

New Mexico Public Education Commission



Explore Academy

2024-2029

(Titles are hyperlinks, click to go to document)

Contract

Performance Framework

Academic

School specific/mission specific goal

Organizational

Financial

Mission-Specific Goals

Board of Finance designation

PEC and Governing Board approval

New Mexico Public Education Commission



New Mexico Charter School
Contract
Performance Framework
Mission Goal 1 and Mission Goal 2

For Explore Academy
For the charter term: 2024-2029

Public Education Commission
300 Don Gaspar Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 827-6909
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Charter Contract
Between the New Mexico Public Education Commission
and
Explore Academy

This Charter Contract is hereby entered into by and between the New Mexico Public Education Commission (“Commission”), and Explore Academy (“School”), a New Mexico charter school, by and through the School’s Governing Body, known as the Explore Academy Governing body (“Governing Body”) effective this 1 day of July 2024. Hereafter, each party may be referred to as “Party” or both parties as “Parties.”

WHEREAS, the Commission is created pursuant to Article 12, Section 6 of the New Mexico Constitution, with such powers and duties as are provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized pursuant to the Charter Schools Act to approve new and renewing charter school applications and to negotiate in good faith and execute, charter contracts that meet the requirements of the Act with the governing body of an authorized state charter school;

WHEREAS, the Commission is further authorized pursuant to the Charter Schools Act, to monitor charter schools’ compliance with the requirements of the Act, applicable provisions of the New Mexico Administrative Code and the Charter Contract;

WHEREAS, the Commission is further authorized pursuant to the Charter Schools Act to determine whether to approve a new charter school application and whether an authorized State charter school merits revocation, nonrenewal, or renewal with conditions;

WHEREAS, the Commission approved the School’s charter renewal application on December 12, 2023 and now enters this Charter Contract with the School’s Governing Body; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Charter Schools Act, the Parties wish to enter into this Charter Contract, in order to define each Party’s responsibilities, and identify the financial, academic, and operational performance expectations that will guide the monitoring, oversight, and evaluation of the School by the Commission and the Charter Schools Division of the New Mexico Public Education Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the representations and mutual promises herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Terms shall have the meaning as specified in this section wherever used in this Charter Contract, including the foregoing recitals, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. Where applicable, terms defined in the Commission Rule shall use the definitions set forth there.

“Chair” means the chairperson of the Commission, as elected by the members of the Commission, pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

“Charter Representative(s)” means the chair, president, or other member of the Governing Body authorized by the Governing Body to legally bind the School to the Charter Contract and any other designated school official who will provide information to the Commission or CSD on behalf of the School as set forth in this Charter Contract or Commission Rule.

“Charter Schools Act” means §§ 22-8B-1, *et seq.* NMSA 1978 as may be amended.

“Commission” means the Public Education Commission.

“Commission Rule” means a regulation governing the Commission’s oversight responsibilities issued pursuant to the State Rules Act (§§14-4-1 to 11 NMSA 1978,) and codified as 6.2.9.1, *et seq.* NMAC as may be amended. If the Commission Rule as contemplated herein is not codified, the proposed Commission Rule, Exhibit D, shall govern the relevant provisions of this Charter Contract until such time as the Commission Rule is codified, and the Commission Rule shall then apply, and Exhibit D shall have no further effect.

“Commission Website” means the web page maintained by the Department on behalf of the Commission and the location where the Commission posts and maintains as current the PEC’s Procedures and its directives, instructions, templates and forms, and timelines adopted by it pursuant to Commission Rule (6.2.9.7 (Y.) NMAC).

“Corrective Action Plan” means a plan developed by the School and submitted to, and approved by, the Commission to remedy operational or financial violations or problems or to address academic performance issues under the Intervention Ladder pursuant to the Charter Schools Act and Commission Rule (6.2.9.13. NMAC).

“CSD” means the Charter Schools Division of the Department as established by the Charter Schools Act, §22-8B-17 NMSA 1978, to

- A. provide staff support to the commission;
- B. provide technical support to all charter schools;
- C. review and approve state-chartered charter school budget matters; and
- D. make recommendations to the commission regarding the approval, denial, suspension or revocation of the charter of a state-chartered charter school.

“Days” means unless otherwise specified in a provision in the Commission Rule or applicable statute, business days when the period referenced is 10 days or less, and calendar days when the period referenced is 11 days or more. In computing the number of days, exclude the day of the event that triggers the period, and include the last day of the period. If the last day is a day when the Department or Charter School is closed, the period continues to run until the end of the next business day that the Department or Charter School is not closed.

“Department” means the Public Education Department of the State of New Mexico.

“Department Rule” means 6.80.4.1 *et seq.* NMAC as may be amended.

“Facility” or “Facilities” means the facilities, including without limitation, all buildings classrooms, and other spaces owned or leased by the School, and used by the School, its staff, teachers, and students, for educational and related purposes.

“Governing Body” means the governing body of the School that shall operate as set forth in the Charter Contract, as required by law and consistent with its governing documents.

“Head Administrator” means the School’s administrator licensed by the Department and hired by the Governing Body to manage the day-to-day operations of the School with duties similar to that of a superintendent as set forth in §22-5-14 NMSA 1978.

“Instructional Hours” has the meaning as set forth in §22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978.

“Intervention Ladder” has the meaning as set forth in the Commission Rule (6.2.9.7.(Q.) NMAC) and are procedures adopted by the commission to impose interventions intended to address the School’s unsatisfactory performance or non-compliance with the contract.

“Mission” means the stated educational and pedagogical purpose of the School consistent with §22-8B-3 NMSA 1978 of the Charter Schools Act.

“NMAC” means the New Mexico Administrative Code.

“NMSA” means the New Mexico Statutes Annotated.

“PEC Procedures” has the meaning as set forth in the Commission Rule (6.2.9.7.(Y.) NMAC) and are the Commission’s adopted directives, instructions, templates and forms, and timelines in support of its authorizing practices adopted pursuant to the Commission Rule.

“Performance Framework” is a material term of this Charter Contract set forth in Exhibit A, negotiated pursuant to §22-8B-5.3(E) NMSA 1978 and which includes the requirements of §22-8B-9 and 22-8B-9.1 NMSA 1978.

“Procurement Code” means §§ 13-1-28 to 13-1-199 NMSA 1978.

“Public School Finance Act” means §§ 22-8-1 to 22-8-49 NMSA 1978.

“Secretary” means the cabinet secretary of the Department.

“State” means the State of New Mexico.

SECTION 2. EXHIBITS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

2.1. Exhibits and Contract Monitoring Documents. The following are exhibits to the Charter Contract and are incorporated by reference.

Exhibits incorporated into the Charter Contract	
Exhibit A	Performance Framework ¹
Exhibit B	Board of Finance authorization letter from the Commission

The following are contract monitoring documents to be used by the Parties that may be modified in writing by CSD and School as long as the changes are consistent with this Charter Contract. The Parties' signatures below indicate approval of the form of monitoring documents set forth in the chart below.

Monitoring Documents		
Monitoring Doc 1 (Performance Framework 2.A).	Mission specific indicators	Scoring sheet for PF 2.A. attached to Mission specific indicators, Performance Framework.
Monitoring Doc 2 (Performance Framework 1.A.2 or 1.A.3)	School-specific assessment replacing a Department assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided on the PEC website related to the Performance Framework for the specific type of assessment tool to be used. Presently posted here: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/public-education-commission/policies-and-processes/performance-review-and-accountability-system-and-performance-frameworks/
Monitoring Doc 3 (See 3.2 below)	Condition compliance information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

2.2. Charter School Required Elements and notification to CSD. The School shall maintain the following described operational elements and provide and maintain current information with CSD about each element according to the PEC Procedures as posted on the Commission Website. The PEC Procedure documents referenced in this section may be amended by the Commission pursuant to the Commission Rule.

Operational Elements	Current PEC Amendments and Notifications form: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/public-education-commission/policies-and-processes/amendment-request/
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¹ Amendments to the school specific goal may be proposed by providing a School Specific Goal Amendment Form to the Commission. (Document A5). The Performance Framework is scored according to business rules approved by the PEC and posted here: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/public-education-commission/policies-and-processes/performance-review-and-accountability-system-and-performance-frameworks/>

A.	Head Administrator	The Governing Body will employ a Head Administrator.	Document B.1.
B.	Business Manager	The School will contract with, or employ, a licensed school business official as the term is defined in 6.63.12. NMAC.	Document B.1
C.	Chief Procurement Officer	The School will have a chief procurement officer as the term is defined in §13-1-38.1 NMSA 1978.	Document B.1
D.	Member information	The Governing Body will maintain a list of its current members, a copy of each member's signed assurances as required by §22-8B-9(B)(6) NMSA 1978, and a signed Conflict of Interest Disclosure.	Document B.2, B2.a, B2.b, B2.c
E.	Admissions, Lottery, and Enrollment Policies and Procedures	The School will maintain admission, lottery and enrollment policies consistent with law.	Document B.3
F.	Governance Policies	The Governing Body of the School must be governed through policies adopted by the Governing Body which shall be designated as the Governing Body's bylaws.	Document B.4
G.	Pre-Kindergarten Program	The School will notify the Commission if it has been awarded a pre-kindergarten/pre-school program grant and is operating said program, or a tuition-based preschool program operated at the School. In this notification, the School must attest that the pre-K program is funded only by allowable sources of public funds so as not to violate N.M. Const. Art. IX, §14 and that any lottery preference complies with state and federal law.	Document B.5
H.	Lease/Lease Purchase Arrangement	The School will provide a copy of its current lease or lease purchase arrangement to CSD.	Document B.6
I.	Foundation Membership	The School will provide information on Foundation board members and employees.	Document B.7
J.	Assurance of No Conflict of Interest	The School will identify and provide an assurance that no conflict of interest exists due to a school staff person or board member at the School who also serves on the board of, receives a benefit from, is employed by or contracts with, the Foundation or a Third-Party Contractor.	Schools to provide their own form until a form is approved by the Commission
K.	Third-Party Contractor	If the School has identified a Third-Party Contractor in Section 3.8 below, the School will provide a copy of the contract or other legal agreement with the Third-Party Contractor.	Document A.6
L.	Foundation	If the School has identified a Foundation below, the School will provide a copy of the	Document A.6

		contract or a memorandum of understanding with the Foundation and the School that describes the parties' relationship.	
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SECTION 3: SCHOOL SPECIFIC TERMS

The Governing Body shall govern the School as required by this Charter Contract and in accordance with all laws, regulations and policies applicable to it.

