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Charter Schools Division 2021-22 Annual Report

School Name: Explore Academy

School Address: 5100 Masthead NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Head Administrator: Justin Baiardo

Governing Board Chair: Patrick Molina

Business Manager: Justine Vigil

Authorized Grade Levels: K-12

Authorized Enrollment: 1700

2021-22 End of Year Enrollment: 951

Contract Term: 2019-2024

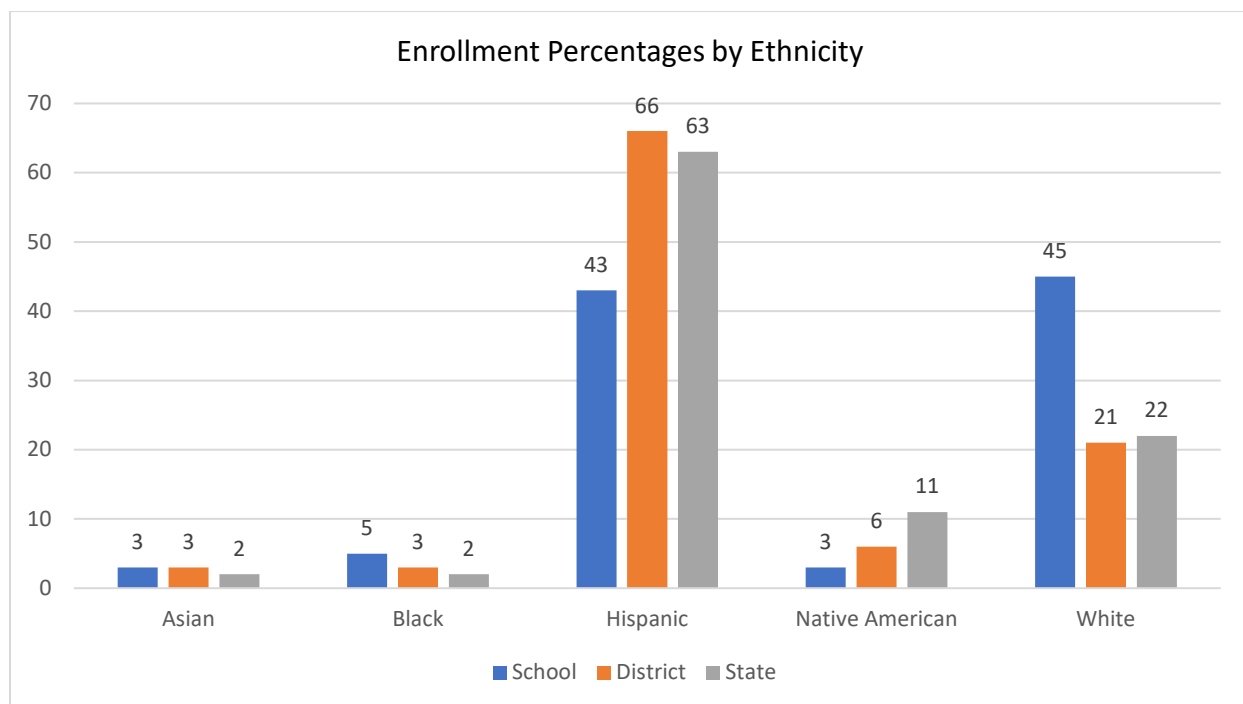
Mission: Explore Academy will provide each student with a personalized educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a unique educational pathway in preparation for a college future.

