

**Hózhó Academy Enrollment Cap Amendment Request
Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting February 16, 2024
Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis**

Hózhó Academy requests PEC approval to amend its contract to increase its enrollment cap from 728 to 1,200 students. The amendment was received by the Charter Schools Division on January 19, 2024. As required, the school provided a rationale for the change, board minutes, and a narrative with most of the items included.

Enrollment, Expansion, Waitlist

The school is authorized to serve grades K-12 and has been adding one grade per year since opening and currently serves 680 students grades K-10. If class sizes remain the same as they are currently, with no additional classes added other than a new kindergarten cohort each year, the school would be unable to continue adding a grade a year effective 2024-25.

The school has a waiting list of 166 students and would like to increase the cap to add one additional class per grade in addition to the enrollment increase that will occur as current students advance to grades 11 (2024-25) and 12 (2025-26) as new kindergarten classes are admitted.

An enrollment cap increase was discussed at the school's renewal hearing in December 2022 but the school and the Commission agreed that it would be better to renew the school with its existing cap and amend the contract to raise the cap later in order for the school to be eligible for Charter School Program (CSP) grant funding, which is available only to new and expanding charter schools.

Staffing and the Community

The narrative does not discuss the effects of expansion in the community but claims "great support" from the community and provides waitlist information. The narrative acknowledges challenges in staffing in the Gallup area, cites high teacher retention but does not provide data.

Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

The narrative discusses training and support for teachers, and does not provide details on the effect of expansion on existing systems.

Facility

The school’s current facility at 515 Park Ave. in Gallup has an occupancy capacity of 850. The school requested and received an amendment in 2023 to temporarily move their middle school (grades 7 and 8) to a facility around the corner from the main facility. All students begin the school day at the main campus and the middle school students are transported by bus to their instructional site.

The school is working on a Facilities Master Plan to increase the capacity of the main campus in phases: first portables, followed by two phases of construction. In order to apply for bonding funding for the project, the school must first have an approved enrollment cap increase. The request does not specify the capacity needed, but states that once funding is secured, the Facilities Master Plan can be finalized and an amendment for additional square footage will be submitted for PEC approval.

Academic Performance

A request to increase the enrollment cap by more than 20% requires current year academic data in support of the request. The school submitted NWEA interim assessment data that shows that across grade levels, students at Hózhó Academy were in the 28th percentile in reading proficiency and the 29th percentile in math proficiency compared to students taking the NWEA assessment nationally, but in the 53rd percentile of students nationally in reading growth and in the 63rd percentile of students nationally for math growth (see amendment submission for grade-level data).

Hózhó Academy received a **Traditional** designation in NM Vistas for both 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. The school’s Vistas score was **14** in 2021-22 and **44** in 2022-23. Proficiency and English Learner (EL) progress data for the past two years are as follows:

Proficiency	Reading		Math		Science		EL Progress	
	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
Hózhó Academy	≤ 20%	30%	≤ 20%	14%	≤ 20%	22%	masked	17%
Gallup	20%	21%	17%	17%	25%	26%	≤ 5%	not available
New Mexico	34%	38%	25%	24%	33%	34%	7%	5%

Organizational and Financial Performance

Hózhó Academy renewed its contract in 2023 so the performance framework ratings shown below are from the prior contract term (2018-2023).

Hózhó Academy	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Academic Performance				
1 State Accountability System	Does Not Meet Standard	Not Available	Not Available	Pending
2 Subgroup Performance	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Pending
3 Mission-Specific Goals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Organizational and Financial Performance				
1a Mission and Educational Program	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Not Reviewed	Meets Standard
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Working to Meet Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard
2b Accounting Principles	N/A	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard
2c Responsive to Audit Findings	N/A	Working to Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2f Internal Controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3a Governance Requirements	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
3b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
3c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Working to Meet Standard
4a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
4b Attendance and Retention	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4c Staff Credentialing	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
4d Employee Rights	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
4e Background Checks, Ethics	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5a Facilities	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5b Transportation	N/A	Meets Standard	Assurances	N/A
5c Health and Safety	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard
5d Handling Information	Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Assurances	Meets Standard