3.1 Public School. The Governing Body shall ensure that:

A. the School is operated as a public school consistent with the terms of the Charter Contract including the Performance Framework² and all applicable laws, provides an educational program consistent with the requirements and purposes of the Charter Schools Act, and is governed and managed in a financially prudent manner according to accounting and auditing standards applicable to public entities in the State;

B. it employs a licensed Head Administrator who shall be held accountable by the Governing Body for staffing the School with qualified personnel, and who shall oversee the operations of the School;

C. the School is operated as a nonsectarian, nonreligious and non-home-based public school;

D. the School offers and provides a free public education to all school-age persons who are accepted for enrollment, through a lottery if there are more students seeking to enroll than seats available, and an enrollment process that complies with the Charter Schools Act and law;

E. the School complies with all state and federal health and safety requirements applicable to public schools, including those health and safety codes relating to educational building occupancy;

F. the School expends public funds in accordance with all state and federal laws and rules, including but not limited to the Procurement Code; and

G. the Governing Body operates according to its bylaws.

3.2 Charter Contract Term, Condition of Approval and Monitoring Documents and Compliance Documents. This School has been an authorized charter school since 2014-2015. This Charter Contract shall be in full force and effect from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2029, unless it is revoked by the Commission pursuant to the Charter Schools Act, the Commission Rule, and provisions of this Charter Contract. The Charter Contract will not automatically be renewed or extended; the Charter Contract may be renewed by the Commission upon timely application, and upon such terms and conditions as set forth in this Charter Contract, and consistent with the Charter Schools Act and applicable regulations of the Department and Commission.

The School was renewed without condition;

² Exhibit A

3.3 Mission and Educational Program.³ The School's Mission is as stated below:

Mission: Explore Academy will provide all students, regardless of background, with a personalized, standards-based, educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a unique and engaging educational pathway in preparation for college.

3.4 Educational Program: The School's educational program shall be as described below and shall be monitored by CSD based on evidence provided below:

A. Per its mission, Explore Academy will offer shorter learning modules (seminars) through which students receive concentrated instruction over a smaller subset of academic standards. At the conclusion of each term, students will take an exit exam in each seminar to determine whether students have reached the required proficiency levels for each standard assessed for that semester as evidenced by one or more of the following: the student exam scoring (Mission Goal 1), the school's master schedule, and the school's course catalog.

B. The school's choice-based philosophy of education provides students the freedom to choose from a set of seminar-versions. Since seminars are often offered in various versions ("flavors"), taught by different teachers, students will have choice in the specific themes through which they receive the instruction over the content of those seminars. Thus, the different versions through which each seminar is offered will be unique in their focus and instructional approach, allowing students to choose how they want to learn the content through a set of discrete options. This extends across all core and elective (PE, art) content areas, as well as into the school's unique upper division seminars, as evidenced by one or more of the following: classroom observation, the school's course catalog and the master schedule.

C. Students will have daily academic flex periods, allowing them to complete homework, collaborate, attend tutoring, pursue credit recovery, attend school meetings, visit teachers (and case managers in the case of special education students in compliance with their Individualized Education Plans, "IEPs"), and/or complete make-up work as needed, as evidenced by one or more of the following: classroom observation, the school's and students' daily schedules.

D. The school's staff will be provided with time for professional collaboration, such as in professional learning communities, to function as a forum for the sharing of best practices/instructional strategies, data analysis from seminar/exit exams, creation/modification of future exit exams, analysis of student satisfaction data, creation/modification of future seminars, etc. This collaborative component will be essential in allowing teachers to work together, share their experiences, and streamline their efforts as they work to implement this innovative form of education, as evidenced by one or more of the following: the school's PLC agendas and professional development meeting schedules.

E. The school encourages parental involvement and will communicate with parents in numerous ways. The school will communicate with parents through its website and a weekly newsletter for the dissemination of general information, and as needed via phone and/or email for individual student cases (academic, behavioral, etc.). Parents will have the ability to monitor student activity and progress through the parent portal component of the school's student information system and other

³ The School may request that the Mission or educational program be amended by submitting an amendment form. (Current PEC Procedure Forms A.1 and A.2)

online platforms (such as Google classroom or similar and monitoring software for internet and email activity). This will be evidenced by one or more of the following: the weekly Howl (6-12) and Wolf Pup Post (K-5) newsletters, the school's website, Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO), committee participation (PAC, SHAC, Equity Council, etc), and various outreach programs (such as "Coffee with the Principal, etc).

F. The school uses mixed grade or mixed age education as part of its model. Students may be placed in courses based on a combination of age and their proficiency on academic standards and, therefore, classrooms may have students of mixed grade or age levels.

3.5 Manner of Instruction.

Virtual instruction may be employed by the School, if provided by statute, rule, policy or executive order subsequently issued by the Department, or as ordered by the New Mexico Department of Health or Executive Orders of the Governor of New Mexico, without amendment to the Charter Contract. Nothing in this section prohibits using virtual instruction temporarily in the event of an emergency, as an accommodation under a 504 Plan or to deliver special education or related services if to do so is consistent with the School's educational program delivered pursuant to this Charter Contract. It is understood that schools utilize computers, chrome books, smart boards and other electronic devices that are not considered "virtual instruction."

No Remote Instruction. The School's educational program does not include a remote, hybrid or blended learning model, nor incorporate a virtual component in its educational program.

3.6 Enrollment Cap and Authorized Grade Levels.

The School shall serve no more than 1700 students in grades K-12.⁴

The School may make modifications as to the number of students in any particular grade and number of students within a class to accommodate staffing decisions that are consistent with the School's programmatic needs.

3.7 Authorized Facility and Facility Occupancy Capacity.⁵

The School will provide in-person instruction as described in 3.5 above at the Facility identified below:

School Name: Explore Academy

Street Address: K-5 campus: 5100 Masthead Ave NE

City, State, Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87109

Street Address: 6-12 campus: 6600 Gulton Ct, NE

City, State, Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87109

⁴ The School may request that the enrollment cap or grade levels be amended by submitting an amendment form. (Current PEC Procedure Form A.3 and A.4)

⁵ The School may request that the location of the School be amended by submitting an amendment form. (Current PEC Procedure Form A.7 and 8.)

The School may not exceed the approved occupancy capacity of the Facility, which is: Masthead (K-5): 655 and Gulton (6-12): 2555. The School may move facilities by following the PEC procedure processes.

3.8 Third Party Contracts and Relationships

3.8.1 Public Funds Limitation. The Governing Body shall not contract with a for-profit entity for the management of the charter school.

3.8.2 Essential Third Party Relationship Declaration.⁶

Not Applicable.

The Governing Body or School has a contractual relationship with a third-party entity or individual that is a foundational element to the implementation of the School’s Mission or educational program. That third party is _____ and provides the following service to the School _____.

The School has provided the required documentation related to this relationship as set forth in the PEC Procedures (Document A.6).

3.8.3 Foundation Declaration.

Not Applicable.

The School has a relationship with Explore Foundation, a non-profit foundation the primary purpose of which is

[Check all that are applicable]

to provide financial support to the School through grants or other funds generated by the nonprofit.

to provide a Facility paid for by the School, which includes the following _____.

to utilize funds contributed by the School for the following additional purposes:

The School has provided the required documentation related to this relationship as set forth in the PEC Procedures (Document A.6).

3.9 Transportation & Food Services

The School is a public school that may contract with a school district or other party for provision of financial management, food services, transportation, facilities, education-related services or other services.

The School:

⁶ The School may request that the contractual relationship information be amended by submitting an amendment form. (Current PEC Procedure Form A.6.)

provides transportation.

The School:

provides food services to include: breakfast lunch snacks.

3.10 Notification of Discretionary Waivers. The following discretionary waivers have been approved by the Secretary. The School will update this list as needed⁷. The School shall be entitled to implement all mandatory waivers as contemplated pursuant to NMSA 1978, §22-8B-5(C) without notice to the Commission.

Not Applicable.

3.11 Tribal Consultation.

The Public Education Department provides annual designation to schools on tribal consultation. A school designations and the requirements of the school may change from year to year. The information is posted at <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/indian-education/tribal-consultation/> .

Not applicable at the present time. The School understands that it may be designated to provide tribal consultation during the term of the Charter and, if so designated, will comply with the requirement.

The School is located on tribal land of _____ and shall consult with the educational liaison identified at the Department for consultation as required by law and prior to any action that may result in the School’s closure in accordance with the requirement of the Charter Schools Act.

The School is required to consult with _____ [insert tribal entity] pursuant to law because of the number of Native children enrolled at the School and shall consult with the educational liaison identified at the Department for consultation as required by law.

SECTION 4. SCHOOL EVALUATION AND OVERSIGHT.

Pursuant to, and consistent with, the Charter Schools Act and the Commission Rule and PEC Procedures, the School’s performance assessment will be conducted as follows:

4.1 Annual Review and Corrective Action regarding Unsatisfactory Performance. The Commission shall conduct an evaluation of the School each year of this Charter Contract term according to the requirements of the Charter Schools Act, Commission Rule, PEC Procedures, and the evaluation criteria set forth in the Performance Framework. (§22-8B-12(E.) NMSA 1978, and 6.2.9.12 and 13 NMAC) and the provisions of this Charter Contract.

4.1.1 Annual Site Visit. The Commission will conduct an annual site visit required by the Charter Schools Act (§22-8B-12(E), NMSA 1978) using a Commission-approved annual site visit protocol that is adopted pursuant to PEC procedures and consistent with the Commission Rule. In conducting the annual site visit and development of the phase 1 annual report as defined in the

⁷ Notification of additions to this list as approved by the Secretary shall be provided on a Notification form.

 ^{DS} school initials  ^{DS} initials

Commission Rule, the CSD, as staff for the Commission, and the School will provide the required documentation, and adhere to the procedures, timelines and notice requirements set forth in the Commission Rule (6.2.9.7.(W.) and (Y.), 6.2.9.12.(A.), (B.) and (C.)(1) and (2) NMAC).

4.1.2 Annual Assessment. The annual assessment will be conducted pursuant to the Commission Rule (6.2.9.12.(C.)(3), (4), (D.) and (E.) NMAC) through the following:

A. An assessment of educational programming of the School set forth in Section 3 above and the performance indicators and performance targets negotiated between the Parties and set forth in the Performance Framework;

B. An evaluation conducted during the annual site visit, as evaluated through the CSD's review and the School's response to any such review or annual site visit;

C. Through the final annual report provided to, and accepted by, the Commission, including CSD's findings and recommendations related to an annual report notice and the School's response related to the annual report and recommendations; and

D. Through annual report notices provided by the Commission.

4.1.3 Correction of Unsatisfactory Performance. The School will correct unsatisfactory performance by taking such action as authorized by the Commission in the Commission Rule (6.2.9.13 NMAC) or otherwise established by the Commission in specific direction to the School.

4.2. Performance Framework. The Commission shall assess the School's academic, operational and financial performance based on performance indicators and performance targets set forth in the Performance Framework. The Performance Framework includes indicators and targets as required by law or as negotiated by the Parties. The evaluation of the School's performance based on the Performance Framework shall be conducted using the criteria set forth in the Performance Framework, which shall not be modified without an amendment to this Charter Contract.

4.3 Evaluation of the Performance Framework and Conditions. The School shall maintain records that evidence compliance with its obligations under the Charter Contract, including the Performance Framework and any conditions imposed. The data shall be reported on the monitoring documents referenced in Sections 2.1 and 3.2 above.

