

New Mexico Public Education Commission



Charter School Renewal Application

Part E: Facilities

Charter Schools Division
Public Education Department
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Santa Fe, NM 87501
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Approved by the Public Education Commission: March 18, 2022

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Instructions

Please read the entire Charter School Renewal Application Kit before preparing documents. In an effort to help applicants understand the requirements of the Renewal Application, the CSD will hold a minimum of two technical assistance workshops. Applicants will be notified of the dates, times, and locations of the workshops.

Enter applicant responses in boxes below. Answer all questions unless the question indicates that applicants should answer only under certain conditions (e.g., rating on a Performance Framework indicator requires explanation, etc.). Narrative responses should be verifiable through documents submitted or observable evidence at the renewal site visit.

School Information

Name of School: Aldo Leopold Charter School
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Facilities Narrative

Provide a description of the charter school facilities. Enter applicant response in box below:

<p>School response: Aldo Leopold Charter School, ALCS, is located on Western New Mexico University, WNMU, campus. The school is housed in a former dormitory, Ritch Hall, at 410 W. 10th Street, Silver City, NM. Ritch Hall was built in 1916 or 1917. The building has three levels. The lowest level is home to the middle school. The middle floor houses high school classrooms, the cafeteria, and administrative offices. On the third floor we have a conference room, ancillary services, storage, and a technology office. Our school's Youth conservation Corps (YCC) crews have installed outdoor seating and a terrace on the hillside adjacent the school. This space has been used as an outdoor classroom and meeting space for the whole school. WNMU has let us know that they do not intend to renew our lease after June of 2026. ALCS is working with the local district, Silver Consolidated Schools, to find a building for the eventual move. Although we have enjoyed being on the university campus, the layout and age of the current building are barriers to an ideal learning environment.</p>
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Appendices

Include the following appendices as PDFs, using the following naming conventions. In place of “School Name” please use a short form of the school’s name, with the same form used consistently for all appendices.

	File Name	Documentation
E-1	E-1 E-Occupancy School Name	E-Occupancy Certificate
E-2	E-3 Lease Agreement School Name	A copy of the facility lease agreement, if applicable
E-3	E-4 Facility Master Plan School Name	Facility Master Plan

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
REGULATION AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES DIVISION
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION BUREAU

No 25562

THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BEFORE A FINAL INSPECTION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED.
XX PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY, _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

~ CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ~

THE FOLLOWING BUILDING OR PORTION THEREOF HAS BEEN INSPECTED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
OCCUPANCY GROUP E AS SPECIFIED BY THE NEW MEXICO BUILDING CODE.

1000 W. College AVE (410 W. 10TH) Silver City, N.M.
BUILDING ADDRESS

Western New Mexico Univ. 410 W. 10TH / Silver City, N.M.
NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER

I&I SIGN, INC.
NAME(S) OF LICENSED NEW MEXICO CONTRACTOR(S)

IF NO LICENSED CONTRACTOR, NAME(S) OF OWNER-BUILDER(S)

GENC 2019019494
BUILDING PERMIT NUMBER

Alteration/Repair (change of Occp.)
PORTION OF BUILDING

Tom Ma
INSPECTOR'S NAME

9-18-2019
DATE

"Ritch Hall / ALSO Leopold Charter School"
COMMENTS

LEASE AGREEMENT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT IS TO SET FORTH UNIFORM GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPON WHICH LESSOR SHALL LEASE TO LESSEE, AND LESSEE SHALL LEASE FROM LESSOR.

THIS LEASE AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN:

The LESSOR: Western New Mexico University with its principal address at 1000 W College Ave, Silver City NM 88061

AND

The LESSEE: Aldo Leopold Charter School with its principal address at WNMU Ritch Hall, Silver City NM 88061

LESSOR AND LESSEE AGREE THAT LEASE IS CONTINGENT UPON APPROVALS BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND NEW MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY. LEASE ENTERED INTO UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT IS A "TRUE LEASE".

COMMENCEMENT PROCEDURES: Subject to other terms and conditions contained in this Master Agreement and applicable Schedule(s) as may be attached hereto and made a part of this Master Lease Agreement, Lessee shall enter into individual Leases (hereafter defined) with Lessor as follows:

Execution of Lease. Lessor and Lessee mutually agree Lessee will be granted access to reside in Ritch Hall.

Leased Space: Lessor will, for the purpose of this Lease, make available the lower level floor and main floor of Ritch Hall as Administrative and Student Space to function as the Lessee's primary educational space for middle school and high school. The lower level floor will have seven (7) classrooms, one (1) library space, one (1) storage room with exterior access, and three (3) small classrooms, as well as a bathroom. The main floor will have seven (7) classrooms, two (2) rooms for providing individual and small-group instruction, and two (2) storage rooms dedicated to classroom use, as well as a bathroom, for a total area of 6,310 square feet. Lessee shall also be granted 210 square feet of administrative space in the wing adjacent to the classroom area.

Additional Leased Space: Upper level additional administrative space with three (3) offices, one (1) teacher's lounge, one (1) conference room with access to an ADA bathroom, and three (3) additional rooms to be used for storage and/or ancillary services.

Other Usable Space: Other areas in the adjacent wing may be used when not needed for University functions and when coordinated with University facility management. These areas are not included in the lease amount and include a kitchen, an all-purpose room, and a bathroom.

