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2023 NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) a 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 **AND** to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located no later than the second Tuesday in January of the year in which the application will be filed.

The NOI must be submitted electronically to charter.schools@ped.nm.gov with a cc to the district superintendent by 5:00 PM Mountain Time **January 10, 2023**.

Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission **and** the district by the deadline may result in the application being rejected.

The NOI is intended to provide the primary point of contact information of charter developers and preliminary information about the charter proposal. Use the form below to submit the NOI, which should not exceed 5 pages.

1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

Sierra Community Charter School

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be offered	Projected Total Enrollment
Kindergarten through 8 th	144

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Ava Rebecca Bartoo				
Mailing Address	47 Lonesome Dove Road				
City	Truth or Consequences	State	New Mexico	Zip	87901
Phone	575-740-1612				
Email	avarbartoo@gmail.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
Rebecca Bartoo	Administrator	Instruction License and Administrative License, MA in ED, MLSS plan experience, SAT experience, 20 years ELL support services experience, NM Teacher evaluation Certified, 20 years SPED support experience with inclusive instruction, curriculum, and IEP teams, 17 years Science Instruction, STEM, Science Olympiad, 1st-8th grades, Exemplary Teacher, National Geographic Certified Instructor, Instruction License and Administrative License, MA in ED
Leslie Boone	Ancillary Support Services	Masters of Physical Therapy, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. Certified Kinesiotaping. 13 years as Practitioner in Sierra County, 8 years of outpatient orthopedic experience in Sierra County. Contract therapist with TCMSD, strong working knowledge of ADA, IDEA, IEPs, Non-public school student family plan, and 504s. Working knowledge of MCO, Medicaid billing, program compliance, etc.
Johnna Smith	Ancillary Support Services	Master in Family and Consumer Science, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Independent Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, certified mentor through UNM, National board certified, specialized training in play therapy, sand tray therapy, brain spotting, Neurofeedback, Infant Mental Health, Child Psychotherapy, and clinical trauma techniques.
Nellie Smith	Board Member	Local business owner. Active community member. Served on multiple community boards. Familiar with NM SOS cooperate rules and regulations, IRS 501c3

standards, state and federal grant compliance.

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

As a New Mexico charter school our focus will be to will utilize the exemptions to the public school code to meet the need of the whole student implementing best practices. This begins with meaningful family engagement, small classroom sizes, individualized learning, and STEAM education.

We will focus on providing instructional flexibility that meets the needs of the whole student. We will produce academic outcomes greater than the state averages through instructional best practices, project based learning, and by implementing proven curriculum focused on developing critical thinking, problem solving and self-help skills students need to thrive. Our educators will work with families and students, setting goals that provide meaningful project based learning opportunities in core academics, leadership, service learning, career and technology pathways. This will be accomplished through partnerships with programs such as but not limited to 4H, community based organizations, and local businesses. We will work with families to help students develop an awareness of connected roles within our small community enabling them to become productive members of society.

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

n/a

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)

Vision- We envision an educational environment where educators partner with students and families, assuring each student reaches their full individual potential, grows as a leader, progresses at least one grade level per academic year, and graduates on time, with the ability to succeed life post high school.

Mission- Meeting the needs of the whole student – emotionally, socially, creatively, intellectually, and physically.”

7. Student population and geographical setting of the school
- Define the targeted geographical area from which the proposed school is expected to draw a significant number of its students

Sierra County, NM is an underserved rural community located in southern New Mexico. It is one hour to a major community (Las Cruces to the south and Socorro to the north.) Sierra County is ranked as the second poorest county in the state, is among the highest in unfavorable risk factors connected to health outcomes. Over 75% of the land is state or federal, making future growth and development difficult. The average age of residents is 57. Less than 34% of adults have a high school diploma or higher.

- Describe the student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, English Learners, and special education populations).

- 90% of students qualify for free/reduced meals making the district 100% Title I
- Academic Performance, Overall Proficiency: 30% ELL, 25% Literacy, 34% Science, and 21% Math
- Total Enrollment 1,254 in School District
- ELL 7%, Hispanic 52%, White 44%, Black >5%, Asian >5%, NA >5%

- 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

Today, students in Sierra County attend Truth or Consequences Municipal School District, are home schooled, or are not attending school.

From 1999-2021 There was one nationally accredited K-12 Private School in Sierra County. The school remained fully enrolled based on capacity and had a waiting list. The greatest issue in growth and sustainability was parent income and their inability to pay tuition. In addition, the private school provided support services to home school families and offered credit recovery for students who did not complete high school. Our projected enrollment is based on the historical enrollment of the private school, their waiting list, the number of students who received support services and completed scholarship applications. We believe this estimate is conservative based county birth rates vs. public school enrollment rates (23% difference), public school 1st grade enrollment vs. public school 12th grade enrollment (20% decline), based on national and state data indicating increased family interest in individualized educational learning for their students, and is based on the number of inquiries to our team for alternatives to TCMSD. Our team represents local educators and experts in child growth and development who have worked at and/or enrolled our children in Sierra County's private, homeschool, dual enrollment, and public schools. We know and understand the community and are in contact with educators, families, and students seeking a charter school option for their current educational needs.

8. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for the type of school proposed (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the educational program)

The applicant team has assessed community need from the following sources-

Sierra County Private school enrollment from 1999-2021- There was one nationally accredited K-12 Private School in Sierra County. The school remained fully enrolled based on capacity and had a waiting list. The greatest issue in growth and sustainability was parent income and their inability to pay private school tuition. In addition, the private school provided supported services to home school families and offered credit recovery for students who did not complete high school. Our projected enrollment is based on the historical enrollment of the private school, their waiting list, the number of students who received support services and completed scholarship applications.

County birth rates vs. public school enrollment rates (23% difference) www.countyoffice.org

Public school 1st grade enrollment vs. public school 12th grade enrollment (20% decline) NMPED district data

An ongoing electronic log of inquiries to our team and to the prior director of the private school. This log documents interest and commitments from current and retired community educators, families with students, and student inquiries.

9. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement to help realize the school's vision/mission.

- Educators will partner with families in students to set developmentally appropriate academic, personal, and leadership goals.
- Team of experts in child growth and development working with educators and parents making sure the basic needs of students are met, they feel safe and secure in their surroundings, and are ready to learn.
- Project based learning opportunities (such as agricultural, environmental, or mechanical)
- Community service/Internship opportunities
- STEAM and Science Programs
- Small classroom sizes allowing for Individualized choices of curriculum selected by family and student based on needs, including online
- Mixed age groups, competency based progression, and other data driven learning interventions
- Flexibility for completion of student work during agricultural/hunting/rodeo seasons without students being punished academically or on attendance

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.

New Mexico Charter schools follow the same laws for finances and operations as traditional public schools. The difference is in the educational model, where a small number of exemptions to the public school code allow for dynamic education models to be offered. Our team of educators and developmental experts will be allowed to offer innovative education opportunities to our students that traditional public schools are currently not allowed to provide.

We will improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance through individualized learning STEM education, and meaningful family engagement. We understand and represent the cultural of our community and will offer programs that are relevant to the families and students served.

Signature of founder(s):



Ava Rebecca Bartoo

Date: 1/7/2023_____

[PRINT NAME]