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**Charter Schools Division
2023-24 Preliminary Annual Report
Revised October 10, 2024**

School Name: New Mexico Connections Academy

School Address: 130 Siringo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Head Administrator: Sandy Beery

Governing Board Chair: Mark Boitano

Business Manager: Justine Vigil

Authorized Grade Levels: 4-12

Grade Levels Served: 4-12

Authorized Enrollment Cap: 2,000

2023-24 120-Day Enrollment: 1401

Contract Term: 2023-2028

CAPs or Conditions: Renewal Conditions- Academic

Notice from 2022-23 Annual Report: Not applicable; the school renewed in 2023, therefore, an Annual Report was not required for 2022-23.

Waivers: none

Mission: The mission of New Mexico Connections Academy is to be the innovative, cutting-edge virtual school in New Mexico. Our mission is to support New Mexico students in 4th-12th grade from any part of the state to maximize their potential and meet the highest performance standards, NMCA will provide an alternative to the traditional brick-and-mortar environment for those students who desire a flexible,

self-paced virtual setting, NMCA will provide a uniquely Individualized, learning program with a rigorous, world-class online curriculum delivered by highly qualified New Mexico-certified teachers and staff.

Educational Program:

NMCA provides synchronous and asynchronous virtual Instruction through:

- A. a flexible, self-paced virtual program individualized by each student as evidenced by the schedules of each grade band and sample of individual student plans;
- B. small group and individual support for all students as evidenced by teacher schedules;
- C. support for active parental involvement as evidenced by the example of outreach to parents by the learning coach support specialist, Including narratives and examples of support provided; and
- D. data-driven, team-developed programming and planning for continuous improvement that is evidenced by agendas of team meetings, samples of data that are considered, and a sample program or planning change made.

Demographics as reported in Nova 2023-24 (120-Day)

Note: demographics by subgroup is not yet available; pending Nova certification.

Academic Performance

Academic Performance Framework Indicators	2022-23 Score (100 points possible)	2023-24 Score (100 points possible)
1: State Accountability System: NMVistas Overall Score	CSI.GRAD 53.8	pending*
2: Subgroup performance: high, middle, and low-performing quartiles	unavailable	unavailable
3: School-specific Goals: if two goals, average of points on each	exempt for 2022-23 (renewal year)	100
Overall Academic Score: average of indicators 1 and 3	N/A	–

***Note:** NM Vistas scores are not yet available. Report will be updated when published.

State Accountability System:

State and federal statute mandates accountability for all public schools. This section provides a snapshot of the school’s academic performance according to data collected by the Public Education Department (PED) for the school years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 (when available).

The New Mexico State Accountability System ([NM Vistas](#)) gives every public school in the state an overall score. NM Vistas scored schools according to the following designations:

<p>Spotlight: Top 25% of schools, excluding schools with designations of CSI, Graduation Rate or TSI/ATSI</p>	<p>Traditional: No other designation</p>	<p>TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement): Multi-year low performing subgroup(s)</p>
		<p>ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement): TSI in the lowest 5% of schools. Exit from ATSI status requires an increase in subgroup performance in both of the next 2 years.</p>
		<p>CSI (Comprehensive Support): Lowest 5% of all schools; OR 3 years in ATSI; OR 3-year average of 4-Year Graduation rate is below 66.67%</p>
		<p>MRI (More Rigorous Intervention): on CSI for 3 years</p>

Note about 2022-23 NM Vistas Revision: on May 20, 2024, the Accountability, Research, Evaluation, and Assessment (AREA) Division released new figures on NM Vistas for the school year 2022-23. The figures were recalculated because: 1) AREA received a high number of appeals from schools about their data; 2) the Vistas data and designations needed to align with the state’s *Consolidated State Plan* (CSP) that is sent to the U.S. Department of Education as part of the *State ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Accountability Model*; 3) during the initial release of Vistas 2022-23 reports, a number of schools were prematurely exited from designations of CSI and ATSI. Those schools are on a three-year cycle, some of which started in 2018-19. Because of Covid, two years of accountability reports were waived, so the designation should have continued through 2022-23.