Use of Outdoor Space: Lessor and Lessee mutually agree Lessee will be granted access to an outdoor area on the north side of Ritch Hall, across the entrance to the Centennial Hall parking lot. This space is for the purpose of outdoor learning and recreation and will be fully maintained by lessee. Any alterations to the space must be approved by the WNMU AVP of Facilities & Operations. Upon termination of this agreement, lessee will return outdoor area to original condition.

Any infrastructure or equipment remaining on WNMU grounds 30 days after termination of lease will become property of WNMU.

Parking

Parking will be made available for students, administration, and the general public at Ritch Hall and, if needed, in the parking lot directly south of Ritch Hall. Handicap parking is included adjacent to Ritch Hall.

Parking Permits

Lessee, its agents, employees, and students will be required to attend an orientation with Campus Police at the beginning of each semester. Lessee, its agents, employees and students will be required to register all vehicles with campus police and obtain appropriate permit(s); fees may apply.

C Rec

Lessee will coordinate the use of all C Rec facilities (IM Gym, Racquet Ball Courts, and Fitness Center) with the Lessor's Special Events Department; fees may apply. Students under the age of 16 (sixteen) years of age will not be permitted in the Fitness Center.

Athletics

Lessee will coordinate with the Athletic Department for the use of the Tennis Courts, Football Field/Track, area neighboring the Softball Field, and athletic clinics.

Rental/Use of Lessee's Facilities

Lessee shall coordinate with the Lessor's Special Events Department for the rental or use of facilities campus wide.

Harlan Hall – Science Lab(s)

Lessee shall coordinate with the Natural Science's Department Head for the scheduling of Science Labs.

Information Technology

Lessee shall be permitted to use the wireless and cabled infrastructure available at Ritch Hall for lessee's purposes. Lessee shall respect Lessor's reasonable requirements for using its internet services.

Maintenance

Lessor will provide and maintain an appropriate, safe and habitable location, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Lessor will provide internal and external building maintenance, including but not limited to plumbing, electric, light bulbs, HVAC and other mechanical systems, fire protection, roof membrane and structure, walls, elevator, windows and doors. Lessor will maintain existing landscaping to include watering, pruning and general care. Damages assessed beyond normal wear and tear or caused by negligence will be billed to Lessee.

Cafeteria

Lessee will be responsible for coordination of menu and agreement with Sodexo on an as needed basis, to provide lunches.

Library

Lessee shall coordinate with the Lessor's Library Director for the use of Library beyond standard use.

Utilities

Lessor will provide electric, gas and water as part of the Master Lease Agreement. Lessee will provide telephone and long distance, intercom, alarm monitoring and custodial services. All other service will need to be mutually agreed upon in writing by both the Lessor and Lessee.

Signage

Lessee shall coordinate all signage with the Assistant Vice President of Facilities for the appropriate use of Lessor's identity standards and approval.

Term of Agreement

Lease will commence on July 1, 2024, and end on June 30, 2026, unless otherwise amended in writing and mutually agreed upon by all parties.

Termination

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this agreement, on or after March 15, 2025, either party will have the right to terminate this lease at any time without liability with 90 (ninety) days' written notice. The provision is not exclusive and does not waive other legal rights and remedies afforded Lessor.

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance

Lessee shall at all times during the lease maintain comprehensive general liability coverage with minimum limits of 1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) each occurrence, combined single limit, bodily injury including death, property/equipment damage liability and coverage for personal injury, blanket contractual liability and products liability. This certificate shall contain a statement that the care, custody or control exclusion is waived.

Appropriation

The terms of this lease are contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorization being made by the Legislature of New Mexico or other funding agencies. If the Legislature or other funding agencies does not make sufficient appropriations and authorization, this lease will, notwithstanding any other provisions of this lease, terminate immediately upon Lessor's receipt of written notice of termination.

Status of Lessee

Lessee and its agents, employees and students are independent and are not employees of Lessor. Lessee, its agent's employees and students will not accrue leave, retirement, insurance, bonding, use of Lessors vehicles, or any other benefit afforded to the employees of Lessor as a result of this lease.

Assignment/Sub-Leasing

Lessee will not assign or transfer any interest in this lease or assign any claim of money due or to become due under this lease without the prior written approval of Lessor.

Conflict of Interest

Lessee warrants that it presently has no interest and will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict any manner or degree with the performance of services required under the agreement. Lessee certifies that the requirements of the Governmental Conduct Act, Sections 10-16-1 through 10-16-17 NMSA 1978, regarding contracting with a public officer or state employee have been followed.

Liability

Each Party, on behalf of itself, its officers, faculty, employees, and students, shall be solely responsible for fiscal or any other sanctions caused as a result of its own violation or alleged violation of requirements applicable to the performance of this Lease. Each Party shall be liable for its own actions in accordance with this Lease. Neither Party shall be responsible for liability incurred as a result of the other Party's negligence, acts or omissions in

connection with this Lease. Any liability incurred in connection with this Lease is subject to the immunities and limitations of the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, § 41-4-1, et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended.

Equal Opportunity Compliance

Lessee agrees to abide by all federal and state laws and rules and regulations, and executive orders of the Governor of the State of New Mexico pertaining to equal employment opportunity. In accordance with such laws of the State of New Mexico, Lessee will not, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age or disability, be excluded from employment with or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity performed under this agreement. If Lessee is found not to be in compliance with these requirements during the life of this lease, Lessee agrees to take appropriate steps to correct these deficiencies.

