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**Charter Schools Division  
Final Renewal Recommendation for  
New Mexico Connections Academy  
December 1, 2022**

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) of the New Mexico Public Education Department recommends to the Public Education Commission that New Mexico Connections Academy be **renewed for a term of five years with a condition to study the cause of the low graduation rate and develop a plan for improving graduation outcomes.**

The school has not violated any of the terms of New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1979, Section 22-8B-12 K. NMCA's Educational Program, as delineated in the contract, is being implemented with fidelity with the exception of the school-within-a-school model, as discussed in the [Preliminary Renewal Analysis](#).

Although the school earned a rating of **Failing to Demonstrate Progress** for 1.a. Student Outcomes, the school does show growth from 2018-19 levels in reading, math, and science, with growth in reading (19% to 38%) and math are (7% to 23%) significant. 2021-22 proficiencies are slightly above the state average for reading and science, slightly below for math. Graduation rates are significantly below the state average for all years of the contract. CSD appreciates that the school acknowledges the need for improvement in the [response to the preliminary renewal analysis](#), "NMCA is not satisfied with the current graduation rates and, as was articulated both in the school's renewal application and at the renewal site visit, the school has taken deliberate actions to improve graduation success for those students who are working to complete the necessary graduation requirements."

In the preliminary analysis, CSD reported that the school had not yet submitted mission goal data for year 4. The CSD revised this portion of the report to reflect that in year 4, the school exceeded its mission goal for grades 4-8 and met it for grades 9-12. This did not change the school's rating of **Meets the Standard** for 1.b. Mission-Specific Goals.

The school’s ratings on the PEC Performance Framework over the first four years of the contract term are shown below.

<b>Part B: Progress Report</b>	
<b>Academic Performance</b>	<b>Rating</b>
1.a. Student Outcomes	Failing to Demonstrate Progress
1.b. Mission-Specific Goals	Meets the Standards
<b>Organizational Performance</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2.a. Educational Program	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.b. Financial Compliance	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.d. Equity and Identity	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.e. Tribal Consultation	N/A
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Demonstrates Substantial Progress

\*Based on the school's [renewal application](#), evidence gathered during the renewal site visit and in response to the preliminary renewal analysis, performance framework, and charter record over the charter term. Ratings changed from the preliminary analysis are shown in red.

The school’s ratings on the PEC Performance Framework over the first four years of the contract term are shown below. Please see the Preliminary Renewal Analysis for the school’s 2021-22 proficiency and graduation rates.

NM Connections Academy	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Academic Performance				
1 State Accountability System	Does Not Meet Standard	Not Available	Not Available	Pending
2 Subgroup Performance	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Pending
3 Mission-Specific Goals	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Not Reviewed	Meets Standard
Organizational and Financial Performance				
1a Mission and Educational Program	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Not Reviewed	Does Not Meet Standard
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	Working to Meet Standard	N/A	N/A	Working to Meet Standard
2a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
2b Accounting Principles	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2c Responsive to Audit Findings	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2f Internal Controls	N/A	N/A	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3a Governance Requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
3b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
3c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
4a Rights of All Students	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
4b Attendance and Retention	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
4c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4d Employee Rights	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
4e Background Checks, Ethics	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5a Facilities	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5b Transportation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5c Health and Safety	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5d Handling Information	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard

**Note:** Indicator 3c for 2021-22 has been changed from Meets Standard to Working to Meet Standard because the school did not submit an educational program amendment request to remove the school-within-a-school model.