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Charter Schools Division 2021-22 Annual Report

School Name: Explore Academy Las Cruces

School Address: 900 N. Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011

Head Administrator: Karen Casedy

Governing Board Chair: Clara Welles Raley

Business Manager: Justine Vigil

Authorized Grade Levels: 6-12; currently serves grades 6-8

Authorized Enrollment: 700

2021-21 End of Year Enrollment: 85

Contract Term: 2021-2026

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.

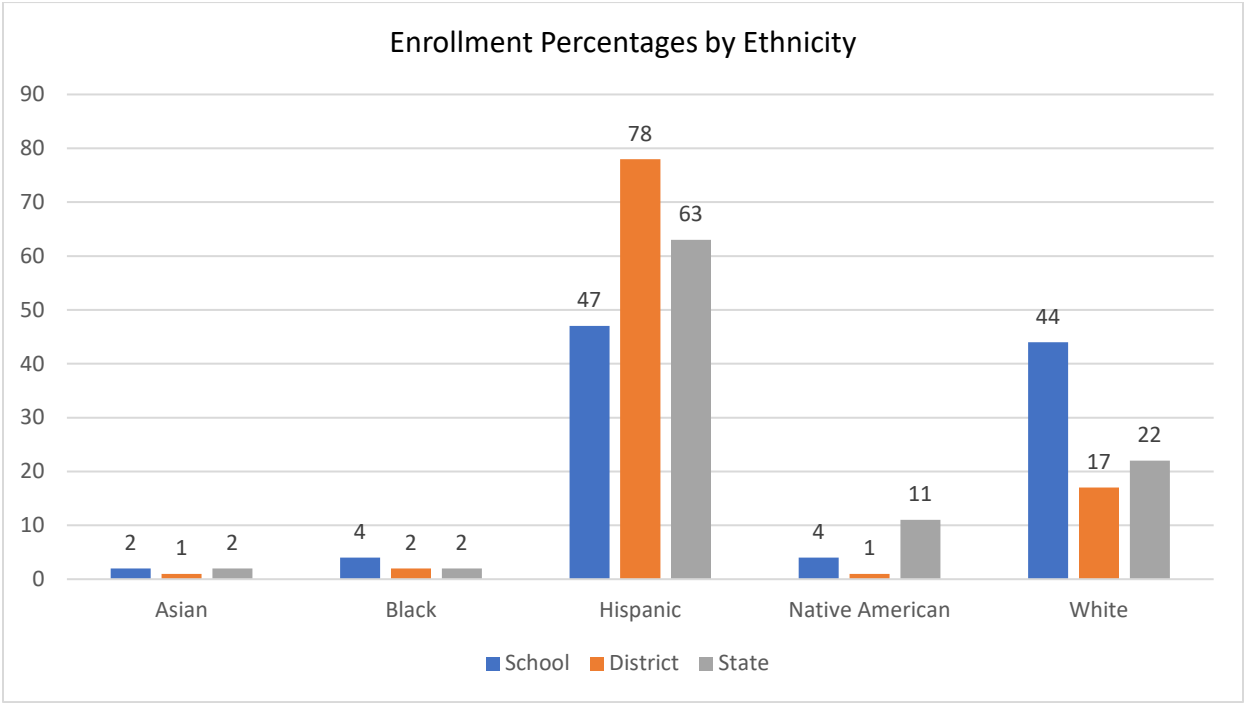
About the School

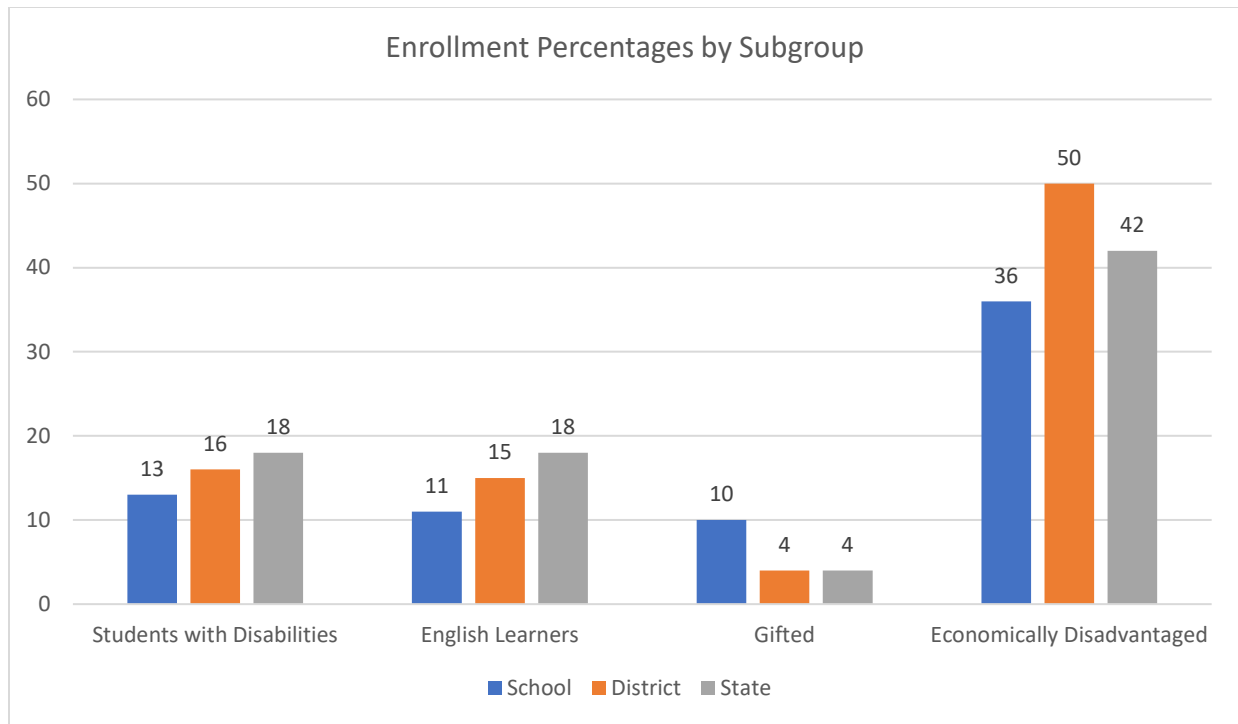
Explore Academy Las Cruces opened in 2021 and is authorized to serve grades 6-12, but currently serves grades 6-8. The school has a relationship with the non-profit, Explore Academy Foundation of which the primary purpose is to manage the lease for the school's buildings.

Explore Academy Las Cruces 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 with mid-high students changing every quarter. 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 regular teacher-parent contact via email or phone call, 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	43
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	93
Overall Academic Score: average of Indicators 1 and 3	68

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 Las Cruces ranked above **38.3%** of high schools statewide. The school received a designation of **Traditional Support 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:
N < 10	*****	

N = 10-20	20% to 80%	In a group of 17 students, if the proficiency was 3% the chart would show $\leq 20\%$ and if it was 98% it would show $\geq 80\%$.
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	42%	40%	52%
Asian			
Black			
Hispanic	38%	36%	*****
Native	*****		*****
White	49%	54%	*****
SwD			
EL	*****	*****	
FRL	29%	29%	*****

English Learner Progress toward Proficiency: 11%