Important: According to the May 20, 2024 NM Vistas revision, the highest **overall** designation a school may receive is “Spotlight,” however, an additional designation/distinction of “Excellence” is assigned to schools scoring above the 90th percentile on specific indicators.

Refer to the [2022-23 Accountability Measures Overview](#) for a summary of indicators included in Vistas calculations. Further details and criteria for each designation are provided in the *Accountability Technical Manual* linked to the [NM Vistas](#) web page.

Note: NM Vistas designations and academic proficiencies are not available at this time. Report will be updated when data are available.

Mission-Specific Goals

Goal: Students will report high self-management skills (as measured by students scoring self-management skills, on average, as “easy” or “very easy” for them) at the spring survey administration (Grades 5-12). (Based on an average of 3 or above on eleven questions. 4-Very Easy, 3-Easy, 2-Difficult, 1-Very Difficult)

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standards	75-100% of students report high self-management skills on the spring survey	100
Meets Standards	54-74.9% of students report high self-management skills on the spring survey	75
Working to Meet Standard	35-53.9% of students report high self-management skills on the spring survey	25
Falls Far Below Standard	0-34.9% of students report high self-management skills on the spring survey	0

Rating: 79% attainment- Exceeds Standards: **100 points**

Organizational and Financial Performance Framework

2023-24 Overall Rating: Pending

Pursuant to the [PEC Performance Framework and Accountability System](#), schools receive ratings of **Meets Standard**, **Working to Meet Standard**, or **Does Not Meet Standard** for individual indicators in the framework. Explanations for any rating other than Meets Standard are provided below.

The school also receives an overall rating of either **Meets Standard** or **Does Not Meet Standard** for the year. If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating for three or more indicators, it will receive an overall rating of **Does Not Meet Standard**.

If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating, on any indicator, the CSD and PEC may conduct a closer review the following year on that indicator, and/or the PEC may require the school to submit a corrective action plan in order to specify actions and a timeline to correct the performance deficiency.

A school may receive a **Working to Meet Standard** rating on multiple indicators and still receive an overall rating of **Meets Standard**. If a school receives this rating across multiple years, the CSD and PEC may conduct a closer review the following year on that indicator, and the school will need to address the issue in its renewal application at the end of its charter term.

Multi-year Performance Framework Ratings

New Mexico Connections Academy	2023-24
Organizational and Financial Performance Ratings	
1a Mission and Educational Program	Working to Meet Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Pending
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Meets Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Working to Meet Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Meets Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	N/A
2a Governance Requirements	Meets Standard
2b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard
2c Reporting Requirements	Meets Standard
3a Rights of All Students	Meets Standard
3b Attendance and Retention	Pending
3c Staff Credentialing	Meets Standard
3d Employee Rights	Meets Standard
3e Background Checks, Ethics	Meets Standard
4a Facilities	Meets Standard
4b Transportation	N/A
4c Health and Safety	Meets Standard
4d Handling Information	Meets Standard
4e Information accessible to the public	Meets Standard
4f School climate	Working to Meet Standard
5a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Meets Standard
5b Accounting Principles	Meets Standard
5c Responsive to Audit Findings	Meets Standard
5d Managing Grant Funds	Meets Standard
5e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Meets Standard
5f Internal Controls	Meets Standard

Explanation of 2023-24 Indicator Ratings

- 1.a. The site visit team saw evidence of ed program elements B, C and D but only one of the evidence elements required for A (saw schedules but not student plans).
- 1.b. Participation data will be provided in Fall 2024.
- 1.d. Specific ELD instruction was not observed/made available to the site visit team.
- 3.b. Rating is pending until certified 120D attendance data is available from Nova.
- 4.f Documentation of and action and plans relative to Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning and Equity Council not available at annual visit.

Site Visit Attendees

May 6, 2024

CSD Team: Martica Davis (lead), Kelli Renken and Kristen LaVolpa

School Leadership: Dr. Sandra Beery (head administrator), Shannon Vasquez, Jolene Ortiz and Mia Anderson

Governing Board: Jerry Schalow