



# New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
87501-2786  
[www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)

**ARSENIO ROMERO, PH.D.**  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

## Public Notice

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2023

### Public Education Commission Schedules Community Input Hearing for New Charter School Applicants for July 2023

The New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) has scheduled three Community Input hearings for Monday, July 10, 2023, thru Wednesday, July 12, 2023. The hearings will be held in a hybrid platform providing Zoom Webinar and in-person attendance

The public is notified that the Community Input hearings are not being held for the purpose of formulating public policy of the PEC and are not held for the purpose of taking any action within the authority of the PEC.

On Monday, July 10, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., a Public Input Hearing for Explore Academy-Santa Fe is scheduled to be held at Mabry Hall in the Jerry Apodaca Education Building in Santa Fe, NM. Explore Academy-Santa Fe is proposed to be located within the Santa Fe Public School District.

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., a Public Input Hearing for First Things Classical Charter School is scheduled to be held at New Mexico Highlands University in Rio Rancho, NM. First Things Classical Charter School is proposed to be located within the Rio Rancho School District.

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., a Public Input Hearing for Virtual Preparatory Academy of New Mexico is scheduled to be held at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. Virtual Preparatory Academy of New Mexico is proposed to a statewide school.

Applications for the proposed new charter schools are located at: [2023 New Applications – New Mexico Public Education Department \(state.nm.us\)](#).

The primary purpose of the meeting is to hear community input on the application. During the public hearing, members of the PEC will listen to comments from the charter school applicant and local school district representatives. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak about the proposed school and identify their concerns or support. The PEC may then have questions for the charter school applicant. The link for public participation via Zoom will be posted in the agenda document at: [Public Education Commission – New Mexico Public Education Department \(state.nm.us\)](#).

Members of the public may submit comments, petitions or other written feedback electronically regarding the charter school applications up to three business days following each school's hearing. Comments may be submitted via email to [Charter.Schools@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Charter.Schools@ped.nm.gov) or by completing the form associated with each school on the [2023 New Applications web page](#).

Written comments for Explore Academy-Santa Fe will be accepted until 5:00 PM July 13, 2023.

Written comments for FIRST THINGS CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL will be accepted until 5:00 PM July 14, 2023.

Written comments for VIRTUAL PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF NEW MEXICO will be accepted until 5:00 PM July 17, 2023.

These deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Commissioners will vote to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the new charter applications at the PEC meeting on August 25, 2023, scheduled for Santa Fe, NM.

Any questions about the hearings can be directed to the New Mexico Public Education Department's Charter Schools Division at [charter.schools@ped.nm.gov](mailto:charter.schools@ped.nm.gov) or 505-827-6909.