



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
300 DON GASPAR  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786  
Telephone (505) 827-5800  
[www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)

**Charter Schools Division  
Amendment Request Analysis**

**School Name:** Albuquerque Sign Language Academy

**Date of Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting:** August 25, 2023

**Amendment Request:** Albuquerque Sign Language Academy requests PEC approval to amend the terms of its contract as follows: site relocation.

**CSD Analysis:**

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy has occupied three locations: 620 Lomas Blvd., 3501 Campus Blvd., and a portable at ACE Leadership HS. They are proposing to bring all of their students together (K-12 plus transition) to one location at 225 Griego Rd., the former site of an APS school, La Luz Elementary. The move to La Luz would be temporary, until the construction of their new school is completed. The Head Administrator and governing board feel that the proposed site will bring together the community onto “one campus where the shared language of American Sign Language can be used by all. The new site will be conducive to the overall safety and well-being of all ASLA students and staff.”

The Head Administrator emphasizes the importance of bringing together the deaf community in a single space where they all have access to a common language. Mr. Martinez feels strongly that this environment will create a “critical mass of people who can effectively communicate using American Sign Language, which is absolutely essential in developing a healthy community dedicated to opening up opportunities for a forgotten population of students.” Furthermore, the previous sites, especially the elementary site, were not suitable for school use. There are serious safety concerns at the site on Lomas Blvd., as it does not have perimeter fencing and homeless issues pose a continuous risk to the children on campus. The temporary move to La Luz at this time would benefit the community until their new facility is completed. (ASLA provided PEC with [plans for the new school](#) at the August 2022 PEC meeting.)

ASLA has provided a fully completed form, and their governing board minutes demonstrate unanimous support for the relocation to La Luz. Appropriate documentation such as property insurance and certificate of occupancy were also submitted for our review. The capacity load of the facility is approximately 500, more than sufficient to serve ASLA's projected enrollment of about 150 students.

A letter from the Public School Facilities Authority indicates that the La Luz facility has a current wNMCI score of 37.15%, which does not meet/exceed the required statewide average of 24.2%. Statute 22-8B-4.2 NMSA 1978 states: *"An existing charter school shall not relocate unless the facilities of the new or relocated charter school, as measured by the New Mexico condition index, receive a condition rating equal to or better than the average condition for all NM public schools for that year or the charter school demonstrates, within eighteen months of occupancy or relocation of the charter, the way in which the facilities will achieve a rating equal to or better than the average NM condition index."* Since ASLA is in the process of building a new facility, the move to La Luz will be temporary, and they have provided a letter from the builder to demonstrate that while construction has not yet begun on the future facility, their plans are well underway and they have applied for building permits (see supporting materials below).

A lease was provided for the new location. The lease indicates that the start date was July 1, 2023 and the official request for relocation was submitted afterward, on August 1, 2023. However, the PED already approved relocation in August 2022.

Supporting materials: ASLA Relocation Request materials may be found in the R-Drive PEC Library: "Materials for Next Meeting" under "Albuquerque Sign Language Academy Relocation Amendment Form (Complete)", or by following this [link](#).

**CSD Recommendation:** Approval of the amendment request