4.4 Notification of Unsatisfactory Performance and Intervention Ladder. The Commission shall address the School's unsatisfactory performance or other performance deficiencies meriting corrective action, up to and including those serious enough to lead to non-renewal, renewal with conditions, or revocation pursuant to the procedures, timelines and notice requirements set forth in the Commission Rule (6.2.9.12, 6.2.8.13, 6.2.8.15, and 6.2.8.16 NMAC).

4.5 Renewal. Within the time period established by the Charter Schools Act and pursuant to 6.2.9.15 NMAC, the Governing Body may submit a renewal application to the Commission on forms approved by the Commission pursuant to the Commission Rule. The application shall include all information required by law. Legal grounds for nonrenewal are articulated in §22-8B-12(K) NMSA 1978 of the Charter Schools Act. The Commission shall follow the procedures and requirements of the Commission Rule before voting to deny renewal or before imposing conditions on renewal of a Charter Contract.

4.6 Revocation. The Commission may take action to revoke the Charter Contract in accordance with procedures, timelines and notice requirements provided in the Charter Schools Act, the Commission Rule, and the Department Rule. The Commission must demonstrate that the School has violated any one of the reasons set forth in §22-8B-12(K) NMSA 1978 of the Charter Schools Act.

4.7 Written Decision. If the Commission revokes, does not renew or renews with conditions, it shall state in writing its reasons and legal grounds for its actions established at the hearing on the matter and comply with any requirements set forth in the Commission Rule and Department Rule.

4.8 Appeal. If the Commission suspends, revokes, does not renew or renews with conditions, the School may appeal the decision to the Secretary pursuant to the Charter Schools Act and the Department Rule (6.80.4.14 NMAC).

SECTION 5: ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission, as the Chartering Authority, shall take the following action.

5.1 Comply with Legal Obligations. The Commission shall conduct its oversight and monitoring of the School in accordance with all laws, regulations and policies applicable to it, including, but not limited to the Charter Schools Act, the Commission Rule, the Department Rule, PEC Procedures, the Open Meetings Act (§§10-15-1, *et seq.* NMSA 1978) and the Government Conduct Act (§§10-16-1, *et seq.* NMSA 1978).

5.2 Timely Response to Submissions. The Commission shall evaluate all submissions by the Governing Body or School, including amendment requests, and act in accordance with this Charter Contract, the Charter Schools Act, the Commission Rule, and the PEC Procedures on each submission or request.

5.3 Commission Use of Withheld Funds. Pursuant to § 22-8B-9 (B)(8) NMSA 1978, the Commission will use the withheld funds of the school-generated program cost and provide details of how the funds are used as follows:

By June 30 for each year of the term of this Charter Contract, the Commission shall direct the CSD to post to the Commission Website an oversight and expenditure budget estimate for the upcoming year using the monies withheld from the budgets of the charter schools authorized by the Commission.

Pursuant to § 22-8B-13 NMSA 1978, CSD may withhold and use up to two percent of the school-generated program cost for its administrative support of a charter school.

SECTION 6: ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

6.1 Comply with Legal Obligations. The Governing Body shall conduct its oversight of the School in accordance with all laws, regulations and policies applicable to it, including, but not limited to the Charter Schools Act, the Commission Rule, the Department Rule, PEC Procedures, the Open Meetings Act (§§10-15-1, *et seq.* NMSA 1978) and the Government Conduct Act (§§10-16-1, *et seq.* NMSA 1978).

6.2. Governing Body Membership requirements. The Governing Body shall consist of no fewer than five members, and the Governing Body will require each member to comply with training requirements consistent with law.

6.3 Board of Finance Designation.

6.3.1 Required Information. The Governing Body shall, at all times, be qualified and designated to act as a board of finance as contemplated by §22-8-38(B), NMSA 1978 and Department Rule, 60.8.4.16 NMAC and shall complete and keep current documents as required by PEC Procedures.⁸

6.3.2 Board of Finance Suspension. If at any time, the Governing Body’s qualification as a Board of Finance is suspended by the Department pursuant to §22-8-39 NMSA 1978 or otherwise, the Commission shall consider whether to issue a notice of breach under the Intervention Ladder as defined by the Commission Rule or commence proceedings to revoke or non-renew the charter for failing to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management as contemplated by §22-8B-12(K)(2) NMSA 1978. If the Commission decides not to revoke or does not deny a School’s renewal because of the Department’s suspension of the board of finance, the Governing Body shall be required to develop and successfully implement a Commission-approved Corrective Action Plan in consultation with the Department to address the reasons for the suspension of the board of finance designation to obtain this designation again within a reasonable time.

6.4 Insurance Required. The School shall obtain insurance coverage through, and in types and amounts required by, New Mexico Public School Insurance Authority unless an exception is provided as authorized by law.

SECTION 7: INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

7.1 Facility Access Required. The School shall allow the Commission and the CSD to visit the Facility with reasonable notice to conduct the oversight and monitoring responsibilities as contemplated by and in the same manner as defined in §22-8B-12 NMSA 1978, Commission Rule and this Charter Contract.

7.2 Commission access to School records. The School shall provide information required to assess compliance with this Contract, the Performance Framework, as needed for the annual report and as may be reasonably requested by the Commission upon reasonable notice, which shall be no sooner than 10 days unless exigent circumstances exist. The Commission shall direct CSD to first attempt to obtain the information sought from the Department if the Department maintains the data through reporting platforms, including but not limited to, OBMS and STARS. The Commission will utilize classroom or school-level data when possible, will be provided with redacted student-level information if student-level data is reported and will only be provided with students’ personally identifiable information consistent with the requirements of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). The Commission and CSD shall meet all requirements of 34 CFR Part 99.31 before and after accessing student personally identifiable information.

7.3 Records.

⁸ See Section 2.2 above.

7.3.1 Student Records. The School shall maintain student records in accordance with all federal and State laws, including those regarding privacy and State public records retention requirements.

7.3.2 Student Attendance and Instructional Hours. The School shall maintain daily attendance records and comply with the number of Instructional Hours required by State law, based on the grade levels served, which may be verified by the School’s calendar submitted to the Department during budget development and through the Department’s STARS platform.

7.3.3 Notice of Violation of Law. The School shall

A. provide a written copy to the Commission of a final determination from a state or federal court or administrative agency with jurisdiction over the subject matter of a violation of law by the School;

B. comply with §22-10A-5.1 NMSA 1978 regarding reporting of ethical misconduct and ensure compliance of the School staff with 6.60.9 NMAC related to the code of conduct for school employees;

C. notify the Commission within 15 days of being notified by a governmental entity with jurisdiction of a charge or a conviction(s) for any crime related to the misappropriation or theft of School funds or property by a member or School employee. All personal identifiers shall be redacted and not disclosed publicly by the CSD or the Commission unless compelled to do so, and

D. notify the Commission within 15 days if the School reports an issue to a governmental entity with jurisdiction to investigate any crime related to the misappropriation or theft of School funds or property by a member or School employee, or if the School is made aware of that the Department is taking action against the license of one of its employees for any reason, including failure to comply with 6.60.9 NMAC. All personal identifiers shall be redacted and not disclosed publicly by the CSD or the Commission unless compelled to do so.

SECTION 8: STANDARD TERMS

8.1 Notice. Any notice required, or permitted, under the Charter Contract shall be in writing and shall be effective immediately upon personal delivery, upon receipt of electronic mail, or 3 days after mailing to the following:

School:	New Mexico Public Education Commission:
Head Administrator Governing Body Chair At the email addresses provided by the School to the CSD for the CSD-maintained school directory. Email is the primary notification.	Chair of the Public Education Commission New Mexico Public Education Commission 300 Don Gaspar Santa Fe, NM 87505 At the email address of the Chair of the Public Education Commission as listed on the Commission Website with a copy to: charter.schools@ped.nm.gov Email is the primary notification.

8.2 Applicable Law. This Charter Contract shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with applicable New Mexico and federal laws.

8.3 Amendments.

8.3.1 Either party may amend this contract, and such request shall be considered in good faith by the other.

8.3.2 In the event of a change in a statute passed by Congress or the New Mexico Legislature or a state or federal constitutional change that affects the rights or obligations of the Parties to this Charter Contract, this Charter Contract shall be deemed to be amended to conform to the new law unless to do so would cause an unconstitutional impairment of contract.

8.3.3 If the Commission amends or modifies the Commission Rule during the term of this Charter Contract, and the School believes that the Commission Rule change impairs the School's rights, obligations or performance of this Charter Contract, the School shall notify the Commission within ninety days, and the parties shall negotiate an amendment to this Charter Contract in good faith, unless said Commission Rule amendment or modification is required by a change in state or federal law.

8.3.4 In the event of a change in the law or the Commission Rule, either party may request that the Parties clarify this Charter Contract as it relates to the law change. If a Charter Contract amendment proposed by either Party cannot be agreed upon, either Party may appeal the impasse to the Secretary as provided in § 22-8B-9, NMSA 1978. The Charter Contract shall not be otherwise altered, changed or amended except as approved in writing by the Parties.

8.4 Waiver. Either Party's failure to insist on strict performance of any term or condition of the Charter Contract shall not constitute a waiver of that term or condition.

8.5 Invalid Term or Condition is Severable. The provisions of this Charter Contract are severable. If any term or condition is held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Charter Contract shall not be affected, shall be valid and enforceable.

8.6 Assignment. Neither Party may assign its rights or interest in this Charter Contract unless authorized by law and agreed to by both Parties. The School may apply to a new authorizer at renewal of the charter contract.

8.7 Dispute Resolution: Disputes between the School and the Commission shall be subject to the dispute resolution process set forth in this section.

8.7.1 Scope. Except as otherwise provided herein, if either Party has a dispute regarding interpretation or implementation of a Charter Contract provision, that Party shall present the dispute to the other Party in writing. The following shall not be subject to this dispute resolution provision:

- A. interpretation of state or federal statute, regulation, or policies applicable to the Charter Contract, the School or Commission,
- B. a CSD recommendation(s), or
- C. a Commission's authorizing decision(s) under the Charter Schools Act.

8.7.2 Notice of Dispute: Notice must be provided in writing that a dispute exists within 30 days from the date the dispute arises (“Notice of Dispute”). The Notice of the Dispute must describe the dispute and provide:

- A. the Charter Contract provision at issue,
- B. the specific reasons the Party contends the other Party’s implementation or interpretation of the Charter Contract provision is in error,
- C. a statement of the facts giving rise to the dispute,
- D. documents supporting that Party’s position
- E. a desired resolution including specific language to clarify the Charter Contract, and
- F. the names of proposed neutral mediators, along with a description of the qualification of the mediator and each person’s availability within a 30-day time period to hear the dispute. The mediator shall not be an employee of the Department.

8.7.3 Continuation of Charter Contract Performance: The Governing Body and the Commission agree that the existence and details of a dispute under this Section 8.7 shall not excuse performance by either Party during the pendency of the dispute, except for any performance that may be directly affected by such dispute.

