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**Charter Schools Division  
Final Renewal Recommendation  
Revised December 1, 2023**

**School Name:** Cesar Chavez Community School

**School Address:** 1325 Palomas Drive SE Albuquerque, NM 87108

**Head Administrator:** Tani Arness

**Governing Board Chair:** Anacelie Verdo-Claro

**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.

## CSD Renewal Recommendation

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) recommends renewal for five (5) years with the following conditions which are based on criteria required by law for charter renewal:

**Condition 1:** Cesar Chavez Community School (CCCS) “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,” as the proficiency rates have dropped in ELA, some graduation rates have decreased, and the school maintained the designation of More Rigorous Intervention (MRI). Therefore, CCCS will demonstrate a record of continuous academic improvement over the duration of the charter term. Using their 90-day DASH plans and annual Ed Plan, CCCS will present their academic progress at the June or July PEC meeting each year of the term.

**Condition 2:** CCCS “violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted” as the school has had “Working to Meets” for indicator *1.c. Rights of Students with Disabilities* on their performance framework for 3 out of 4 years of the term, and CSD recently learned that the school was placed on a Special Education Corrective Action Plan (CAP) stemming from a formal complaint to the PED Special Education Division. CCCS must successfully complete the Special Education CAP in accordance with PED requirements and timelines.

### Part B: Progress Report

The schools’ 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	Failing to Demonstrate Progress*
1.b. Mission-Specific Goals	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
Organizational Performance	Rating
2.a. Educational Program	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
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	N/A
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Demonstrates Substantial Progress

\*The narrative describes specific adult actions taken to improve performance; however, an evaluation of data and evidence does not demonstrate at least two years of sustained improvement toward meeting the standard.

#### 1.a. Student Outcomes

Cesar Chavez Community School does not have a record of Meeting Standards for all years of their contract term. CCCS graduation rate is below the state average, but their graduation recovery rate of graduation at years 5 and 6 has continued to increase (from 64% in 2020-21 SY to 81% in 2021-22 SY) each school year. Participation on interim assessments is a continued area of growth, and the school has implemented many adult actions to increase participation and student scores on these assessments. The school supports staff with implementing 360 degrees of student support and trauma-informed practices to ensure higher participation on interim assessments. Student reading and math scores have gradually increased each year of their contract term when reviewing these assessment results.

The PED released 2022-23 [Vistas](#) data publicly in November 2023. The overall Vistas score is provided below, as well as the school’s 2022-23 proficiency and growth rates compared with the district where the school is located and statewide data.

**2022-23 NMVistas score: 29**

**2022-23 Designation: MRI**

**2021-22 NMVistas score : 20**

**2021-22 Designation: MRI Grad**

2022-23 PED Accountability Data	Proficiency			Growth	
	ELA	Math	Science	ELA	Math
Cesar Chavez Community School	5%	< 5%*	23%	-7%	0%
Albuquerque Public Schools	40%	25%	35%	4%	0%
New Mexico Statewide	38%	24%	34%	4%	0%

\*Math proficiency is < 5% due to small N size.

Graduation Rates			
CCCS	4-year	5-year	6-year
2021-22	Masked: cohort 2021	36% cohort 2020	39% cohort 2019
2022-23	34% cohort 2022	26% cohort 2021	44% cohort 2020

Source: NMVistas.org

### 1.b. Mission-specific Goals

The school’s Mission-specific Goal data collection has been problematic over the course of the term and 2022-23 data was not submitted by the time of application. However, during the renewal site visit, the school was able to provide data that demonstrates that the school met both Mission-specific Goals. The school provided documentation of their Mission Specific Goal # 1 specific to graduates from the prior school year and their post-secondary placements. Student support staff have a communication system in order to collect accurate and current qualitative

and quantitative data about the steps students have taken since graduating high school. CCCS was able to provide evidence of the multilayered supports they provide students in order for them to be successful in reaching Mission Specific Goal # 2, and the school has met or exceeded this goal each year of the contract term.

## **2.a. Educational Program**

Cesar Chavez Community School (CCCS) displayed significant adult actions and documentation that support the implementation of their Educational Program, as described in the contract, and explained in [Part B](#) of the school's renewal application. Various stakeholder groups noted there are multiple high levels of individual student support in place to assist students in completing high school and their post-secondary steps. The school utilizes a hybrid model in which students select in person learning or online learning in order to obtain their required credits. Focus groups noted that they appreciate the flexibility the different options of engagement provide, and feel they are being accommodated by the school to succeed in earning a diploma and with their next steps in life. Each student is paired with a mentor that stays in constant communication with them and their family about attendance, academic progress and social emotional needs.