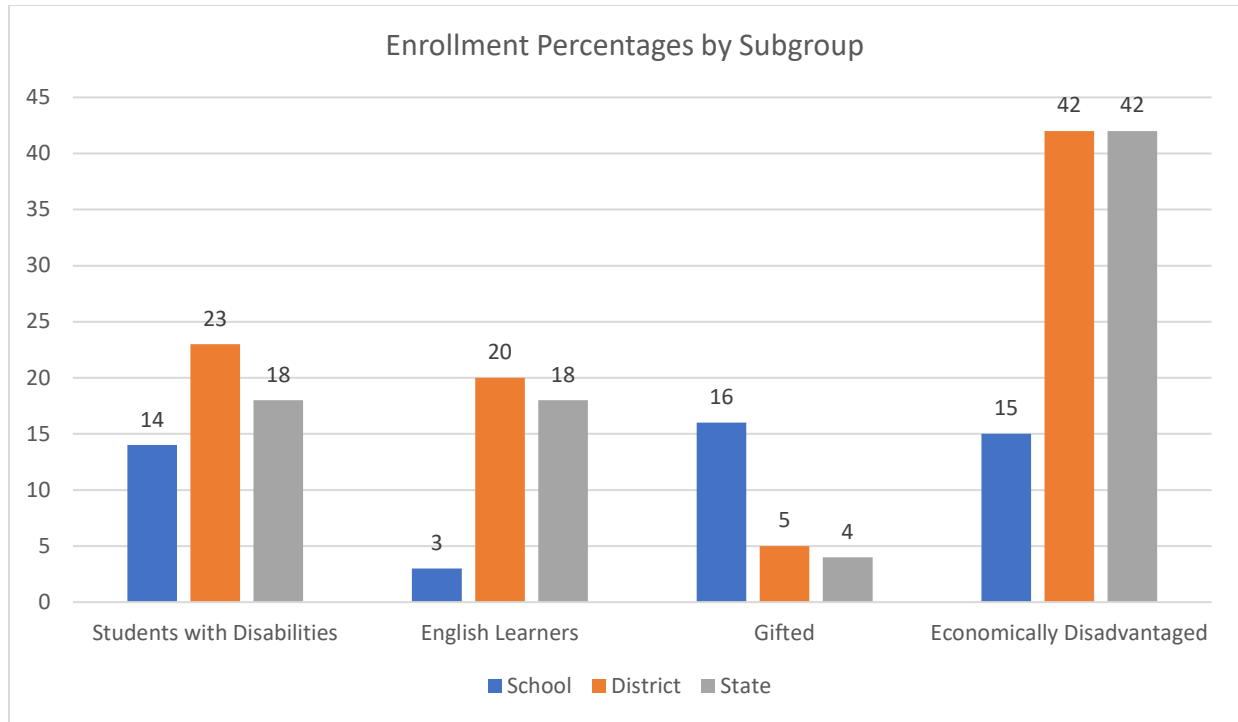
About the School

Explore Academy Albuquerque opened as a state charter in 2014, authorized to serve grades 6-12, with an enrollment cap of 500 students. The school has greatly expanded since opening, and as of school year 2021-22, has two campuses, serves students in grades K-12, has an enrollment cap of 1700, with a total enrollment of 951 students. The school has a foundation that manages the lease for the school's buildings.

Explore Academy offers a choice-based philosophy of education. Students choose between seminars that are based on "flavors" (themes) and are focused on a smaller subset of academic standards. Though Kindergarten and Grade 1 students select a flavor, they stay with the same two teachers all year. Students in grades 2 and 3 change teachers each semester, grades 4-7 change each quarter, and grades 8-12 change every 21 days. The school also offers daily academic flex periods when students have time to complete work, participate in tutoring, receive IEP support, meet with teachers, and pursue credit recovery. Educators at the school participate in professional learning communities and are given time to collaborate. In addition to teacher-parent contact, the school also communicates with families through a weekly newsletter, regular progress reports, website postings, robo calls/emails as needed, and via a parent portal to the student information system.

Demographics as reported in STARS 2021-22 End of Year (EOY)





Academic Performance

Academic Performance Framework Indicators	2021-22 Score (100 points possible)
1: State Accountability System: NMVISTAS Overall Score	61
2: Subgroup Performance: high, middle, and low-performing quartiles	Not calculated by PED for 2021-22
3: School-specific Goals: if two goals, average of points on each goal	>81%
Overall Academic Score: average of Indicators 1 and 3	>71%

State Accountability System

The New Mexico State Accountability System gives every public school in the state an overall score. The top 25% of schools are designated Spotlight schools.

Schools were ranked by percentile within school type, with high schools being ranked separately from elementary and middle schools because of differences in how points are calculated (e.g., graduation factoring into high school but not elementary school accountability).

Schools below the 75th percentile are designated either a Traditional Support School or are given one of several designations indicating a need for greater support:

- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI): Public Schools (Title I and non-Title I) with one or more student groups that meet the state's definition of consistently underperforming
- Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI): Public Schools (Title I) with one or more student groups performing as poorly as the lowest performing 5 percent of Title I schools identified for CSI
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Student Group: Title I schools that were previously identified for additional targeted support and improvement and that did not meet the statewide criteria for exiting ATSI status within the number of years determined by the state
- CSI – Graduation Rate: All public high schools in the state (Title I) with a four-year graduation rate below 66.67% for at least two out of the past three years
- CSI – Low Performing: Schools scoring in the bottom 5% of all Title I schools
- More Rigorous Intervention (MRI): If a CSI School does not satisfy exit criteria within the identification cycle, they are identified as MRI.