8.7.4 Response to Notice/Informal Process: Upon receipt of a Notice of Dispute, the Commission or the Governing Body shall have 10 days to respond in writing. The written response may:

- A. Accept the proposal or propose an alternative solution to cure the dispute, including specific language to clarify the Charter Contract;
- B. Propose informal discussions to resolve the matter; and/or
- C. Accept or reject the proposed mediator. If the proposed mediator is not acceptable, an alternative name of a mediator, along with a description of the qualification of the mediator and that person’s availability within a 30-day time period to hear the dispute. The mediator shall not be an employee of the Department.

8.7.5 Appointment of a Mediator and Mediation.

- A. Within five days of the written response, the Parties shall select a mutually acceptable mediator.
- B. If no mutually acceptable mediator has been selected within five days, the Parties will jointly request that, within 15 days of the Parties’ request, the Secretary identify an available, qualified and willing mediator. The mediator shall not be an employee of the Department.
- C. The Parties shall jointly retain the mediator and agree on a mutually-agreed upon date and time for the mediation. The mediation shall be no later than 30 days from the date that the mediator is selected unless extenuating circumstances exist. The Parties agree to mediate the dispute in good faith.

8.7.6 Resolution and payment.

A. Any proposed agreement reached in mediation must be memorialized in writing and presented to, and approved by, the Commission and the Governing Body during public meetings of those bodies prior to it being considered a binding agreement between the Parties. If either Party makes a change to the proposed agreement, the change must be approved by both entities.

B. If the written agreement includes a modification of the contract, the written agreement shall then constitute an amendment to the Charter Contract and shall be added to the Charter Contract documentation.

C. Each Party shall pay one-half of the reasonable fees and expenses of the neutral third party. All other fees and expenses of each Party, including without limitation, the fees and expenses of its counsel, shall be paid by the Party incurring such costs.

By the signature below, the person signing represents that he/she has authority to execute this Charter Contract on behalf of the School/Commission and that this Charter Contract was reviewed and approved by that entity in a public meeting.

Governing Body of Explore Academy

By Charter Representative:

DocuSigned by:
Patrick L. Molina
540CF279319442E... Governing Board President
pmolina@phs.org

Date: 5/24/2024

New Mexico Public Education Commission

DocuSigned by:
Peg
5528DF79DDDF411...
PEC.DistrictSeven@ped.nm.gov

Date: 5/24/2024



School initial



initials

New Mexico Public Education Commission



New Mexico Charter School Performance Framework

For Explore Academy
For the charter term: 2024-2029

Public Education Commission
300 Don Gaspar Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 827-6909
charter.schools@ped.nm.gov

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School Selection Academic Framework Options & Mission Goals

The school selects the following academic performance options

State Accountability System		
Option	Selection (Choose 1)	Description
1.A.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The school will use the supplemental proficiency and growth data as set forth in the indicator (Istation, IMSSA and PSAT)
Outcomes for Student Growth		
Option	Selection (Choose 1)	Description
1.B.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The school will use the supplemental proficiency and growth data as set forth in the indicator (Istation, IMSSA and PSAT)

Condition Compliance Plan:

N/A

Condition:	No condition
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Mission Specific Goals

The school has identified Mission specific goals in two parts

Introduction

The New Mexico Charter Schools Performance Framework supports the Public Education Commission (PEC), state-authorized charter schools, and the Charter Schools Division (CSD) in answering a series of three questions posed by an approach called [Results-Based Accountability](https://clearimpact.com/results-based-accountability/)TM: How much did each charter school do? How well did they do it? Is anyone better off as a result?¹ This process resulted in measures that include both *school-specific performance indicators* that give schools flexibility in capturing how their mission is being operationalized and fulfilled and *universal performance indicators* applied across all state-authorized charter schools. These universal performance indicators capture the PEC's priorities surrounding standard quality processes and outcomes across all schools in its portfolio.

The Performance Framework provides a roadmap for the annual evaluation of the performance of state-authorized charter schools and is a material term of the charter schools' contracts, as stated in NMSA §22-8B-9.1 (1978).

How the Performance Framework Is Used

As the authorizer of state-chartered schools, the PEC uses the Performance Framework as the primary tool for school monitoring and accountability. The PEC, in collaboration with the CSD, has designed the New Mexico Performance Framework to be more than just that. In addition to providing transparent criteria by which the PEC will consider to make informed charter authorization decisions, the Performance Framework is also intended to support all parties with the following:

- 1) Understanding where schools are strong and where they need support,
- 2) Supporting schools' internal continuous improvement efforts,
- 3) Identifying and celebrating promising practices and programs, and
- 4) Providing the PEC and individual schools with data and stories that help communicate a meaningful and positive narrative about New Mexican students, communities, and schools.

Statutory Requirements for the Performance Framework

This document meets the requirements of New Mexico Statutes Annotated §§ 22-8B-9 and 9.1, NMSA 1978, and will allow the PEC and CSD to effectively monitor school performance in a transparent and clear manner. According to § 22-8B-9(B.11), "the process and criteria that the chartering authority intends to use to annually monitor and evaluate the fiscal well-being, overall governance, and student performance of the charter school, including the method that the chartering authority intends to use to conduct the evaluation as required by Section 22-8B-12 NMSA 1978."

¹ <https://clearimpact.com/results-based-accountability/>

Further, the following is required for a performance framework:

§ 22-8B-9.1. Performance Framework

- A. The performance provisions in the charter contract shall be based on a Framework that clearly sets forth the academic and operations performance indicators and performance targets that will guide the chartering authority's evaluation of each charter school. The Performance Framework shall be a material term of the charter school contract and shall include performance indicators and performance targets for, at a minimum:
 - (1) student academic performance;
 - (2) student academic growth;
 - (3) achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between student subgroups;
 - (4) attendance;
 - (5) recurrent enrollment from year to year;
 - (6) if the charter school is a high school, post-secondary readiness;
 - (7) if the charter school is a high school, the graduation rate;
 - (8) financial performance and sustainability; and
 - (9) governing body performance, including compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and terms of the charter contract.
- B. Annual performance targets shall be set by each chartering authority in consultation with its charter schools and shall be designed to help each charter school meet applicable federal, state, and chartering authority expectations as set forth in the charter contracts to which the authority is a party.
- C. The performance framework shall allow for the inclusion of additional rigorous, valid, and reliable indicators proposed by a charter school to augment external evaluations of its performance, provided that the chartering authority shall approve the quality and rigor of such proposed indicators and the indicators are consistent with the purposes of the Charter Schools Act.
- D. The performance framework shall require the disaggregation of all student performance data collected in compliance with this section by student subgroup, including gender, race, poverty status, special education or gifted status, and English language learner.
- E. The chartering authority shall collect, analyze and report all data from state assessment tests in accordance with the performance Framework set forth in the charter contract for each charter school overseen by that chartering authority.

NMAC 6.2.9.11 – 6.2.9.13 provides further direction regarding how this Performance Framework and the performance indicators will be incorporated into the CSD annual reports and possibly form the basis for corrective action issued by the PEC to the school.

Framework, Categories, and Performance Indicators

Framework	Category	Performance Indicator
Academic	State Accountability System	1.A. State Accountability System
		1.B. Outcomes for Special Student Groups
		1.C. Participation Rate
	School-Specific	2.A. Mission Goal
		2.B. Education Program Implementation
		2.C. Conducive Learning Culture
Organizational	Governing Body Membership, Training, and Responsibilities	3.A.1. Membership
		3.A.2. Training
		3.A.3. Meeting Transparency and Documentation
	Equitable Enrollment Process	3.B. Non-discriminatory enrollment process
	Compliance with Legal Requirements	3.C. Annual Compliance Requirements
Financial	Financial Health	4.A. Days Cash on Hand
		4.B. Annual Financial Audit
		4.C. Financial Reporting and Compliance
		4.D. Fiscal Oversight
		4.E. Enrollment Variance

For each performance indicator, the PEC has determined the performance measure and performance criteria. For a number of performance indicators in the Academic Framework, the PEC has embedded school choice in selecting performance measures. This provides flexibility for a school to demonstrate academic performance that is directly aligned with its mission, vision, and educational program and meets the needs of its families.

Annual Evaluation and Reports

Schools will receive an annual evaluation based on their performance on all three areas of the Performance Framework combined (Academic, Organizational and Financial). The annual evaluation provides the PEC and the public with information about the school's overall performance in the previous school year. The evaluation provides the school with useful information on their performance and transparency into their strengths and areas for improvement. The purpose of providing this evaluation is to set clear expectations, promote continuous improvement and provide clear results contained in the school's record of performance as required by NMAC 6.2.9.11.

The CSD may recommend, and the PEC may provide a notice of exemplary performance, a notice of satisfactory performance, a notice of unsatisfactory performance or a notice of uncorrected unsatisfactory performance based on the Annual Report. A school may receive a notice of unsatisfactory or uncorrected unsatisfactory performance for any indicator that scores below a "Meets Performance Expectations" even if a school earns an overall evaluation rating of "On Track for Expedited Renewal" or "On Track for Renewal."

PEC will then accept the annual reports, issue corrective action as it deems necessary during the term of the charter contract and make a decision on renewal at the end of the charter term on the full record of performance and consistent with § 22-8B-12, NMSA 1978 and NMAC 6.2.9.11, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

Overall Evaluation		
Tier Status	Likely Renewal Outcome ²	Description
Tier 1	On Track for Expedited Renewal	The school earns Meets or Exceeds for all performance indicators in all frameworks.
Tier 2	On Track for Renewal	The school earns a Meets or Exceeds in all performance indicators in the Academic Framework and earns Working to Meet or Meets for all performance indicators in the Financial and Operational Frameworks.
Tier 3	On Track for Renewal with Conditions or Possible Non-Renewal	The school earns Working to Meet in one or more performance indicators of the Academic Framework but does not meet the criteria for Does Not Meet Performance Expectations .
Tier 4	Not on Track for Renewal	Earns a Does Not Meet in 1.A or 1.B. or in three (3) or more performance indicators of the Academic Framework. OR The school earns (8) eight or more Does Not Meet ratings across the Academic, Organizational, and Financial Frameworks.

² While the Overall Evaluation provides a likely renewal outcome to provide transparency and clarity on the performance of a school, the designations are intended as an acknowledgment of positive performance or a warning and should trigger action on the part of the school to improve its performance. Actual non-renewal is a determination made by PEC only at the time of renewal based on a school's record of performance across the entire contract term.

Individual Performance Indicator Ratings

Each Performance Indicator will receive one of the following ratings based on the criteria established. Failure of the school to provide data will result in a "Does Not Meet" Performance Expectations.

Performance Indicator Rating	Definition
Exceeds Performance Expectations <i>*Academic Framework Only*</i>	The school's outcomes are exemplary in this academic performance indicator.
Meets Performance Expectations	The school's outcomes meet expectations in this performance indicator.
Working to Meet Performance Expectations	The school is showing inconsistencies in the performance indicator that may warrant oversight to ensure outcomes are met.
Does Not Meet Performance Expectations	The school is not meeting the expectations in the performance indicator, which warrants oversight ensure outcomes are met.
Not Applicable	<p>Academic and Organizational Frameworks: The school is in its first year and lacks sufficient data to be rated.</p> <p>Financial Framework: The school is in its first two years of operation and lacks sufficient data; financials will be reviewed, however, and feedback provided.</p>

Part I: Academic Framework

The PEC and CSD provide a fair and equitable academic oversight process for the public charter schools within PEC's portfolio. Therefore, this Academic Framework embeds choice for each school in determining the assessments used. Each school will negotiate with the PEC to include mission-specific measures and optional assessments. Results for each performance indicator will be determined annually and included in an overall performance rating.