Workers' Compensation

Lessee agrees to comply with the laws and rules applicable to workers' compensation benefits for its employees. If Lessee fails to comply with the Workers' Compensation Act and applicable rules when required to do so, this lease may be terminated by Lessor.

Drug Free Work Place Policy

Lessee agrees, Lessee's employees working on Lessor's property, will abide by the Lessor's Drug Free Work-place Policy found in the Regent's Policy Manual.

Applicable Law

This lease is governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

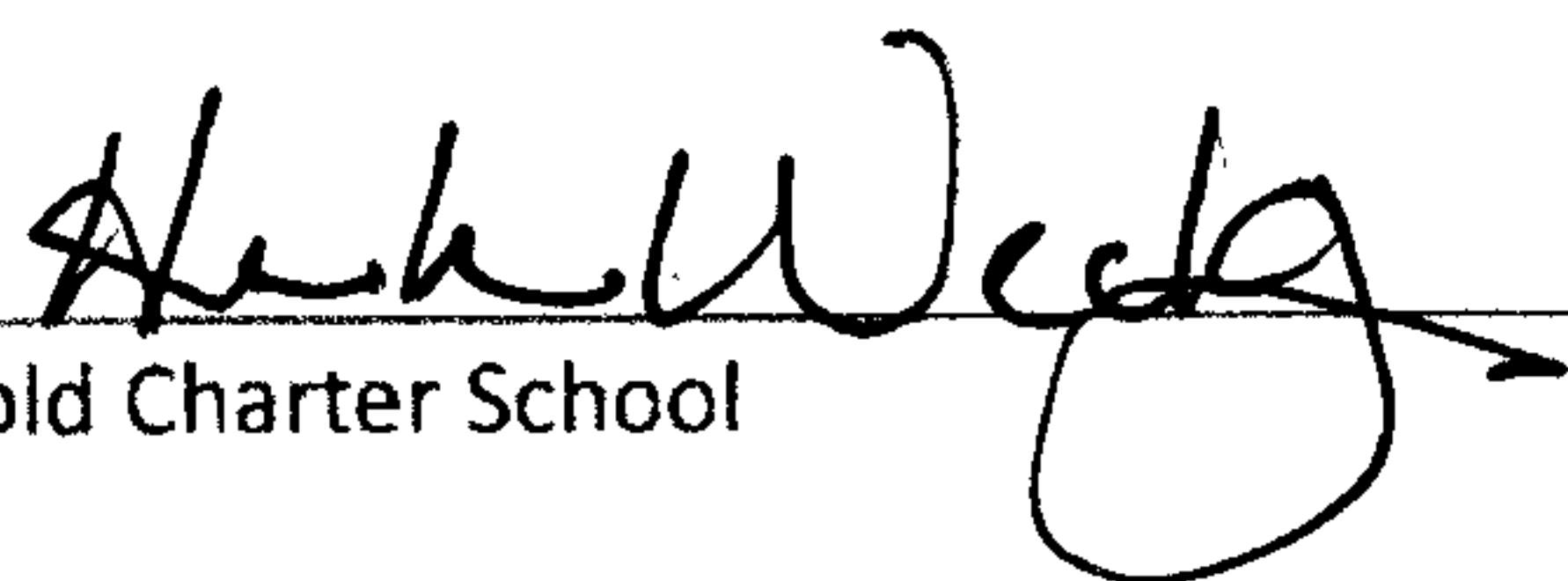
Amendment

This lease will not be altered, changed, or amended except by an instrument in writing as mutually agreed upon by all parties.

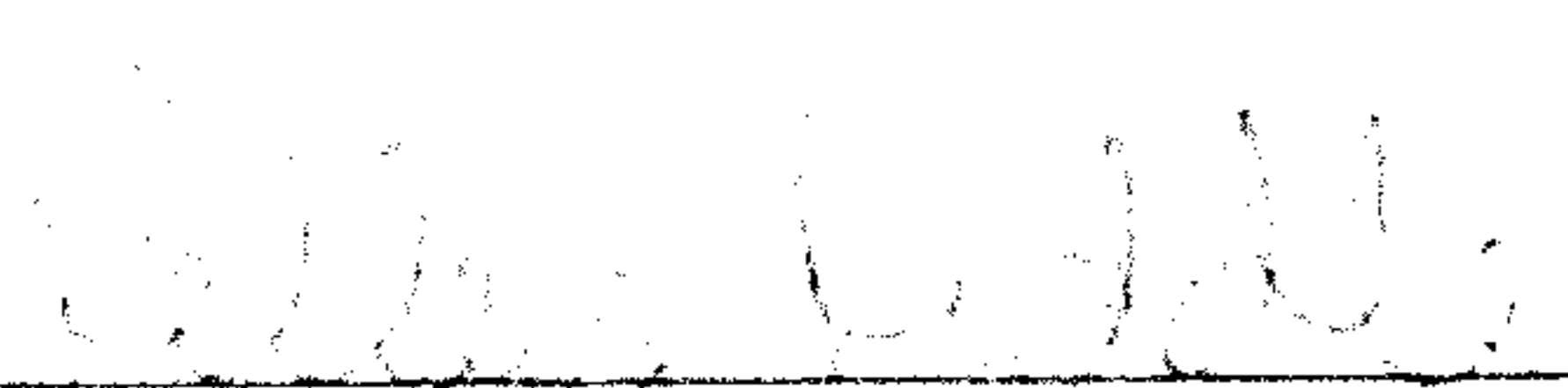
Compensation

Lessee shall pay Lessor an annual fee of \$150,000 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents) to be invoiced on the 1st of each month, NET 30 days. Lessee will pay 10 (ten) monthly payments of \$15,000 (Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents), August 1 through May 31.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, LESSOR AND LESSEE HAVE EXECUTED THIS MASTER AGREEMENT ON THE DATES SPECIFIED BELOW.