Mission-Specific Goal: 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.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	At the end of each term, more than 80% of students, enrolled on 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.	100
Meets Standard	At the end of each term, at least 60% of students, enrolled on 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	75
Does Not Meet Standard	At the end of each term, at least 50% of students, enrolled on 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	25
Falls Far Below Standard	At the end of each term, less than 50% of students, enrolled on 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.	0

Rating: Exceeds Standard (93%)

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 Las Cruces	2021-22
Organizational and Financial Performance	
1a Mission and Educational Program	Meets Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Meets Standard
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Meets Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	N/A
2a Financial Reporting and Compliance	N/A
2b Accounting Principles	N/A
2c Responsive to Audit Findings	N/A
2d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard
2e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard
2f Internal Controls	N/A
3a Governance Requirements	Meets Standard
3b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard
3c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard
4a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard
4b Attendance and Retention	Working to Meet Standard
4c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard
4d Employee Rights	Meets Standard
4e Background Checks, Ethics	Meets Standard
5a Facilities	Meets Standard
5b Transportation	Meets Standard
5c Health and Safety	Meets Standard
5d Handling Information	Meets Standard

Explanation of 2021-22 Indicator Ratings

4.b. The school's attendance rate as reported in the STARS 2021-22 EOY report was 92%. The target rate is 95%.