Option ³	Performance Measure	Performance Criteria
1.A. State Accountability System: The school ensures students meet or exceed the expectations established by PED for all New Mexican students, including sufficient academic achievement and academic growth. ⁴		
1.A.2.	The school's overall performance on the state accountability system, AND Supplemental proficiency and growth data ⁵ using PED-approved nationally and/or state-normed assessments ⁶ or, under special circumstances, with PEC-approved rationale, nationally and/or state-normed assessments with explicit growth targets and business rules for calculating the growth target as agreed to in the school's charter contract. ⁷	<p>Exceeds: 76th to 99th percentile on the state accountability system</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>51st to 75th percentile on the state accountability system AND, based on the school's assessment and growth measure⁸, at least 80% of students meet one or more of the following proficiency or growth criteria⁹ in both reading and math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) ● Meet their growth target ● Show the equivalent of one year's worth of growth ● Other, as defined by the testing company <p>Meets: 51st to 75th percentile of all schools on the state accountability system</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>26th to 50th percentile on the state accountability system AND, based on the school's assessment and growth measure, at least 60% of students meet one or more of the proficiency or growth criteria.</p> <p>Working to Meet: 26th to 50th percentile of all schools</p>

³ One option will be chosen by each school for 1.A., 1.B., and 2.A. only. Options 1.A.1. and 1.B.1 are the default options; schools may negotiate options 1.A.2., 1.A.3. 1.B.2., and 1.B.3. during contract negotiations. The academic performance indicators negotiated as part of the charter contract and associated performance framework are intended to remain unchanged for the duration of the charter contract.

⁴ If the school selects Option 1.A.2. or 1.A.3. and fewer than 85% of students identified to be tested are tested on school-specific assessments, the results are considered invalid, and the school defaults to Option 1.A.1. If testing data are not provided to CSD for review by the timeline established by CSD, the results are considered invalid, and the school defaults to Option 1.A.1. If the school wishes to change assessments or growth targets, it is considered a material change of the contract and requires PEC approval prior to the change through a contract amendment.

⁵ In using the alternative assessment measure, the same students tested under the state accountability system will be tested under the alternative assessment measure as well. A school may negotiate with the PEC to test more students under the alternative assessment measure, but, in all cases, those students tested under the state accountability system will also be assessed under the alternative assessment measure.

⁶ As determined by the PED Assessment Bureau: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment/>

⁷ Note 4 applies.

⁸ As defined in the charter contract and meets the terms defined by the testing company.

⁹ These criteria also apply to the "Meets" and "Working to Meet" criteria for this option.

		OR	
		25 th percentile of all on the state accountability system AND , based on the school's assessment and growth measure, at least 50% of students meet one or more of the proficiency or growth criteria. Does Not Meet: Does not meet the criteria established for "Exceeds," "Meets," or "Working to Meet."	
The school is using Istation as an alternative assessment for grades K-5. The school will report the scores on the standard score sheet developed for Istation and provided on the PEC website.			
Proficiency or growth criteria in both reading and math will be shown using the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) is shown through the following report: 		Executive Summary report for BOY, MOY and EOY and export it to CSV	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth targets are as shown on the following report 		Executive Summary report for BOY, MOY and EOY and export it to CSV as defined in the Istation Assessment Template and/or Student Goals report as defined in the Istation Assessment Template	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent of one year's worth of growth 		Not available in Istation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Pathway report currently offered for Reading only, as defined by the testing company 		Students at "Typical or Above" growth	
The school is using iMSSA as an alternative assessment for grades 6-8. The school will report the scores on the standard score sheet developed for iMSSA and provided on the PEC website.			
Proficiency or growth criteria in both reading and math will be shown using the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) is shown through the following report: 		Achievement Summary report students "on target" or above	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth targets are as shown on the following report 		Achievement Summary or Longitudinal Summary as described in the iMSSA Assessment Template	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent of one year's worth of growth is shown on the following report 		Not available in iMSSA	
The school is using a comparison between PSAT and SAT to identify growth for 11th graders as described in the Assessment Template. The school will report the scores on the standard scoresheet developed for PSAT and SAT and provided on the PEC website.			
At or above grade level (or grade		Performance by All Students for SAT	

level equivalent) is shown through the following:	(11th graders)	
Growth targets are set as shown via the following:	Performance Report for SAT (for current 11th grade students) and the Performance Report of PSAT/NMSQT (for the same students when they were 10th graders) as identified in PSAT/NMSQT and SAT Comparison Goal Assessment Template	
<p>1.B. Outcomes for Student Groups: The school ensures the following student groups demonstrate academic excellence through individual growth: male, female, low-income, English learners, students with disabilities, and race/ethnic groups: Native American, White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic.</p>		
1.B.2.	<p>The school’s performance on the state accountability system by special student groups,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Growth data¹⁰ using PED-approved nationally normed assessments¹¹ or, under special circumstances, with PEC-approved rationale, nationally and/or state-normed assessments with explicit growth targets and business rules for calculating the growth target as agreed to in the school’s charter contract.¹²</p>	<p>Exceeds: In reading and math, each student group has an Student Growth Percentile of at least 60 OR at least 70% of students meet their growth target on the school-based accountability system</p> <p>Meets: In reading and math, each student group has an Student Growth Percentile of at least 45 OR at least 60% of students meet their growth target, as per their assessment guidelines</p> <p>Working to Meet: Does not meet the criteria for Meets or Exceeds, but the school's performance is higher than identified in Does Not Meet</p> <p>Does Not Meet: In reading and math, over half of the student groups have an Student Growth Percentile of below 35 OR over half of the student groups have fewer than 30% of students meet their growth target, as per their assessment guidelines</p>
<p>The school is using Istation as an alternative assessment for grades K-5. The school will report the scores on the standard score sheet developed for Istation and provided on the PEC website.</p> <p>Growth criteria in both reading and math will be shown using the following:</p>		

¹⁰ Note 5 applies.

¹¹ Note 6 applies.

¹² If the school has ten (10) or more eligible students in a student population and tests fewer than 85% of the students, the untested students will be considered “not meeting their growth target” and impact the overall percentage for that student group. If fewer than 85% of **ALL** students are tested on the school-specific assessments, the results are considered invalid, and the school defaults to Option 1.B.1. If testing data is not provided to CSD for review by the timeline established by CSD, the results are considered invalid, and the school defaults to Option 1.B.1. If the school wishes to change assessments or the growth targets, it is considered a material change of the charter contract and requires PEC approval through a contract amendment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) is shown through the following report: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Summary report for BOY, MOY and EOY and export it to CSV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth targets are as shown on the following report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Summary report for BOY, MOY and EOY and export it to CSV as defined in the Istation Assessment Template and/or Student Goals report as defined in the Istation Assessment Template
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent of one year's worth of growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available in Istation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Pathway report currently offered for Reading only, as defined by the testing company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students at "Typical or Above" growth
<p>The school is using iMSSA as an alternative assessment for grades 6-8. The school will report the scores on the standard scoresheet developed for iMSSA and provided on the PEC website.</p> <p>Growth criteria in both reading and math will be shown using the following:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) is shown through the following report: 	Achievement Summary report students "on target" or above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth targets are as shown on the following report 	Achievement Summary or Longitudinal Summary as described in the iMSSA Assessment Template
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent of one year's worth of growth is shown on the following report 	Not available in iMSSA
<p>The school is using a comparison between PSAT and SAT to identify growth for 11th graders as described in the Assessment Template. The school will report the scores on the standard scoresheet developed for PSAT and SAT and provided on the PEC website.</p>	
At or above grade level (or grade level equivalent) is shown through the following:	Performance by All Students for SAT (11th graders)
Growth targets are set as shown via the following:	Performance Report for SAT (for current 11th grade students) and the Performance Report of PSAT/NMSQT (for the same students when they were 10th graders) as identified in PSAT/NMSQT and SAT Comparison Goal Assessment Template

1.C. Participation Rate: The school assesses student progress and achievement annually.	
The school complies with state and contractual assessment requirements.	Participation in all state-wide assessments: Exceeds: ≥ 95% of all students AND of every student group Meets: ≥ 95% of all students Working to Meet: < 95% but ≥ 85% of all students Does Not Meet: < 85% of all students
2.A. Mission Goals: The school's education program effectively supports mission implementation, student academic success, and overall student well-being that supports the community in which they serve. ¹³	
2.A.1.	Within the charter contract, briefly describe what the school is doing to meet its mission and how it will be measured ¹⁴ to demonstrate that students are better off as a result. Supporting Narrative: Using Results-Based Accountability (RBA) as a model, reflect on the following questions: How much did the school do? How well did the school do it? Is anyone better off as a result? How do you know?
2.A.2.	Schools may optionally add a second Mission-Specific Goal into their charter contract that follows the guidance under the same guidelines as for Option 1. The school will receive a rating for each goal. Exceeds: exemplary performance as set forth in this Performance Framework Meets: meets performance as set forth in this Performance Framework Working to Meet: earns working to meet performance as set forth in this Performance Framework Does Not Meet: does not meet performance as set forth in this Performance Framework
The mission of the school is set forth in two goals (K-5) and (6-12). These will be reported separately and as separate mission goals. Students and families will be satisfied with the class options (“flavors”), experience and instruction in grades K-5. The average pass rate on seminar exit exams for students in grade 6-12, who are enrolled at both the 40th and 120th day, will be at least 70%.	

¹³ If fewer than 85% of students identified to be tested are tested on the mission-specific assessment, the results are considered invalid, and the school's mission goal will be considered "Does Not Meet." If the testing data is not provided to CSD for review by the timeline established by CSD, the results are considered invalid, and the school's mission goal will be considered "Does Not Meet." If the school changes assessments or the way in which the measure is calculated, it is considered a material change of the charter contract and requires prior PEC approval.

¹⁴ All students at the school should participate in the mission of the school, so the goal should cover and assess all students at the school. The assessment can vary by grade and certain assessments can be more rigorous than others (i.e. if a school's mission culminates in a senior-year capstone project, the senior year assessment can be the most rigorous, and the assessments of 9-11 grade students could be assessed showing that they are gaining the building blocks necessary to be successful in their senior year capstone project such as learning and practicing interview skills needed for the capstone project.)