LESSEE:  Date: 8/14/24
Aldo Leopold Charter School

BY: Hannah Wecks, School Director

LESSOR:  Date: 8/14/24
Western New Mexico University

BY: Kelley Riddle, VP Business Affairs

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND EDUCATION SPECIFICATION 2020-2025



ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

Official FMP/ED Spec for the ALCS Charter School as required by the Public School Facility Authority. As a living document, the FMP/Ed Spec may be updated on a regular basis in response to the needs of the ALCS students.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND EDUCATION SPECIFICATION 2020-2025

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

The Public Schools Facility Authority (PSFA), acting under direction from the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC), requires that all New Mexico public and state charter schools complete a five-year facilities master plan as a prerequisite for eligibility to receive state capital outlay assistance.

This document will be officially referred to as the Aldo Leopold Charter School Facilities Master Plan/Education Specification 2020-2025. The intent of the FMP is to record the state of the Charter's current facilities, examine the ALCS educational model and future District goals, review enrollment, prioritize spatial needs considering creative resources and partnerships with community, and create a plan to guide capital expenditure decisions over the next five years. Capital projects are intended to support the school's educational mission, including anticipated changes and future structures.

This FMP/Ed Spec is designed to be a living document to present issues to the community, board of education, and ALCS staff for input and periodic revision. This document was prepared using a systematic process; the goal to identify needs and allocate capital resources for a facility that supports the educational program of this charter school. Capital funds are not as readily available to charter schools as they are to the public school districts; however, the State will waive certain adequacy standards if the creativity of the program provides a reasonable solution for the students. The State will consider capital support when it has been justified through this FMP process and is supported by funds generated through the community.

This FMP will answer four important questions:

- **Where are we now? What is the current state of our facilities and can we meet future demands?**
- **What do we want to look like in the future? What are our district's facility goals?**
- **What does the 'road' to our goals look like? What are the enrollment projections, program changes, classroom needs, and financial resources?**
- **How will we get there? What does our district need to do to attain our ideal future state? What is our strategy to meet our needs and how much money will we need?**

This FMP is comprised of FIVE sections:

Section 1

Goals/Process

Information about ALCS goals and the master planning process.

Section 2

Existing and Projected Conditions

Information regarding programs and program delivery, facilities, demographics, and enrollment.

Section 3

Facility Requirements (Educational Specification): Facility goals, concepts, spatial requirements, and implementation of space needs.

Section 4

Capital Improvement Plan

Detailed information about capital needs, priorities, and strategies.

Section 5

Master Plan Support Material

Facility reports, site plans, floor plans, project lists, and FAD reviews. This section includes all buildings owned and/or leased by the School.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALCS leaders and students wish to thank everyone for their invaluable contributions to the development of this document.

Wayne Sherwood-Director

ALCS Facilities Committee Members:

- Fiona Bailey – Asst. Principal
- Harry Browne- Business Manager/teacher
- Dave Chandler- ALCS Development Consultant
- Steven Shelendich - Community member/Architect
- Bridgette Johns- Parent
- Garrett Ferguson – Teacher
- Penny Donnelly – Teacher

ALCS Governing Council:

- A.J. Sandoval - Chair
- Hannah Wecks - Vice Chair/parent
- Christa Osbourne - Secretary
- Jamie Crockett-Parent
- Max Higgs
- David Peck
- Margaret Begay



ALCS STUDENTS BUILD SOLAR OVENS ON THE FRONT STEPS OF RITCH HALL, 2020

ALCS Staff, Students, and Parents:

- Penny Donnelly – Teacher/Parent
- Garrett Ferguson – Teacher
- Camilla Rice – Parent
- Jack Crocker – Parent
- Andrea Warner – Parent
- Bridgette Johns – Parent
- Stirling Wecks – High School Student
- Ajalaa Claussen – High School Student
- Maya Reeves – Middle School Student
- Lily Myers – Middle School Student

Planning Consultants – Public School Facilities Authority

- Martica Casias, Deputy Director
- John Valdez, AICP, Facility Master Planner
- Jorge Au – Field Representative
- Alyce Ramos – Research Analyst

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SECTION ONE: GOALS AND PROCESSES



ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

In this section, the Aldo Leopold Charter School team defines the program and facility goals for their school. Additionally, the process is explained both graphically and verbally. Finally, the acronyms and definitions used throughout this document are listed.

Section 1: Goals and Processes

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

1.1 GOALS

1.1.1 Mission and Vision

MISSION: At Aldo Leopold Charter School, the human and natural environments serve as text and lab for learning through direct experience, inquiry, and stewardship.

VISION: Aldo Leopold Charter School graduates will use the skills, perspectives, and information they gain at school to enhance their own lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Education Goals:

ALCS provides an inquiry-based learning to pursue depth and breadth of knowledge rather than superficial achievement: To promote independent, collaborative, community-based opportunities for students to interact with one another; to utilize required Socratic questioning and Seminars.

To provide a safe learning environment in a culture of cooperation and communication to allow the growth of each student into a respectful and responsible person: Teaming; personal responsibility; involve students in planning & instructional delivery; enhance respect relationships among school community members; promote reflection and communication between students.

