



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)

ARSENIO ROMERO, Ph.D.  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

**Charter Schools Division  
Preliminary Renewal Analysis and Recommendation  
November 1, 2023**

**School Name:** Middle College High School

**School Address:** 705 Gurley Ave Gallup, NM 87301

**Head Administrator:** Dr. Robert Hunter

**Governing Board Chair:** Lisa Bracken

**Contract Term:** 2019–2024

**Statutory Renewal Requirements**

According to New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1979, Section 22-8B-12 K., a charter may be suspended, revoked, or not renewed by the chartering authority if the chartering authority determines that the charter school:

- (1) committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards or procedures set forth in the charter contract;
- (2) failed to meet or make substantial progress toward achievement of the department's standards of excellence or student performance standards identified in the charter contract;
- (3) failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- (4) for a charter school located on tribal land, failed to comply with ongoing consultations pursuant to the Indian Education Act; or
- (5) violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

## Preliminary Renewal Recommendation

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) recommends a five year renewal with no conditions.

### Part B: Progress Report

The school's narratives in Part B are rated Meets Standard, Demonstrates Substantial Progress, or Failing to Demonstrate Progress according to the rubric on pages 6-7 of the 2023 Charter School Renewal Application.

Part B: Progress Report	
Academic Performance	Rating
1.a. Student Outcomes	Meets the Standards
1.b. Mission-Specific Goals	Meets the Standards
Organizational Performance	Rating
2.a. Educational Program	Meets the Standards
2.b. Financial Compliance	Meets the Standards
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Meets the Standards
2.d. Equity and Identity	Meets the Standards
2.e. Tribal Consultation	Meets the Standards
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Demonstrates Substantial Progress

#### 1.a. Student Outcomes

For the 2021-22, Middle College High School received a designation of a Spotlight school, performing in the top 25% of New Mexico Schools. The school's proficiency rates for reading, math, and science were 45%, masked and 52% respectively, compared to statewide proficiencies of 34%, 25%, and 33%, per New Mexico Vistas Data (10/31/2023). For the most recent year available (cohort 2021), the schoolwide graduation rate (93%) exceeded both the district (Gallup-McKinley Schools, 77%) and the statewide average (77%). Graduation rates for all subgroups exceeded district and state rates as well, with the graduation rate for both English learners and students with disabilities 95% and the rate for Native American students 86%. Native American students' rates were 95% for 5-year and 6-year graduation. Prior year graduation data (cohorts 2020 and 2019) also demonstrate strong performance.

The PED is releasing 2022-23 [Vistas](#) data publicly at 5:00 PM on November 1, 2023. The data were provided to CSD the morning of November 1 so it could be incorporated into this report. Overall Vistas score was not available prior to the public release, but the school's 2022-23 proficiency and growth rates, compared with the district where the school is located and statewide data, are:

2022-23 PED Accountability Data	Proficiency			Growth	
	ELA	Math	Science	ELA	Math
Middle College High School	55%	25%	58%	9%	17%
Gallup-McKinley Schools	28%	18%	24%	7%	0%
New Mexico Statewide	38%	24%	34%	4%	0%

**1.b. Mission-specific Goals**

The school has received an overall rating of Meets Standard by the Charter Schools Division for its Mission-specific goals during each year of the current charter contract. The school has rated “Exceeds Standards” for one of its two mission-specific goals during each of the last three years.

**2.a. Educational Program**

As evidenced during parent, student and teacher focus group interviews conducted on site during the renewal visit, the school’s educational program is being delivered to all students as described in the contract and in [Part B](#) of the school’s application.

The school's main focus is to provide high quality instruction to all students through both college preparatory courses and dual credit college classes with the aim of seniors graduating with an associate degree. After graduating Middle College, many students go on to Ivy league universities and other prestigious postsecondary institutions. Students reported in a focus group that they feel very well equipped and prepared to go on to college. Postsecondary enrollment and retention data (rates are for students who persist into the second semester of college) demonstrate the school’s success: during the contract term, the percentages of graduates enrolling in college and persisting for more than a semester were 79%, 81%, 81% and 90% for years 1-4 respectively.

Students enroll in study skills classes, a weekly seminar exploring college and career options, and are supported with 480 minutes of tutoring per week. Students receive assistance in applying for financial aid and some graduates receive full-ride scholarships. The school offers FAFSA night which provides information and support to students and their families about how to apply for financial aid.

The school also tracks students post high school graduation beginning in the Spring semester by following up with families to ascertain whether students are persisting in postsecondary education past the first semester (one of the school’s mission-specific goals).

Teachers co-teach weekly seminar classes, as observed during CSD annual site visits over the course of the contract term.

Students reported in a focus group that the school provides effective support with both academics and in terms of social-emotional support. Student and teacher focus groups reported that students receive 1:1 support and tutoring from teachers at office hours. Teachers in a focus group expressed a dedication to making Middle College the best college preparatory school in New Mexico. Teachers feel supported by the school's administration and report providing intensive support to students with disabilities and English learners.

## **2.b. Financial Compliance**

The school had only a single audit finding over the course of the contract term, a material weakness finding related to a tech software issue that incorrectly recorded fund balances was resolved through a program fix.

Axiom Analytics, the financial management service provider, follows a structured workflow for managing finances, consistent with the processes used for all schools under their management, and has been effective in addressing challenges.

The school has a substantial cash reserve, part of which is planned for use in constructing a new facility, which will allow the school to apply for an increase in its enrollment cap. During the last legislative session, the school received a special appropriation of \$75,000, which will be used to purchase essential equipment and infrastructure improvements.

## **2.c. Governance Responsibilities**

The school meets all governance requirements in all contract years.

## **2.d. Equity and Identity**

Over the course of the contract term, the school has seen an increase in Native enrollment from 58% to 73%. The school has also increased Native representation on the staff to one third, and half of the governing board members are also Native American, this is very important as in past years the board was not very diverse. The board just approved a new grading scale policy which makes grading more equitable and accurate for all students. This new grading policy was designed to change by the means of: letter grades shall be given as A, B, C, or I (incomplete; anything below a 70%) and zeros are not accepted as a grade. The school has an Equity Council and has provided professional development to the staff on culturally and linguistically responsive instruction.

## **2.e. Tribal Consultation**

The school has met the requirements of the Indian Education Act (NMSA 22-23A) and 6.35.2 NMAC with tribal consultation confirmed by the Navajo Nation's Department of Dine Education.

**2.f. Other Performance Indicators**

In the first two years of the charter term MCHS was rated Working to Meet Standard for indicator 1.d. Rights of English Learners (ELs) due to improper identification of ELs. During the 2020-21 school year the school had 34 students on the STARS ELP Error Report. Since then the school has made significant improvements resulting in a rating of Meets Standard for the last two years.

<b>Unrated Sections of Application</b>	
Part D: Petitions of Support	Submitted as Required
Part E: Facilities	Submitted as Required
Part F: Change in Authorizer	N/A