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

School Name: San Diego Riverside Charter School

School Address: Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024

Head Administrator: Cliff Tompson

Governing Board Chair: Margie Creel

Contract Term: 2019–2024

Authorizer: Jemez Valley Public Schools

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 the following conditions: 1) Governing Board members obtain training in accordance with NMAC 6.80.5 before the end of the 2023-24 SY; and 2) leadership and Governing Board review the questions posed by Jemez Valley Public Schools to develop a compliance corrective action plan an any applicable items.

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	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
1.b. Mission-Specific Goals	N/A
Organizational Performance	Rating
2.a. Educational Program	Unable to Rate
2.b. Financial Compliance	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.d. Equity and Identity	Meets the Standards
2.e. Tribal Consultation	Meets the Standards
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	N/A

1.a. Student Outcomes

Limited data is available for the charter term due to Covid and the school being under district-authorization. However, during 2021-22, data from NMVistas indicates that San Diego Riverside performed only better than 5.6% of New Mexico schools. The school received a designation of CSI – Low Performing, meaning schools scoring in the bottom 5% of all Title I schools. The school’s proficiency rates for 2021-22 were masked on NMVistas due to small sample sizes.

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
San Diego Riverside Charter School	18%	6%	15%	9%	6%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	17%	6%	12%	3%	2%
New Mexico Statewide	38%	24%	34%	4%	0%

These growth rates in ELA and Math are substantial. Furthermore, SDR has submitted a Literacy Plan with the PED.

1.b. Mission-specific Goals

Not applicable as the school is a district-authorized charter school and not under the PEC Performance Framework.

2.a. Educational Program

San Diego Riverside Charter School (SDR) has been district authorized, however, they have not had an official contract with Jemez Valley Public Schools. The educational plan used for the purposes of evaluating [Part B](#) of their renewal application to the PEC was gleaned from their renewal contract from 2019. While SDR has met several components of their educational plan, some elements have not been implemented. According to their 2019 renewal contract, the main components of the education plan are as follows:

- Towa language and culture instruction: the school currently demonstrates implementation of Towa language and culture instruction. CSD observed that Towa is offered as a distinct period of instruction for each grade level, and teachers indicated that they are aiming to integrate it more into other subjects across the curriculum.
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) for English language learners: this method has not been used by instructors, as evidenced by observations and teacher focus groups. However, the school has a TESOL-certified teacher on site, and the school has EAs who speak Towa.
- Targeted, site-based remediation programs in collaboration with JVPS SPED: this element of the educational program has not been implemented. According to focus groups, the district does not share funds or data, and has not collaborated with San Diego Riverside.
- PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act)-- strategy for students to take ownership of their own progress: focus groups indicated that this has not been implemented.
- Integration of computer technology into the learning environment: CSD observed that this element of the educational plan is in place. School leaders indicated that the transition to online learning during Covid was challenging in their community, but they were able to get devices and internet access to their students.

- Community-based learning: this component of the educational plan is very strong at San Diego Riverside. The community is invited to participate with lessons and celebrations on a regular basis. Several community members and tribal leaders were present during CSD's visit, and actively participated in lessons, cooking, artwork, and more.
- Experiential learning activities: students are clearly engaged in experiential learning at San Diego Riverside. CSD witnessed this first-hand, for example, the students were learning the recipe for fry bread in Towa in the classroom, and then went outside to the horno and made the fry bread. Another group of students were learning about the growing cycle in science, and then went out to the gardens and picked chiles. Focus groups confirmed that experiential learning is a regular part of the curriculum.

The CSD is not rating has not rated this section since it was not made clear to the school in its current charter term with JVPS that these were the agreed upon components of the educational program.

2.b. Financial Compliance

The school has had three to four audit findings in each year of the contract term, however none were material weakness findings and only two findings were repeat and three significant deficiency across the contract term.

The school's workflow is complex, involving several steps for different financial processes, including purchases orders, payroll and contracts and appears to be designed to ensure proper approval and compliance. The head administrator is new and is committed to working closely with the business manager to ensure responsible financial management.

The board does not currently have a finance or an audit committee but will establish both committees to enhance financial oversight, transparency and compliance.

The overall approach to financial management and its connection to student achievement and success appears to be structured and improving over time.

2.c. Governance Responsibilities

The governing board did not meet training requirements for any year of the contract term. The school did not have five members for the entire duration of the contract term. Governance notifications are not applicable as the school is a district-authorized charter school.

Currently, the board has full membership with 5 members, and three new board members have recently registered for board training classes with CSD.

2.d. Equity and Identity

San Diego Riverside Charter School is situated within the Jemez pueblo. It not only honors the culture of the pueblo, it is uniquely woven into the life of it. The Towa language and culture are actively implemented in the educational program, and the school even serves as a hub for cultural activities and celebrations. As mentioned in the educational plan, community members and tribal leaders are invited to participate in guiding and teaching the students; tribal leaders

have served on the governing board. In this way, San Diego Riverside, with its rich history on the pueblo, could be said to be a model school for local identity.

In addition, the school has met all equity guidelines in the renewal application, including having an Equity Council. San Diego Riverside complies with the Martinez-Yazzie mandate “to provide culturally and linguistically relevant instruction and to support and validate students’ cultures, identities, and sense of belonging.” Furthermore, the school has worked to protect the rights of all students, fostering a supportive, culturally-responsive environment with small-group and one-on-one instruction.

2.e. Tribal Consultation

The school has met the requirements of the Indian Education Act (NMSA 22-23A) and 6.35.2 NMAC.

2.f. Other Performance Indicators

Not applicable as the school is a district-authorized charter school and not under the PEC Performance Framework.

Unrated Sections of Application	
Part D: Petitions of Support	Submitted as Required
Part E: Facilities	Submitted as Required
Part F: Change in Authorizer	Submitted as Required

Note: The authorizer was unable to provide a signed contract with SDR, and did not conduct annual site visits, nor annual reports as feedback to the school each year of the charter term. They did, however, send contractors to the school in the 2022-23 SY, which resulted in several questions and concerns over the charter’s compliance. The CSD finds some of the items have been corrected, others need correction and some are not applicable.