<p>The targets and manner in which this goal will be assessed are contained in the Mission Specific Tracking Spreadsheets attached to the Contract on pages. The school will complete the Tracking Spreadsheet annually to support the rating of “Exceeds”, “Meets”, “Working to Meet” or “Does Not Meet” for each goal.</p>	
<p>2.B. Education Program Implementation: The school's education program fulfills a need in the community in which they serve, as documented in their charter contract and PEC-approved amendments.</p>	
<p>The school is implementing the program as outlined in its charter contract.</p>	<p>During the annual site visit conducted by CSD:</p> <p>Meets: All elements of the education program as outlined in the charter contract are implemented when CSD does its annual site visit review.</p> <p>Working to Meet: Due to lack of observable evidence, CSD is unable to confirm that all elements of the education program as outlined in the charter contract are implemented at its annual site visit review, but the school is able to submit evidence within 90 days of the review to confirm implementation.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: One or more elements of the school's education program as outlined in the charter contract are not implemented when CSD does its annual site visit review nor submitted within 90 days of the review.</p>
<p>2.C. Conducive Learning Culture: The school's culture meets the needs of the community in which it is located and equitably encourages all students to thrive in their learning environment.</p>	
<p>Eligible student re-enrollment (recurrent enrollment) in the school from the 40th day count of the previous school year to the 40th day count of the current school year.¹⁵</p>	<p>Percentage of eligible students who re-enroll:</p> <p>Exceeds: ≥ 90%</p> <p>Meets: < 90% but ≥ 80%</p> <p>Working to Meet: < 80% but ≥ 70%</p> <p>Does Not Meet: < 70%</p>

¹⁵ The combined re-enrollment rate for all eligible students for elementary, middle, and high school grade bands. For each school, “eligible students” are defined by enrolling at the start of the previous school year (or Year 1) in one of the “starting grades.” Starting Grades are: K, 1, 2, 3,4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11. Students enrolling at the start of the previous school year in grades 5, 8, or 12 will not be considered in this measure, as students tend to switch schools for middle and high school and leave high school after 12th grade. A “re-enrolled student” is an “eligible student” who is enrolled in the school in the fall of the current year. CSD may take into consideration extraordinary circumstances and evaluate schools based on information as provided.

Part II: Organizational Framework

The PEC and CSD are dedicated to providing a fair and equitable organizational oversight process for the state charter schools within PEC's portfolio. Therefore, this details the organizational requirements of state charter schools. Results for each performance indicator will be determined annually and included in an overall performance rating. The Organizational Framework has three categories and six performance indicators designed to encourage transparent, compliant public schools.

Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Performance Criteria
3.A. Governing Body Membership, Training, and Responsibilities: The governing board effectively oversees the school's management to ensure that the school is financially responsible, compliant with applicable laws, and fulfilling its mission and the academic success of students.		
3.A.1. Membership	The number of governing council members stays within the range designated in the school's bylaws.	<p>Meets: The number of governing council members stays within the range designated in bylaws during the school year, or if it drops below, all vacancies are filled within 45 days (or 75, with an extension provided by the CSD)</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The number of governing council members during the school year is below the number designated in bylaws for more than 45 days (or 75 with extension)</p>
3.A.2. Training	All members of the governing body have completed all training hours required by law by the end of the fiscal year.	<p>Meets: All members of the governing body have completed all training hours required by law by the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Working to Meet: At least 80% of required total training hours combined for the governing body have been completed as required by law by the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The school did not meet the criteria for Working to Meet.</p>
3.A.3. Meeting Transparency and Documentation	The school is in compliance with publicly posting meetings, minutes, and calendar of meetings.	<p>Meets: The school provides an accurate board calendar. For EVERY meeting in which a quorum of the governing body is present, the school (1) publicly posts a notification with the agenda at least 72 hours prior to the meeting and (2) publicly post on their website a board-approved copy of the minutes within ten (10) days after approval, which must occur at their next regularly scheduled board meeting.</p> <p>Working to Meet: The school provides an accurate board calendar. For at least 75% of the board meetings in which a quorum of the governing body is present, the school (1) publicly posts a notification</p>

		<p>with the agenda at least 72 hours prior to the meeting and (2) publicly post on their website a board-approved copy of the minutes within ten (10) days after approval, which must occur at their next regularly scheduled board meeting.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The school fails to provide an accurate board calendar. For more than 25% of the meetings in which a quorum of the governing body is present, the school did not (1) publicly post notification with agenda at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or (2) publicly post a board-approved copy of the minutes within ten (10) days after the approval.</p>
<p>3.B. Equitable Enrollment Process: The school ensures that all families have the opportunity to learn about, apply to, and enroll in the school.</p>		
Non-discriminatory Enrollment Process	<p>The school has an Enrollment Policy consistent with Lottery Guidance and with two distinct sections: Lottery Form/Lottery Process and Enrollment/Registration</p>	<p>Meets: The school's Enrollment Policy is consistent with the Lottery Guidance criteria on the CSD website or lottery/enrollment laws and rules, if promulgated.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The school does not have an Enrollment Policy, or the Policy does not meet all of the Lottery Guidance criteria or lottery/enrollment laws and rules, if promulgated.</p>
<p>3.C. Compliance with Legal Requirements: The school creates a safe environment and is in compliance with the charter contract, federal and state statutes and rules, and PED guidelines unless waivers preserving charter autonomy are in place.</p>		
Annual Compliance Requirements	<p>List of Annual Compliance Requirements, as approved annually no later than July 1 by PEC, and distributed by CSD to schools by that time.</p>	<p>Meets: In compliance with all requirements, is timely with submissions and does not have to resubmit due to errors.</p> <p>Working to Meet: In compliance with all requirements but may be late with submissions and may have to resubmit due to errors in the initial submission.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: Out of compliance with one or more requirement or one or more compliance requirement is not submitted.</p>

Part III: Financial Framework

The PEC and CSD are dedicated to protecting school autonomy while holding public charter schools within PEC’s portfolio to high standards. The Financial Framework has four performance indicators. Results for each performance indicator will be determined annually and included in an overall performance rating.

Performance Measure	Performance Criteria
<p>4.A. Days of Cash on Hand: The school demonstrates its financial health by having sufficient cash to ensure operations can withstand an immediate need.</p>	
<p>The school has the cash available to pay bills that meet or exceed the expectations established by PEC.</p>	<p>The school’s unrestricted days cash ratio is: Meets: ≥ 60 days OR > 30 days with a positive increase in the most recent fiscal year Working to Meet: > 30 days but does not meet the criteria for “Meets” Does Not Meet: ≤ 30 days</p>
<p>4.B. Annual Financial Audit: The school follows the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), financial management, and internal controls.</p>	
<p>The results of the financial audit demonstrate that the school meets basic expectations of financial oversight.</p>	<p>Meets: The school’s received audit has an unqualified opinion, is devoid of significant deficiency and material weakness findings, and does not include a going concern disclosure. Working to Meet: The school does not meet the criteria for “Meets” but demonstrates improvement from the previous year’s audit. Does Not Meet: The school’s received audit has a qualified opinion, includes a significant deficiency or material weakness finding, has a going concern disclosure, or the school does not submit a financial audit.</p>
<p>4.C. Financial Reporting and Compliance: The school demonstrates its ability to oversee public funding designated for New Mexico's students.</p>	
<p>The school and its governing board effectively establish and approve the budget and meet all financial reporting and compliance requirements. (NMSA 22-8-6.1 and 10)</p>	<p>Meets: The school submits all budget request documents and budget approval documents to the PED according to PED’s established deadlines; submits quarterly reports according to PEDs established deadlines without frequent, repeated</p>

	<p>errors; and publicly posts all required reports.</p> <p>Working to Meet: Sometime during the fiscal year, the school was required to do monthly reporting; OR the school does not meet the criteria for "Meets" but does not meet the criteria for "Does Not Meet."</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The school consistently fails to submit required budget documents or reports according to PED's established deadlines; submits reports with frequent, repeated errors; or fails to publicly post required reports.</p>
<p>4.D. Fiscal Oversight: The school and its governing board effectively provide fiscal oversight by establishing, approving, and monitoring annual budget execution and safeguarding the financial health and activities of the school.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school has employed financial expertise and/or contracts with a licensed business manager and licensed procurement officer. <p>The governing board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. has adopted and maintains financial-related policies. 3. reviews financial reports and statements, including a statement of net position, a budget to an actual statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, and a cash flow statement at all meetings. 4. annually reviews the audited financial statements, related reports, and management letters and ensures all findings are addressed. 5. has an audit committee that fulfills its requirements as described in statute. 6. has a finance committee fulfills its requirements as described in statute. <p>At least annually, the finance committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. tests internal audit controls. 	<p>Meets: The school and board provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of all seven indicators during the fiscal year.</p> <p>Working to Meet: The school and board provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of at least five of the seven indicators during the fiscal year.</p> <p>Does Not Meet: The school did not meet the criteria for Working to Meet.</p>
<p>4.E. Enrollment Variance: The school's budgeted enrollment is close to its actual enrollment, requiring no or slight budget revisions.</p>	
<p>The school makes accurate enrollment assumptions, resulting in a budget that is sound.</p>	<p>Enrollment variance (actual enrollment/budgeted enrollment) is:</p> <p>Meets: ≥ 95%</p> <p>Working to Meet: < 95% but ≥ 85%</p> <p>Does Not Meet: < 85%</p>

New Mexico Public Education Commission



(Titles are hyperlinks, click to go to document)

Mission-Specific Goals

- 1) 6-12
- 2) K-5

Mission Specific Goal: Data Tracker

School Name	Explore Academy (557001)	Academic Year	
School Mission	Explore Academy will provide each all students, regardless of background, with a personalized educational, standards-based, educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a unique and engaging educational pathway in preparation for college.		

GOALS

Explore Academy tracks the data for student pass rates for each of its academic terms across the scope of the school year. Each high school student (grades 8-12) enrolls in at least five seminars per term for eight terms per year, resulting in at least forty seminars per year. (Please note that seminars for middle school students, grades 6 and 7, are held quarterly, therefore they participate in 20 seminars per year). In order to demonstrate proficiency in each seminar, students must pass an exit exam on the academic standards. The goal is that the average pass rate on seminar exit exams for students in grade 6-12, who are enrolled at both the 40th and 120th day, will be at least 70%.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Name of Assessment	Exit Exams for each seminar
How often Assessed	Grades 6 and 7 take exams at end of each quarter in all subjects; Grades 8-12 take exams at end of each term (approximately every 22 days) in all subjects
Definition of how students successfully meet the goal	High school students (grades 8-12) must score 80% to pass an exit exam at the end of each seminar; Middle school students (grades 6-7) must score 70% to pass an exit exam at the end of each seminar; The average pass rate for all standards-based exit exams must be at least 70% to Meet the Standard.

TARGETS

Exceeds	The average pass rate for all standards-based exit exams is at least 81%.
Meets	The average pass rate for all standards-based exit exams is at least 70% but less than 81%.
Working to Meet	The average pass rate for all standards-based exit exams is at least 50% but less than 70%.
Does not meet	The average pass rate for all standards-based exit exams is less than 50%.

Mission Specific Goal Outcomes

	FAY Count	Tested Count	Number Met	Percent Met
Students in grades 6-12				

Outcome

WHO IS BETTER OFF AS RESULT OF THIS GOAL ? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THE MISSION GOAL IS WORKING?