The school's hybrid educational program was evident across focus groups and classroom observations. The school has developed an education program that integrates the Paideia method through high level questioning and content specific to real world (life applications). This method of instruction was observed during renewal visit in person and zoom (online) classroom observation; where students are meeting with teachers on zoom in a "Learning Lab" or joining from outside the school, or receiving rich in-person learning collaboratively with their peers. This education program provides multiple ways for students to connect and reconnect with school and allows for an individualized learning experience.

It was evident through all focus groups that the community at CCCS provides much more than an education for students. Students and families were grateful for the school and all of the multilayered interventions and supports they provide. Parent and student focus groups lauded staff and administration for the in class and out of class accommodations provided in order to implement their "high ceiling, low threshold" pedagogy. Teacher focus groups enjoy the flexibility that the school provides in order to "meet students where they are at" so they obtain their diplomas. Teachers feel supported through professional development to implement the unique education program and provide the necessary student support.

There is a team of people supporting Special Education reporting and services. This allows the school to be responsive to students' special needs and ensure that the school is maintaining all the required documentation. On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the CSD was informed by the Special Education Department (PED) that CCCS was placed on a SPED corrective action plan. SED indicated that, so far, "the school staff has been diligent in responding to this CAP," and they will continue to monitor.

In addition, the school has implemented an attendance intervention plan to support students holistically in being successful attending school. The school has begun offering more

trade-based and post-secondary prep experiences as well as a bilingual seal pathway for native Spanish speakers.

The school is still developing their hybrid learning education program, and many families and students would like to see more in person learning options. It was evident through focus groups and observation that CCCS' service-learning component of the educational program could use more attention now that the school is back in person and providing more out of school experiences for students.

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

The school has had no significant deficiency, material weakness, or repeat audit findings in any fiscal year of the contract term.

Cesar Chavez Community School Education Foundation supports the school by providing resources, including lease purchase options. The foundation has made improvements in response to audit findings, such as hiring a new CPA.

The school receives funding based on demographics and provides additional resources to support student success, including funding related to the Family Index. The school reviews these funds with the director monthly to determine improvements to student achievement.

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

The school meets all governance requirements in all contract years. The stability and consistency in the school's board is notable.

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

Cesar Chavez Community School has a well-established Equity Council that meets regularly. Their members include stakeholders that represent some of the subgroups identified in the Yazzie/ Martinez Lawsuit. The school has made significant progress on their Equity in Action items and has used these along with community voice to inform many of their practices. The council regularly makes recommendations for curricular and policy changes, the most recent programmatic change was to begin offering the Bilingual Seal program at the school.

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

The school does not fall under the Indian Education Act (NMSA 22-23A) or the 6.35.2 NMAC definition of a "historically defined Indian-impacted" school.

### **2.f. Other Performance Indicators**

The site visit team can verify observable evidence that CCCS has implemented systemic improvement to increase support and documentation for Special Education students. This year, the school added a co-director of Special Ed. The school has a team of people supporting students with an IEP through multilayered interventions and significant improvements in their reporting and documenting of services. In addition, the school has implemented a tiered

attendance intervention plan to increase attendance and school retention. CCCS has implemented a plan to increase assessment participation through communication interventions and extending testing windows.

<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

## Multi-Year Performance Framework Ratings

Cesar Chavez Community School	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Organizational and Financial Performance				
1a Mission and Educational Program	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Not Reviewed	Not Reviewed	Does Not Meet Standard	Pending
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	N/A	N/A	Meets Standard	Not Rated
2a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2b Accounting Principles	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2c Responsive to Audit Findings	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
2e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard
2f Internal Controls	N/A	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3a Governance Requirements	Meets Standard		Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
3c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4b Attendance and Retention	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
4c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4d Employee Rights	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard
4e Background Checks, Ethics	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5a Facilities	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5b Transportation	N/A	Assurances	N/A	N/A
5c Health and Safety	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
5d Handling Information	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

Source: CSD Internal Monitoring

### Site Visit Participants

**CSD (in person):** Corina Chavez; Kristen LaVolpa; **CSD (remote):** Kimberly Gonzalez

**School Administration:** Tani Arness, Head Administrator; Nathan Everett, Dean of Students; Rebekah Runyan, Business Manager

**School Governing Board:** Anacelie Verde-Claro, President