Explore Academy ranked above **81.3%** of high schools statewide. The school received a designation of **Spotlight school**.

Proficiency

In prior years, Early Literacy (ELIT) data from the Istation assessment administered to grades K-2 was aggregated into an overall reading proficiency score. In 2021-22, Istation data are provided as a separate metric (ELIT). Only schools that serve grades K-2 will include ELIT data.

Because science is assessed only in grades 5, 8, and 11, schools that do not serve these grades have no science proficiency data.

Data are masked as follows in the charts shown below:

Students	Percentages Given	Data Masking
N = 0		Examples: In a group of 17 students, if the proficiency was 3% the chart would show ≤ 20% and if it was 98% it would show ≥ 80%.
N < 10	*****	
N = 10-20	20% to 80%	
N= 21-40	10% to 90%	

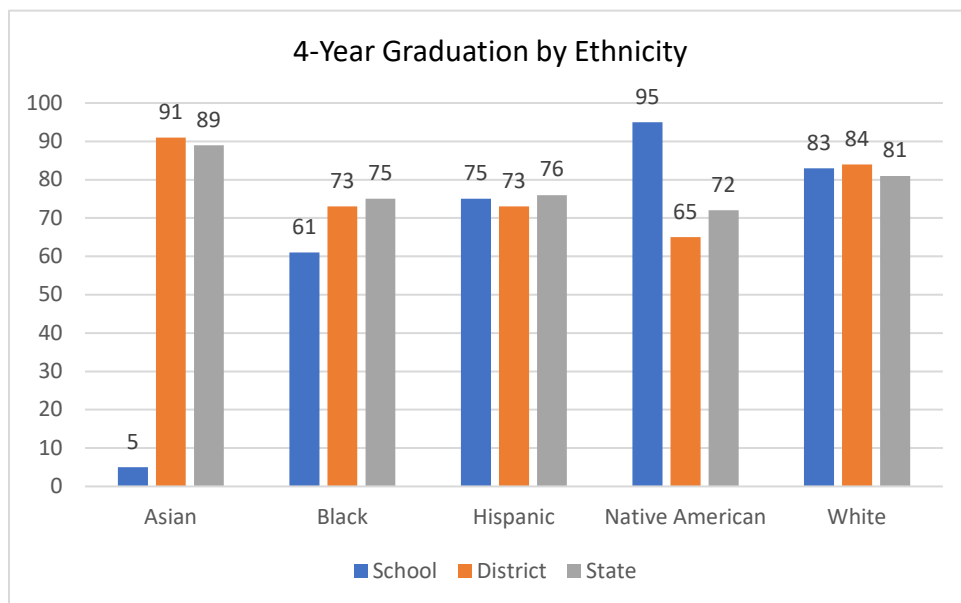
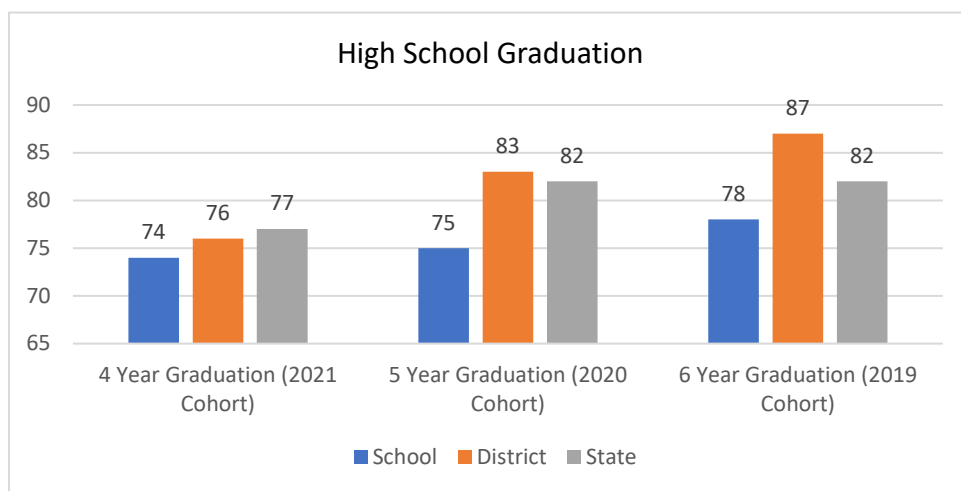
N = 41-100	5% to 95%	In a group of 59 students, if the proficiency was 3% the chart would show $\leq 5\%$ and if it was 98% the chart would show $\geq 95\%$.
N = 101-300	2% to 98%	
N > 300	1% to 100%	