Students are afforded a supportive infrastructure and services to assist in becoming effective community members and environmental stewards: to enhance all classes experientially, grounded with engagement in the natural and man-made environment; to model environmental sustainability through responsible practices and community commitment; to develop understanding of interrelationships & interactions among natural and social systems and their components; create a continuum of learning, crossing grade levels and allowing for multi-year research and service-learning, which contribute to their community.

The above goals will inform the school's facilities, as will be seen in Section 3 of this FMP.

1.1.2 General Educational Philosophy

Inquiry-Based Curriculum:

As stated in the 2020 Charter Renewal, ALCS curriculum is designed to be inquiry-based, experientially connected, and grounded in engagement in the natural environment. Basic academic courses are reinforced and enhanced by community-based elements of the curriculum. Students apply what they have learned within the community, thereby enhancing and reinforcing the curriculum.

Through inquiry, students are empowered to form their own conclusions with teachers teaching *how* to think, as opposed to *what* to think. Traditional disciplinary boundaries are crossed to develop more comprehensive understanding. As an example from the charter - each course integrates literature and writing across the curriculum, while NM state standards are addressed in every unit.

Environment as an Integrating Context for Improving Student Learning

The basis of the ALCS curricular frame is the Environment as an Integrating Context for Improving Student Learning (EIC Model™). This model emphasizes the use of local surroundings as the context for standards-based instruction. This model has demonstrated student performance improvement in core curricular areas along with growth in the area of problem-solving, strategic & creative thinking, information synthesis, and understanding complex interrelationships. The natural environment is the best laboratory in the world and many courses have an element of field study in a variety of landscapes. As the charter states, unifying concepts include social, ecological, and economic sustainability.

Connected, Active, Integrated Learning

The curriculum at all grade levels is driven by science and social studies and language arts; classes present literature supporting studies in these areas. The Interactive Math Program (IMP) is also integrated into the curricula by anchoring instruction through real-world activities. As stated in the charter: cognitive mapping and multiple-solution approaches to solving problems in mathematics classes carry over into problem-solving skills utilized in other classes.

Learning takes place in cooperative-learning groups, brainstorming, Socratic questioning and Socratic Seminars. All classes tie their studies to the natural and man-made environments where much of the ALCS curriculum is carried out. Inquiry learning is the basis of the curriculum. By pursuing knowledge through exploration, discovery, and invention, the student begins to understand and not simply gather isolated information. The 2020 Charter Renewal states: *“At ALCS, inquiry learning becomes real through our Service-Learning and Outdoor Education Programs...Engagement in the natural environment at ALCS is modeled after the conservation work of Aldo Leopold.”*

This model addresses the health and education of the whole student, developing intellectual, emotional, and physical skills. Self-confidence, fitness, teambuilding and connectedness to the natural world are results of this environmental interaction.

This sustainability education program also teaches responsibility and stewardship in a world context. ALCS uses the Natural Step Theory that is infused throughout all subjects in the curriculum. This framework ties individuals to the greater concept of humanity and worldwide ‘web of life’ on the planet.

Per the charter, there are three steps in this concept:

1. Developing healthy social groups with common goals, enabling them to
2. work toward a common goal of ecological sustainability, which then naturally leads to
3. economic sustainability.

Students, through inquiry, examine the ramifications of ecological responsibility/irresponsibility throughout civilization and technological development.

1.1.3 Serving the Community

Much of ALCS curriculum involves Service-Learning and Outdoor Education Programs. One particular required course called *Community Orientation* is a weekly series of interactive field trips designed to involve students with the community and natural environment. Field trips and internships take students into various parks to maintain trails, learn about mining, waste management, etc. Students are required, after the first semester of attendance at ALCS, to work in an internship for a minimum of 72 hours on Fridays, or after school and on weekends. Students are trained in proper work behavior and attire and must keep a reflective journal of their experiences. These experiences are shared with peers and teachers and each student must make a presentation of their experience. Some examples of service learning: Youth Conservation Corps trail maintenance, digital graphics design, theater, and the Satellite Youth Center.

ALCS believes this service-learning is integral to the student's experience at the school and will continue to create opportunities for interaction with the community at large.

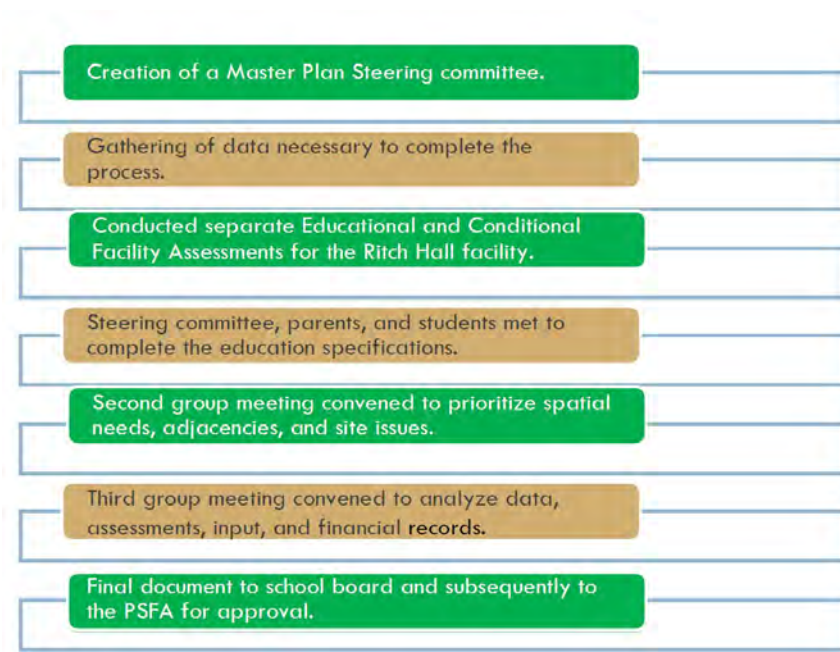
ALCS curriculum is aligned to New Mexico State Standards and benchmarks. At the same time the curriculum focuses on the needs and goals of the individual student. To enhance the development of academic skills, emphasis is also placed on other important life skills. Subsequent years' curriculum builds on learning from the previous year.

