo and surrounding areas within Otero County. Zip codes include but are not limited to 88310, 88330, 88337, and 88352. Phoenix Learning Academy expects to draw a group of students with diverse cultures, backgrounds, social, emotional, and academic needs.

- 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.

Alamogordo Public Schools is comprised of approximately 5,901 students, with 2,918 being elementary school students, 48% females, and 52% males. The average number of students receiving special education services is 1,027 and 3% of students are English Language Learners. The student race/ethnicity is composed of the following: 44% Caucasian, 41% Hispanic, 7% African American, 5% 2 or more races, 2% Asian or Asian Pacific Islander, 1% American Indian or Alaska Native. According to the New Mexico Public Education Department website, 41% of elementary students are proficient in Reading, 26% are proficient in Math, and 51% are proficient in Science. 65% of the Alamogordo Public Schools student population are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced price meal program. There is no specific target demographic that will be targeted. Phoenix Learning Academy goal is to provide an exceptional educational program free of cost for any student from any background.

<https://newmexicoschools.com/districts/46/student-performance>

- 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.

Currently, the majority of the students are enrolled in Alamogordo Public Schools. The remaining students attend private schools or a homeschooled environment. Phoenix Learning Academy believes that it will attract students based on our STEM-driven, hands-on learning model, with a goal of developing independent learners. We will focus on developing essential academic foundational skills that will engage, stimulate the mind of our potential learners, and improve student proficiency.

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 Phoenix Learning Academy team has assessed and analyzed achievement and demographic data for Alamogordo and its surrounding areas. Through conversations and meetings with the mayor of Alamogordo, community members, local churches and their leaders, retired educators, parents, and families we have learned there is a need for a rigorous, STEM-driven educational program that Phoenix Learning Academy will offer.

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.).

Phoenix Learning Academy will focus on the individualized needs of students by limiting the number of students in each classroom. The team will also provide after school tutoring and clubs for students needing additional support, challenges, and enrichment.

Phoenix Learning Academy will develop partnerships with families, local businesses, and community members, providing further opportunities to broaden students' learning experiences.

Phoenix Learning Academy will provide teacher professional development and ongoing support and training that will provide educators with methods to optimize learning and re-engage students.


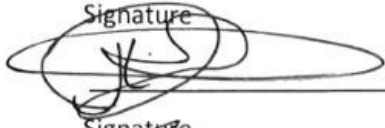
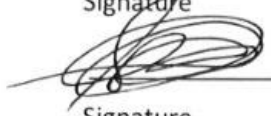
10. Describe how the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

Phoenix Learning Academy will provide a unique, differentiated learning environment with lower student to teacher ratio, and a STEM-based approach to teaching and learning. The team will provide necessary intensive support through small group instruction and individualized learning that will promote academic growth and success in the learning environment. Our hands-on learning approach will engage students in cross-curricular activities that will kindle a deep-rooted zeal for learning. The Phoenix Learning Academy team will strive to empower students as they develop an academic mindset and leadership skills as they continue their growth and development throughout their everyday lives.

At this current time, there is not an elementary school in Alamogordo or surrounding areas that specialize in STEM-based instruction. This form of instruction can be more effective than tradition instruction for teaching concept mastery, creating long-term retention and lifelong learners. The Phoenix Learning Academy founders recognize that not all students learn in the same manner and will use these methodologies to differentiate instruction, allowing all students the chance to maximize their fullest potential.

Please Note: Should your charter be awarded, the founding governing body could undergo a background check to determine if it qualifies to be a board of public finance in the state of New Mexico.

Signature of founder(s):

	<u>Tiffany Walker</u>	<u>2 January 2022</u>
Signature	Print Name	Date
	<u>J Walker</u>	<u>January 2, 2022</u>
Signature	Print Name	Date
	<u>Shirley Phillips</u>	<u>2 Jan 2022</u>
Signature	Print Name	Date
<u>Vaughn Cahill</u>	<u>Vaughn Cahill</u>	<u>3 Jan 2022</u>
Signature	Print Name	Date

A copy of the Notice of Intent was sent by certified mail with return receipt requested prior to 5:00 pm MST, Tuesday, January 11, 2022.