Subgroup Proficiencies			
	Reading	Math	Science
All	56%	47%	54%
Asian	68%	$\geq 80\%$	*****
Black	45%	*****	*****
Hispanic	51%	41%	47%
Native	*****	*****	*****
White	62%	52%	60%
SwD	22%	23%	*****
EL		*****	
FRL	33%	27%	32%

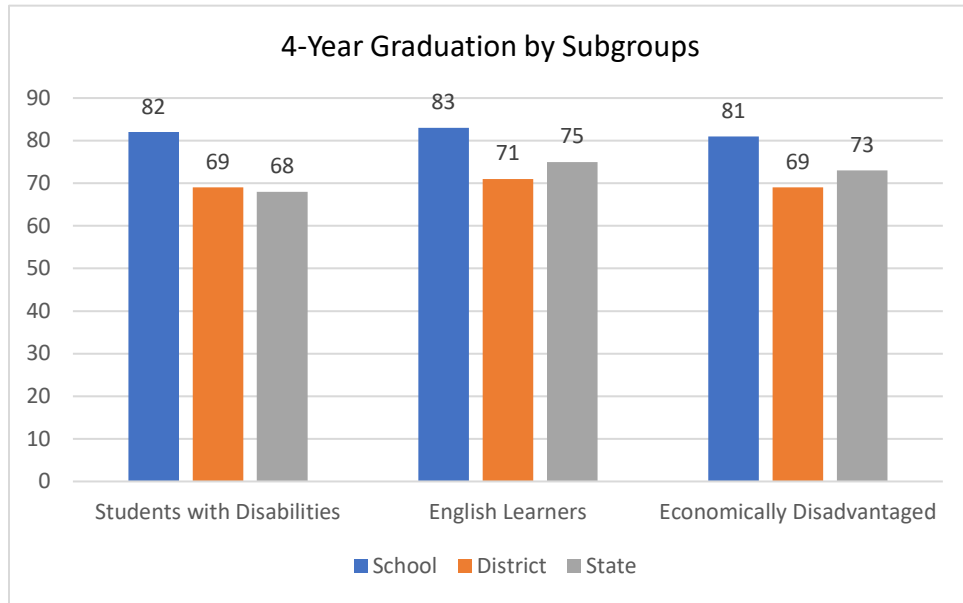
English Learner Progress toward Proficiency: 11%

High School Graduation

Data refer to prior year cohorts, with the most recent 4-year graduation data available for the 2021 graduation cohort, 5-year data for the 2020 cohort, and 6-year data for the 2019 cohort. The 4-year, 5-year, and 6-year graduation rates for these years are provided with comparative data for the state and district. The 4-year rate is then disaggregated by ethnicity and student group.



Note: The school-level percentage for the Asian category is $\leq 5\%$ in order to mask data due to student population size. The school-level percentage for the Native American category is $\geq 95\%$ in order to mask data due to student population size.



Mission-Specific Goal: At the end of each term, at least 70% of students, enrolled at both the 40th and 120th day, will pass* 80% of the standards-based exit exams administered as a measure of proficiency on each seminar's specific required standards and skills.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	At the end of each term, 81-100% of students will pass* 80% of the standards-based exit exams administered as a measure of proficiency on each seminar's specific required standards and skills.	100
Meets Standard	At the end of each term, 70-80% of students will pass* 80% of the standards-based exit exams administered as a measure of proficiency on each seminar's specific required standards and skills.	75
Does Not Meet Standard	At the end of each term, 50-69% of students will pass* 80% of the standards-based exit exams administered as a measure of proficiency on each seminar's specific required standards and skills.	25
Falls Far Below Standard	At the end of each term, below 50% of students will pass* 80% of the standards-based exit exams administered as a measure of proficiency on each seminar's specific required standards and skills.	0

Rating: Exceeds Standard (>81%)

Organizational and Financial Performance Framework

2021-22 Overall Rating: Meets Standard

Pursuant to the [PEC Performance Framework and Accountability System \(2019\)](#), schools receive ratings of **Meets Standard**, **Working to Meet Standard**, or **Does Not Meet Standard** for individual indicators in the framework. Explanations for any rating other than Meets Standard are provided below.

The school also receives an overall rating of either **Meets Standard** or **Does Not Meet Standard** for the year. If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating for three or more indicators, it will receive an overall rating of **Does Not Meet Standard**.

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