1.2 PROCESS

1.2.1 Data Gathering and Analysis

The planning team followed a participatory process.

In keeping with the community involvement philosophy that is infused within all areas of ALCS, meetings were held which included students, staff, administration, community members, and steering committee members.



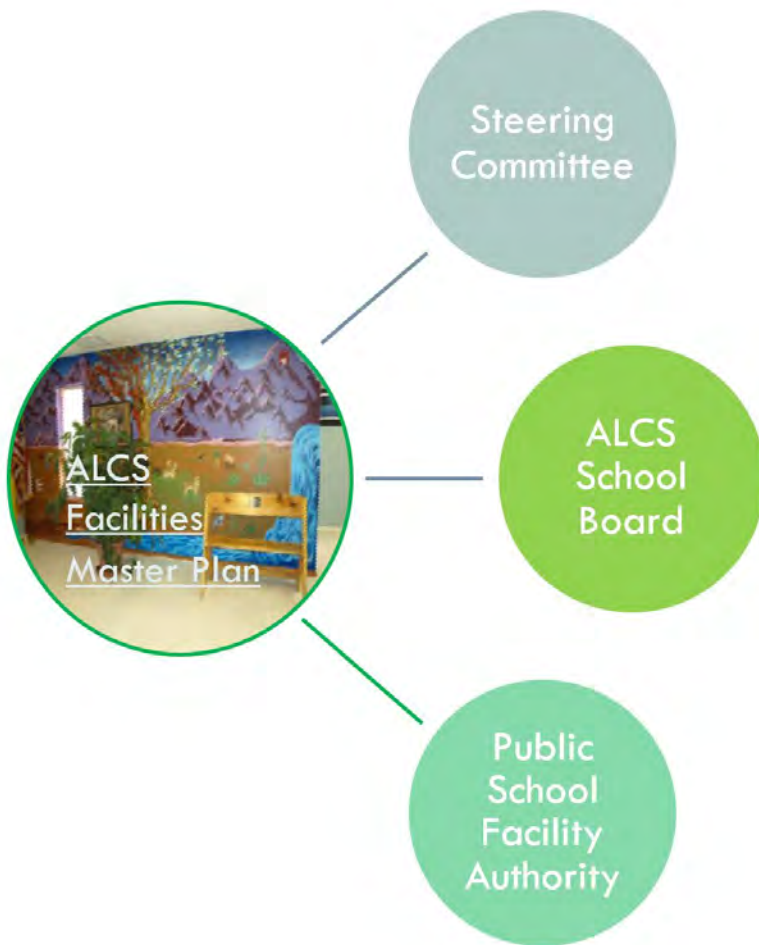
1.2.2 Authority and Facilities Decision Making

The steering committee acknowledged in the introduction section of this document, as well as below, was instrumental in developing this facility master plan. Participation was also strong from ALCS students, staff, and community members.

Ultimately, the project list and facility plan will be prioritized and approved by the steering committee. That plan will be documented in this FMP/Ed Spec and submitted to the ALCS school board for final approval.

The PSFA will also review the document and must approve prior to official acceptance and publication.

Document Approval Process Participants:



Wayne Sherwood-Director

ALCS Facilities Committee Members:

Fiona Bailey – Assistant. Principal
 Harry Browne- Business Manager/Teacher
 Dave Chandler- ALCS Development Consultant
 Steven Shelendich - Community member/Architect
 Garrett Ferguson – Teacher
 Penny Donnelly – Teacher
 Bridgette Johns- Parent

ALCS Governing Council:

A.J. Sandoval - Chair
 Hannah Wecks - Vice Chair/Parent
 Christa Osbourne - Secretary
 Jamie Crockett - Parent
 Max Higgs
 David Peck
 Margaret Begay

Stakeholders:

Penny Donnelly – Teacher/Parent
 Garrett Ferguson – Teacher
 Camilla Rice – Parent
 Jack Crocker – Parent
 Andrea Warner – Parent
 Bridgette Johns – Parent
 Stirling Wecks – High School Student
 Ajalaa Claussen – High School Student
 Maya Reeves – Middle School Student
 Lily Myers – Middle School Student

1.3 ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

ALHS – Aldo Leopold High School

ALMS– Aldo Leopold Middle School

BBER – University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research

CIP – Capital Improvement Plan

CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. This is an approach to deterring criminal behavior by using the surrounding landscape and architectural design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts.

COMMERCIALY-VIABLE KITCHEN – The recommended space to deliver the program and student service needs of this school is a combination kitchen space that implements NM educational standards for food service to students and teaching space requirements, while also addressing the unique goals for this program to grow, prepare, serve, and sell food that is grown on campus in the outdoor learning spaces. Additional code to meet this need would be that of a small restaurant or farmers market; concept seeks self-funding via the retail program which sells to students, staff, and public.

