

Grade Level Change Amendment Request FORM

Submit this form and all supporting documents to charter.schools@ped.nm.gov

The Charter Contract was entered into by and between the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) and **Explore Academy - Las Cruces**, hereafter "the School," effective on **July 1, 2021**.

The School requests consideration from the PEC to change the terms of its Charter Contract as follows:

The Grade Levels Approved in the Charter School Contract currently reads:

6-12

The Amendment requests that the PEC approve Section 5.4, page 10 of the School's charter contract so that the Grade Levels Approved reads:

K-12

X [Mark if applicable] The School also requests an enrollment cap increase and has submitted an Enrollment Cap Increase request at the same time to increase enrollment from 700 to 1,200.

Rationale for the requested amendment/change:

See attached.

The school is requesting the following Grade Level Change [Mark one as appropriate]:

Increase in one grade level

___ An increase in grade levels from ___ to ___,

Provide the rationale for the change and why the school believes that this will be effective and support the school community:

Click or tap here to enter text.

[NOTE: For an increase in one grade level, no further information requested below is required.]

Simple grade level change

___ A reduction in grade levels offered from ___ to ___.

___ An increase in grade levels from ___ to ___, but within the same education level already being offered by the school (elementary, middle or high school). OR

Significant Grade Level Change

X An increase in grade levels from 6-12 to K-12 that results in the school offering to teach grades in a different education level than presently offered by the school (adding elementary, middle or high school not presently offered).

Has the school reached full operational capacity of all grades as identified in the existing charter contract? Yes No

If no, identify why the change is needed now.

See attached.

Is the school presently in its first three years of operation as a charter school?

Yes No

If ~~yes~~ no, why was the requested change not made part of the original school application? See attached.

Complete for a Significant Grade Level Change:

Is the school in the lowest 25% of all school performance as identified by PED?

Yes No

If yes, provide information on how this change would improve student performance at the school and how the school will ensure that the increased grades will not impact the school's ability to raise the performance of existing students.

Not applicable

Data demonstrating that the school's educational model and organizational structure is working and is effective at the school:

See attached

Data demonstrating support for expanded/reduced grades in the community and results from a community input meeting held by the Governing Board of the school at a public meeting:

- Results of a community input meeting held by the Governing Board of the school at a public meeting.

See attached

- Other information showing community support.

See attached

Data or information showing need for the grade-level change, such as:

- Demonstration of parent demand for the amendment request;
- Identified need in the community for the grade-level change (i.e. students coming into the school without sufficient skills);
- Change needed to address an operational concern (i.e. fiscal challenge related to the school size resulting from the funding formula as applied to the charter)

See attached

Data/research showing effectiveness of the change demonstrating that the school’s educational model will be effective in the new grades and at the new educational level, or examples of successful schools serving similar grades using the school’s educational model in the proposed grades. See attached.

A full narrative showing that the school is prepared for implementation, including how the school will address the challenges of the new grades including the impact on existing staffing, facilities and other parts of the school that may be impacted. (i.e. Does grade level increase require different licensure requirements and if so how will school accommodate? Is the facility sufficient to accommodate the additional grade levels.) See attached.

The school's contract amendment is hereby submitted by:


Clara R.W. Raley, Board Chair

February 17, 2023
Date

School Amendment Approval (electronic signature of School Board Chair):

_____ **For PEC/CSD use only** _____

School Amendment number (School name, number, date): , *Regular Agenda*

Amendment approved

Amendment denied for the following reasons: _____

PEC Amendment Approval (electronic signature of PEC Chair)

Click or tap here to enter text.
Public Education Commission

Click or tap to enter a date.
Date