Mission Specific Goal: Data Tracker				
School Name	Explore Academy (557001)	Academic Year		
School Mission	Explore Academy will provide each all students, regardless of background, with a personalized educational, standards-based, educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a unique and engaging educational pathway in preparation for college.			
GOALS				
Students and families will be satisfied with the class options ("flavors"), experience and instruction in grades K-5.				
MEASURE OF SUCCESS				
Name of Assessment	Parent Surveys, with student input (See sample quarterly survey titled " Goal 2 - Flavor and Teacher Feedback Survey ") Survey instructions advise parents to work with their child to answer the questions			
How often Assessed	Quarterly			
Definition of how students successfully meet the goal	Students and families (grades K-5) will be satisfied with the class options ("flavors"), experience and instruction offered via the Explore model. This will be demonstrated by responses of 4 or higher. The average of all survey responses across all domains must be 4 or higher, using a Likert scale 1-5. The school foregoes the option for FAY as it is preferable to keep the survey anonymous in order to solicit the most honest responses.			
TARGETS				
Exceeds	91% or more of responding parents, answering with input from their children in grades K-5, will feel positively (indicated by average of 4 or higher on the scale) about the class options ("flavors") and the experience and instruction via this model as reflected in the "all students" score			
Meets	At least 80% but less than 91% of responding parents, answering with input from their children in grades K-5, will feel positively (indicated by average of 4 or higher on the scale) about the class options ("flavors") and the experience and instruction via this model as reflected in the "all students" score			
Working to Meet	At least 60% but less than 80% of responding parents, answering with input from their children in grades K-5, will feel positively (indicated by average of 4 or higher on the scale) about the class options ("flavors") and the experience and instruction via this model as reflected in the "all students" score			
Does not meet	Below 60% of responding parents, answering with input from their children in grades K-5, will feel positively (indicated by average of 4 or higher on the scale) about the class options ("flavors") and the experience and instruction via this model as reflected in the "all students" score			
Mission Specific Goal Outcomes				
	FAY Count	Tested Count	Number Met	Percent Met
Students in grades K-5				
Outcome				
WHO IS BETTER OFF AS RESULT OF THIS GOAL ? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THE MISSION GOAL IS WORKING?				

New Mexico Public Education Commission



(Titles are hyperlinks, click to go to document)

Board of Finance designation

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION BOARD OF FINANCE DESIGNATION

The governing body of EXPLORE ACADEMY ALBUQUERQUE has maintained the following:

- An affidavit of a business manager and a copy of the business manager's license.
- A statement signed by all the current governing body members that they agree to consult with the Public Education Department
- An affidavit from each current governing body member that they are not currently a member of any governing body of any other charter school and have never been a member of any other charter school that was suspended or failed to maintain their board of finance designation.
- A certificate of insurance that indicates that EXPLORE ACADEMY ALBUQUERQUE is adequately bonded and insured.

The Public Education Commission has designated EXPLORE ACADEMY ALBUQUERQUE'S governing body as a Board of Finance.

DocuSigned by:

Alan Brauer

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1/4/2024

ALAN BRAUER, CHAIR, The New Mexico Public Education Commission

Date Signed

New Mexico Public Education Commission



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School and Governing Board approval

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

April 19, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Jerry Apodaca Education Building, Mabry Hall

300 Don Gaspar Avenue

Santa Fe, New Mexico

-AND-

Via Zoom Webinar

REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR #219

Bean & Associates, Inc.

Professional Court Reporting Service

201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

JOB NO.: 9093N (CC)

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1 addressing this.

2 So why not? Because I did not support

3 them in the way that they needed to be supported.

4 I have a table --

5 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Hold on a second. I

6 just heard him say -- I don't believe that, either.

7 Never say those things out loud.

8 MS. MELISSA BROWN: I dropped the ball on

9 the board of finance stuff. I thought that I had

10 it -- because I had it for all of the

11 State-authorized schools. And then I neglected to

12 follow up with the District-authorized schools.

13 I've created this table. We're almost

14 there. We're achingly close with Dream Diné.

15 There's just two documents we need from one member.

16 And we're moderately close with San Diego

17 Riverside. They have not been able to get any of

18 their affidavits notarized. Most of them have

19 signed their assurances, and a few of them have

20 signed their statements to consult.

21 So I have expressed to them the urgency

22 and will do whatever it takes to get them across the

23 line for your next meeting.

24 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Sure.

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1 MS. JULIA BARNES: On Item 17, I just want

2 to start the conversation, because Vice Chair

3 Carrillo is going to take it from here.

4 But I wanted to mention one thing about

5 Explore Academy -- or if I can do it, but -- Explore

6 Academy. Let me start.

7 Yesterday we had a long conversation about

8 that mission-specific template that we're going to

9 add a page that puts more of the RBA information in

10 it.

11 And Explore Academy has voted on a

12 slightly revised version of the mission-specific

13 template. They're still wanting to provide the same

14 information. But they want to provide the optional

15 information, which is how each of their grades are

16 doing on the mission-specific goal. They want to

17 put that on a separate page, just to have the

18 scoring there.

19 My -- my initial concern, which was kind

20 of put to bed yesterday, I think you're going to get

21 that whole document. You're going to get the RBA;

22 you're going to get the first page; you're going to

23 get -- so -- and particularly when we have charter

24 authorizing software, I think that document will

25 just be uploaded.

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1 So that alleviated a concern that I had

2 that, you know, one school was asking to be

3 different from all other schools.

4 So we put -- we put them first to talk

5 about that. But I feel like you talked about it

6 yesterday. So I think -- I think any concern that I

7 had about consistency or difficulty for CSD is kind

8 of alleviated, 'cause you're going to look at the

9 whole template.

10 But I wanted to raise that.

11 And then, Vice Chair Carrillo, I can

12 either do it -- the Vice Chair typically walks

13 through each school after that. But I can do it if

14 you want me to.

15 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: We're going to have

16 to do like 23 of these next year; right?

17 THE CHAIR: (Off-mic comment.)

18 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: So, I mean, I'm

19 reading the motion for Explore. And -- but I'm

20 not -- everything after the "or" is not germane;

21 correct?

22 THE CHAIR: (Indicates.)

23 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Okay. Thank you.

24 I move that the Public Education

25 Commission approve the Charter Contract and

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1 Exhibits, including the Performance Framework for

2 Explore Academy, identified in Agenda Item 17, for

3 the 2024-2029 charter term, and that the proposed

4 changes to the mission template form proposed by

5 Explore Academy be accepted.

6 I further move that the Charter Contract

7 with the referenced attachments be signed by the

8 Chair, and the completed documents be sent to the

9 school's governing board president for signature and

10 then posted on the PEC website.

11 THE CHAIR: Second.

12 There's a motion by Commissioner Carrillo

13 and a second by Commissioner Gipson.

14 The only thing I want to say -- so I don't

15 say it for every school -- I just want to thank all

16 the schools that, you know, came to the contract

17 negotiations with us, got all these documents ready,

18 because this was the first year that we're doing the

19 Performance Framework.

20 So it was -- it was always -- you know,

21 there -- it was wheels in motion all the time. And

22 thanks for the grace in terms of dealing with

23 changes in the templates that took place during that

24 time.

25 It was -- it was a big learning curve for

<p style="text-align: right;">274</p> <p>1 all of us to do these. And, you know, thank you to 2 Commissioner Carrillo for all of these, for stepping 3 in and leading this, that this was -- it was a lot 4 of work. So...</p> <p>5 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: I couldn't do it 6 without you guys. Are you kidding me? Julia had to 7 outline that thing in yellow so I knew what to read. 8 All right. Thank you. 9 I have a question about that, actually. 10 Changed documents. Does that apply? Am I doing 11 that for Explore? Okay. I didn't think so. Okay. 12 Oh, that's right. Secretary. 13 SECRETARY BECK: Vice Chair Carrillo. 14 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Yes. 15 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Ingham. 16 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 17 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner 18 Clahchischilliage. 19 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 20 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Brauer. 21 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 22 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Taylor. 23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 24 SECRETARY BECK: Chair Gipson. 25 COMMISSIONER GIPSON: Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">276</p> <p>1 Clahchischilliage. 2 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes. 3 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Ingham. 4 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 5 SECRETARY BECK: Chair Gipson. 6 THE CHAIR: Yes. 7 SECRETARY BECK: Vice Chair Carrillo. 8 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Yes. 9 SECRETARY BECK: Secretary Beck, yes. 10 There are seven votes for, zero votes against. The 11 motion passes. 12 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Next, we are on to 13 Middle College. 14 MS. JULIA BARNES: I just had one thing to 15 highlight for you-all. 16 Middle College has long reported out as a 17 mission goal how students did in their school after 18 they left them. We -- we had a long conversation 19 with them that that is an important part of their 20 educational plan. So it got moved to their 21 educational plan, but it didn't feel appropriate to 22 score them on students that were no longer in their 23 school. 24 So they are still required to do it. They 25 are still fully committed to doing it. It's just</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">275</p> <p>1 SECRETARY BECK: And Secretary Beck, yes. 2 There are seven votes for, zero votes 3 against. The motion passes. 4 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Terrific. So we're 5 on next to Aviation Academy. 6 No yellow this time? Green? Okay. 7 I move that the Public Education 8 Commission approve the Charter Contract and 9 Exhibits, including the Performance Framework, for 10 Aviation Academy, identified in Agenda Item 17, for 11 the 2024-2029 charter term. I further move that the 12 Charter Contract with the referenced attachments be 13 signed by the Chair and the completed documents be 14 sent to the school's governing board president for 15 signature and then posted on the PEC website. 16 THE CHAIR: Second. 17 There's a motion by Commissioner Carrillo, 18 a second by Commissioner Gipson. 19 Any discussion? 20 (No response.) 21 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Taylor. 22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. 23 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Brauer. 24 COMMISSIONER BRAUER: Yes. 25 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">277</p> <p>1 not one of their goals. 2 VICE CHAIR CARRILLO: Great. 3 On that note, I want to commend them for 4 even doing that. It takes a lot of effort, but it 5 just -- it really shows them where their successes 6 are in their community. 7 So on to Middle College. 8 I move that the Public Education 9 Commission approve the Charter Contract and 10 Exhibits, including Performance Framework, for 11 Middle College, identified in Agenda Item 17, for 12 the 2024-2029 charter term. 13 I further move that the Charter Contract 14 with the referenced attachments be signed by the 15 Chair and the completed documents be sent to the 16 school's governing board president for signature and 17 then posted on the PEC website. 18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Second. 19 THE CHAIR: Motion by Commissioner 20 Carrillo and a second by Commissioner Taylor. 21 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner Ingham. 22 COMMISSIONER INGHAM: Yes. 23 SECRETARY BECK: Commissioner 24 Clahchischilliage. 25 COMMISSIONER CLAHCHISCHILLIAGE: Yes.</p>

CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNING BOARD VOTE

EXPLORE ACADEMY
5100 Masthead (K-5) / 6600 Gulton (6-12)
Albuquerque, NM 87109



This document certifies that a meeting of the Governing Board of **Explore Academy**, a public state charter school authorized by the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC), was held on April 9, 2024 at 5:30 pm. The meeting and all votes were conducted in compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

A quorum of the Governing Board's members being present and voting, it was voted four (4) in favor and zero (0) opposed, with one abstention by Member Hamilton (as he arrived late and missed the discussion), to approve the Charter Contract and Performance Framework with the two Mission Goals, with removal of the grade level rows from the rating worksheet and moving those to an additional worksheet as a supplement for PEC informational purposes only, per the request of the PEC, as had been discussed and requested at the contract negotiation session.