DCU – Deficiencies Correction Unit

DCP – Deficiencies Correction Program

Ed Spec – Educational Specification document, considers space needs of building and design based on the functional needs and adjacencies driven by program and teaching methods.

EETT – Enhancing Education Through Technology

EPSS – Educational Program for Student Success

FCI – Facility Condition Index (see NMCI), a ratio of facility value to cost of improvements

FMP – Facilities Master Plan

GIS – Geographic information system

GSF – Gross square feet, or the sum of net assignable square feet plus all other building areas that are not assignable. This “left over” area is called “tare.” Tare includes areas such as hallways, mechanical areas, restrooms, and the area of interior and exterior walls.

HVAC – Heating, ventilation and air conditioning

IT – Information technology

NSF – Net Square Feet, or building area that can be assigned to specific task, not including building

circulation, wall thickness, mechanical equipment and toilet facilities. Also referred to as net assignable square feet.

NMFCI – Weighted State Facility Condition Index, used in the State funding appropriation system to provide a means of comparison from one facility to another. Funds distributed to the highest number within a 1-100 ranking, i.e. 88.30 is higher than 14.35. NMFCI drives ranking numbers.

NMPED – New Mexico Public Education Department

PSFA – Public School Facilities Authority. Recommends capital projects to be funded by the PSCOC (above) based on their analysis of each school building and comparing it to all others in the State. Funds are intended to support the neediest projects throughout the State, as ranked against each other.

PTR – Pupil/teacher ratio- maximum number of students allowed per teacher according to grade level and considering total space of the classroom. PED standards are based on minimum classroom space of 750 -900 sf. PTR numbers within a district may be lower by district choice; the district must monetarily support this decision with additional capital funds.



SPED – Spec. ed. or special education

SF- or, Sq/ft – Square Foot

State ID – State Building Identification Number

VOC – Vocational and Agricultural (program, room, lab) ; also known as Vo/Ag or VOC AG.

WNMU – Western New Mexico University – campus location of the Aldo Leopold Charter School.

SECTION TWO: EXISTING AND PROJECTED CONDITIONS



ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

Section Two outlines the education program and delivery methods. After a review of sites and facilities, area demographics, enrollment history & projections, and facility utilization and capacities, current sites will be documented and assessed using the State educational adequacy standards.

Section 2: Existing & Projected Conditions

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

2.1 PROGRAMS AND DELIVERY METHODS

2.1.1 Programs Overview

In 2013, ALCS added a Middle School to the Aldo Leopold Charter School District, and from that time, ALMS has added a total of six full-time instructional Middle School staff members, plus one part-time administrator, three part-time elective teachers, and one full-time education assistant.

From 2013 until August 2019, both ALMS and ALHS were located on one campus – the original ALCS campus – located at 1422 Highway 180 E.

In August of 2019, the Aldo Leopold High School moved to Ritch Hall, located on the Western New Mexico University campus. ALCS is planning and has made significant steps towards moving the Middle School onto the same Ritch Hall location. The move of ALMS to the Ritch Hall campus is projected for completion by August 2020.

Due to the soon-approaching move of the ALMS campus to Ritch Hall on WNMU campus, this FMP will address the facilities of both ALMS and ALHS on the Ritch Hall campus and will not address the current ALMS facility at 1422 Highway 180 E.

The grade configuration at ALCS is 6 – 8 in the Middle School and 9-12 in the High School. The current enrollment of the ALMS is 72. The current student enrollment of the ALHS is 99.

Daily class schedules for the Middle School include 8 periods (including advisory and lunch).
Daily class schedules for the Middle School include 6 periods (including advisory and lunch).

The ALCS student/teacher ratio is currently 11:1, capping at 15:1, in order to promote a small school learning environment and to give students the attention they require to thrive in the education environment.

The school's instructional program is founded upon inquiry-based learning – both in the classroom and in the field. Knowledge is acquired through exploration, discovery, and invention. Aldo Leopold is a tight community where students work one-on-one with teachers, in small and large group teaming and collaboration. Learning is active and hands-on to facilitate the connection of theoretical ideas to real-world situations. Science and social studies classes at each grade level drive the curriculum with concepts crossing over into all other classes, along with environmental issues.

Socratic Seminars and questioning form an important part of education; these types of seminars empower all students and teachers to dynamic interaction and questioning of concepts. They often take place in Socratic circles. Social studies classes may conduct dramatic simulations of historical/theoretical events, and all classes tie their studies to the natural and man-made environments – as stated in the charter – “place-based education”.

Spaces at the current ALMS facility do not promote these basic premises of the educational program. To achieve and accommodate this active learning, for both ALMS and ALHS, a larger science lab space and library are both needed and will be implemented in the ALCS Ritch Hall facility. The Ritch Hall campus will also provide flexible spaces that allow for small and large group collaboration and demonstration.

Additionally, to carry through with the ALCS foundations of connection to the community, the environment, and the world, space for storage of tools/equipment, space for outdoor learning/gardening, and space in which to prepare and eat garden harvests will be accessible for all ALCS students on the new Ritch Hall campus.

