



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

**Pecos Cyber Academy Enrollment Cap Amendment Request
Charter Schools Division Analysis
Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting, June 21, 2024**

Pecos Cyber Academy requests PEC approval to amend its contract to increase its enrollment cap from 2,000 to 2,500 students, which is more than 20% of the current cap.

As of 4/22/24 the school is serving 1,893 students. The school has received 129 new applications for 2024-25 and will have a waiting list if the enrollment cap is not increased.

School's rationale: Being unable to admit students on the waiting list would constitute a hardship for prospective students and families.

CSD Analysis:

For SY 2022-23 the school received an NM Vistas designation of Traditional with 52.9 points, slightly above the 50th percentile of all schools in the state. 2022-23 proficiencies (with state comparisons in parentheses) were: Reading 33% (38%), Math 18% (24%) and Science 34% (34%). The 2022 cohort 4-year graduation rate was 80% (76%).

The school rated Working to Meet Standard on both of its mission-specific goals in 2022-23: 65% of students enrolled for a full academic year will achieve the student's annual academic growth target or more on the short cycle assessment in math and reading. In math 54.6% of students met or exceeded the standard; in reading 59.5% met or exceeded.

The school provided interim assessment data for 2023-24 (see school submission) for Star Math and Reading that showed overall proficiency on this assessment increasing from 32% in 2022-23 to 46% in reading and from 19% to 35% in math. The school attributes this increase to providing more targeted direct instruction and support, as well as hiring additional interventionists to accommodate student learning needs.

The school's rating on the 2022-23 Organizational and Financial Performance Framework was Meets the Standard. See screenshot below for individual indicators; 2022-23 was the first year of the school's contract.

The school's demographics (compared to state) in 2022-23 were: Students with Disabilities 19% (19%), English Learners 5% (18%), Economically Disadvantaged 44% (43%), Asian 1% (2%), Black 2% (2%), Hispanic 59% (64%), Native American 7% (11%), White 31% (21%).

Pecos Connections Academy	2022-23
Organizational 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	Meets Standard
2a Governance Requirements	Does Not Meet Standard
2b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard
2c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard
3a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard
3b Attendance and Retention	Working to Meet Standard
3c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard
3d Employee Rights	Meets Standard
3e Background Checks, Ethics	Meets Standard
4a Facilities	Meets Standard
4b Transportation	N/A
4c Health and Safety	Meets Standard
4d Handling Information	Meets Standard
4e Information accessible to the public	Meets Standard
4f School climate	Meets Standard
5a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Meets Standard
5b Accounting Principles	Meets Standard
5c Responsive to Audit Findings	Working to Meet Standard
5d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard
5e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard
5f Internal Controls	Meets Standard

CSD Recommendation: An enrollment cap increase of 500 students, a 25% increase, is significant, and difficult to justify for a school with reading and math proficiencies below the state average and which is not meeting its mission-specific goals. The PEC may wish to consider an enrollment cap increase that would allow the students currently on the waiting list to enroll, with consideration of a larger enrollment cap increase when new data showing improved academic performance are available.