I, the undersigned, certify that this is a true copy.



Patrick Molina, Board President

GOVERNING COUNCIL MINUTES **DRAFT**

EXPLORE ACADEMY GOVERNING COUNCIL
5100 Masthead Ave (K-5) / 6600 Gulton Ct (6-12)
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Meeting minutes recorded by Dotty McKinney, Governing Council Secretary

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 (regular meeting)
5:30 p.m. MST

I. PROCEDURAL AGENDA

- A. This meeting of the Explore Academy Governing Council (GC) was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Patrick Molina.
- B. A quorum of the GC was present as follows: Chair Patrick Molina, Vice Chair Martha Barrera, and Secretary Dotty McKinney, validated via roll call by Secretary Dotty McKinney. Richard Griffith and Aaron Hamilton arrived later as indicated in these minutes.
- C. Staff in attendance: Jake Kolander - Head Administrator; Karen Woerner - Director of Compliance; Melissa Hernandez - Director of Assessment; Ralph Lovato - Director of Facilities; Katie Rarick - Axiom Analytics (School Business Official); and several staff and parents.
- D. The meeting was held on the Zoom® platform.
- E. The board chair led the [Pledge of Allegiance](#).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT regarding items on the agenda

Steve Rowan asked that the weight loads for the Black Box Theater be reviewed and confirmed.

Richard Griffith joined the meeting at 5:37 pm

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Patrick Molina moved for approval of the agenda; seconded by Martha Barrera; approved unanimously with a roll call vote of 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Each school board member reviewed the minutes from the [March 12, 2024](#) meeting. Patrick Molina moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Dotty McKinney; approved unanimously with a roll call vote of 4-0.

V. FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

(A-C) Katie Rarick shared the Explore Academy financial presentation, check register and bank reconciliation through March 31, 2024.

- D. The following BAR was not discussed as it had been approved at the prior meeting. [BAR MEMO for 23-24 SEG - K-12 OST Adj](#)

Following questions and general discussion, Martha Barrera moved to approve the financial reports as presented; Patrick seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in an unanimous approval of 4-0.

Patrick Molina further requested that Ms. Rarick provide documentation of all procurement steps for the Cordray Electric purchase at the June meeting.

VI. ADMINISTRATION/STAFF REPORT

A. **School Leader Report** (*Jake Kolander*)

David Shaffer - AIC General Contractor

Doug Majewski and Wendy Caruso, Design Group NM

1. **Facility/Construction**

a) Gym roof

- Mr. Kolander thanked the parents who have reached out. He explained what occurred on Sunday evening, which was triggered by an alarm. School administrators, ELS team members, and Mr. Shafer reported on site immediately to see the damage. The team is waiting for details before putting out information to the community to ensure accuracy. He further noted that the facility was not complete and was not ready for occupancy. Final inspections had not been done and no students would have been in the gym until final review and the certificate of eOccupancy was issued.

Depending on third-party inspections, the main building is expected to be open for students on Monday. This does not include the classrooms and gym in the new addition. If official written assurance of safety is not received, the building will not re-open.

- Mr. Shaffer expressed agreement with Mr. Kolander's comments; he complimented Justin Baiardo for quickly arranging a third-party inspector on behalf of the school. He confirmed that the life support systems are separated from the main building.
- Mr. Majewski also agreed and advised that the team is awaiting results of the inspections and investigation and will take the appropriate steps to complete the project.
- Ms. Caruso expressed that we are working as a team and that there will be no rush as safety is a priority.

b) [Letter sent to mid/high \(Gulton\) staff/students/families 4/9/2024](#)

c) [Letter sent to elem \(Masthead\) staff/students/families 4/9/2024](#)

Richard Griffith dropped off the call and rejoined (6:20 - 6:22 pm)

d) Other updates

The school has received a quote to remodel part of the staff lounge into offices (\$35,000). Mr. Kolander stated that work is moving forward with the mini-buildout in this existing space. He stated the facility has no more available spaces once this project is completed.

e) Comments in Chat before it was disabled:

- Rose Flores Lopez: You are all amazing and I am happy no one was hurt. As a parent, I have always admired the work you do. Is it unfortunate that kids are home all week. Yes. Learning in person is always stronger. However, you push your students and have high learning expectations. They are already ahead of their peers in other schools. One week won't be detrimental.
- Nicole Garcia: Thank you Mr. Kolander for your communication throughout this event. You are absolutely a blessing to this community and we are thankful and supportive of all you and the staff/admins are doing.
- Jake Kolander: Thank you! I do appreciate the well wishes and kind thoughts. We do try our best to make transparent communication something we uphold.

2. **Staffing**

Mr. Kolander reported that they have not filled the K-5 Principal position yet. However, EA is in full-hiring mode to fill vacated positions to accommodate expanded departments at the Mid-High. There is also a need to fill positions for teachers that are taking extended breaks.

3. **Student Enrollment**

As a result of the lottery, staff is busy helping families with registration of their students. Staff is assisting them to fill out all the required forms. The on-going registration process is moving at a steady pace in preparation for the next school year.

A discussion has ensued regarding the possibility of aligning the processes for the K-5 and 6-12 campuses which would greatly reduce the workload for staff.

B. **Foundation Bond Report**

Karen Woerner explained, for the audience's sake, that the foundation exists to provide the school facility. The foundation is currently considered a component unit of the school for audit purposes. Therefore, the quarterly report was provided for the board's review, as requested. However, it was noted that the foundation is changing its organization structure and purpose (to serve multiple charter schools) which will result in the foundation no longer being a component unit of Explore Academy on or before July 1, 2024.

VII. **GOVERNING COUNCIL BUSINESS**

A. **Charter Contract Renewal** (*Karen Woerner*)

1. Proposed Charter and Performance Framework
 - a) [Explore Academy Charter Contract](#)
 - b) [Performance Framework](#)
 - c) [Mission Goal 1 \(grades 6-12\)](#)
 - d) [Mission Goal 2 \(grades K-5\)](#)
2. To be presented for approval at PEC Meeting on April 19, 2024
After both entities have approved, the PEC attorney and/or CSD will complete the documents and present them via DocuSign to the board chair and PEC Chair Gipson for signature.
3. Resources for Calculating Ratings for Option 2 (if needed)
 - a) [IStation Progress in Math and ELA calculator BLANK](#)
Example for [iStation Progress](#) (grades K-5)
 - b) [NM PEC iMSSA Goal Template BLANK](#)
Example for [iMSSA Goals](#) (grades 6-8)
 - c) [SAT or Growth from PSAT](#) (grade 11)

4. Other Resources
 - a) [Business Rules](#) for the 2023 Performance Framework
 - b) [2024-25 Compliance List](#) and [Compliance Certification](#) for the 2023 Performance Framework

Aaron Hamilton joined the meeting at 6:52 pm

Following a summary of the Charter Contract documents by Karen Woerner and details from Melissa Hernandez regarding the calculations for option 2 (growth of students within a given school year), Patrick Molina moved to approve the Charter Contract and Performance Framework with the two Mission Goals, with removal of the grade level rows from the rating worksheet and moving those to an additional worksheet as a supplement for PEC informational purposes only, per the request of the PEC, as had been discussed at the contract negotiation session; Martha Barrera seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in an unanimous approval of 4-0 plus one abstention by Aaron Hamilton.

B. Part-time Resolution (PTR)

1. [Letter](#)
2. [Resolution Template](#)

Patrick Molina moved to approve the PTR as presented; Dotty McKinney seconded the motion. Following questions and general discussion, Patrick Molina moved to amend his motion to table the decision until the May meeting; Martha Barrera seconded the motion. Ms. Barrera requested information on the NMPSIA costs and if Katie Rarick could provide additional information at the May meeting. A roll call vote resulted in an unanimous approval of 5-0.

C. Proposed SY25 School Calendar

1. [Elementary](#)
2. [Mid/High](#)

Following questions and general discussion, Patrick Molina moved to approve the elementary and mid/high calendars in draft form pending PED approval and changes, if any; Aaron Hamilton seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in an unanimous approval of 5-0.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

- A. Dotty McKinney thanked Jake Kolander and staff for rallying around the gym issue. Hats off to them!
- B. Martha Barrera acknowledged Patrick Molina for his leadership and representation of the board in expressing concerns for student safety and getting third-party inspectors.
- C. Patrick Molina thanked the attendees for their concern and support, for coming to the meeting, and invited them to attend future meetings. He also mentioned the Learning Celebrations where the school highlights things going on at the school that are generally a part of the agenda.

Also, please note the reminders posted on each agenda which include the Governing Council Annual Calendar and Governing Council Training Opportunities/Updates and Training Trackers.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT regarding items not on the agenda

The floor was opened for public comment.

- A. Steve Rowan commented that he will gladly provide guidance about the expected weight load for the black box theater ceiling.
- B. Joe Graziano commented that “the roof is a spring cable suspension system with concrete beams and poured concrete as the material over styrofoam. There is no way the cable system

failed. Those walls are under tension right now and are dangerous to be near. I just need assurances that the state inspectors are on the case but the building needs to be removed and rebuilt. The school appears to be ambitious with returning. Thanks.”

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the GC is scheduled for May 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom®.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:39 pm by Chair Patrick Molina.

ATTENDEES

 Richard Griffith		
 15052346392		
 15058503380	 Kathleen Campbell	
 Becki Odeen Harris	 Kelly	
 Bernadette Flemming	 kelly powers	
 Chris Jackson	 Kevin Hughes	
 David Shaffer	 Leighan Collins	 Rodrigo Macaferri-Rodrigues
 DominicAndKayla Kitts	 Malea Fowler	 Sarah Pastore
 doug majewski	 Mark Reynolds	 Steve Rowan
 Esmeralda Mendoza	 Martin Baca	 Susan Bouchonville
 Hailey Van Essen	 Matthew Fawver	 Tamar Ginossar
 Hamilton Kahn	 Monica Navarro	 Tamara M
 iPhone (103)	 Ms Lyanne	 Tarah Shawn
 Jennifer Hathaway	 Nicole Bartos	 Terri Craig
 Jesse	 Nicole Garcia	 Tim
 John Welp	 Patrick Kelly	 Tracy Reynolds
 Josh	 Rachel Leung	 Wendy Caruso
 Julie Macaferri	 Ralph Lovato	 Xiaona Morgan
 Karen Snyder		 Zoom user

- Bobby Jones
- Brandy Jones
- Tamar Gossinar
- Katie Rarick
- Danielle Bloch
- Jessica
- Rose Flores Lozano

- Cheryl Fehringer
- David Winsor
- Emily Bouchonville
- Kim Padilla
- Lara
- Leslie
- Melissa Anderson

- Michelle Carrejo
- Zeb Marchiondo
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