2.1.2 Actual and Anticipated Changes in Programs

With the recent move of ALHS to a larger, renovated facility located on the WNMU Campus, ALCH's immediate priority is to have both the high school and middle school in the same facility by August 2020. As noted in the ALCS FMP 2012-2017, "The facility and site issues are one of the top priorities for ALCS within the next five years; there is no preference regarding a new building over a renovation of an existing facility – it is important however that the permanent "home" to ALCS fulfill the programmatic needs of the charter."

Kitchen Space

ALCS now has full access to 592 square foot kitchen facility in Ritch Hall. The kitchen and adjoining cafeteria/student lounge space are not leased by ALCS – both of these spaces are shared spaces with WNMU.

ALCS currently has a contract with the Federal School Lunch Program, with lunches made and delivered daily by Guadalupe Montessori School. In addition, students on the Ritch Hall campus have use of a microwave, refrigerator, toaster oven, and hot water – all located in the student lounge/cafeteria.

Additionally, ALCS is awaiting funds from a PED grant awarded by Student Success and Wellness Bureau. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase a commercial dishwasher, additional refrigeration, storage, and freezer facilities. This equipment will all be housed in the Ritch Hall kitchen. There are no current plans for ALCS to pursue a commercial kitchen.

Press Release

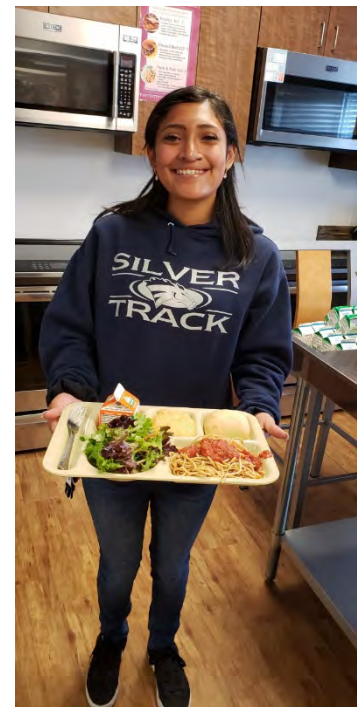
Aldo Leopold Charter School Receives Grant Funding for Lunch Program

Aldo Leopold Charter School (ALCS) received two grants during the fall 2019 semester that will support its federal lunch program.

The Devasthali Family Foundation Fund awarded the school \$3000, which will be used to bridge funding gaps in the school's current federal lunch program. Drs. Ammu and Rama Devasthali started Foundation Fund in 2011 which seeks to assist non-profit organizations in positively impacting the arts, education, child hunger, and maternal/child well-being in southern New Mexico.

The lunch program has further received funding from the New Mexico Public Education Department Student Success and Wellness Bureau to purchase a refrigerator, a commercial dishwasher, and sneeze guards for food service.

Aldo Leopold Charter School is tuition-free public school with a focus on stewardship of the community and the natural environment. Sixty percent of the school population qualifies for free and reduced lunch, and this need has been met with high-quality, well-balanced meals prepared by the school's community partner, Guadalupe Montessori School. In addition to providing free and reduced lunches, the school offers small class sizes, after-school academic support, opportunity for paid internship with Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), dual-credit coursework with Western New Mexico University, and the opportunity to play team sports with either Silver High School or Cobre High School.



Outdoor Learning and Physical Education Spaces

Moving ALCS to the Ritch Hall campus now allows students greater access to outdoor learning spaces, supporting the school's basic promise – the connect with the environment. Additionally, the Ritch Hall campus is located within close proximity to numerous outdoor recreational spaces, and ALCS students have access to the WNMU athletics facilities for Physical Education classes, which allows ALCS to meet all state Physical Education requirements. Moving the high school and middle school to Ritch Hall supports ALCS to further strengthen a dynamic relationship with Western New Mexico University, a prominent stakeholder for the ALCS program.

In keeping with the philosophy of sustainability and hands-on learning to tie real-world experience into theoretical concepts, ALCS is preparing to implement a school garden on the Ritch Hall campus, giving students the opportunity to cultivate, harvest, prepare, and consume or sell their produce and potential value-added products.

Additionally, a recreation/playground/basketball court area is in design/construction on the Ritch Hall campus, to be completed by August 2020. This area will serve as a drop-off/pick up zone for Middle School students, as well as an outdoor picnic/recreation area for ALCS students. WNMU students will also have use of this outdoor gathering space, when it is not in use by ALCS students.

Physical Education needs for all ALCS students are met through their on-campus and off-site activities, including Physical Education classes, Community Orientation classes (9th Grade only) and Youth Conservation Corp/Community Internship work (Grades 10-12). Additional physical education needs are augmented by outdoor fieldtrips (including annual backpacking trips), and various community service projects.



THE ALCS STUDENT BODY RECEIVES PHYSICAL FITNESS THROUGH THEIR OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES AND INTERNSHIP WORK, AUGMENTED BY OUTDOOR FIELD TRIPS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

2.2 ENROLLMENT

2.2.1 Historic and Current Enrollment

ALCS has a 210-student cap, and class sizes average at 15 students.

The High School enrollment in SY 2019/20 was 99 and the 40th day total for 2019/20 was 99 students.

The Middle School enrollment in SY 2019/20 was 72 and the 40th day total for 2019/20 was 72 students.

TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT BY YEAR

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018 /19	2019 /20
Total High School	91	88	79	91	86	82	99
Total Middle School	50	54	56	68	74	79	72
Total School District	141	142	135	159	160	161	171

ENROLLMENT BY YEAR BY GRADE LEVEL

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
High School							
Grade 9	36	22	20	26	23	24	33
Grade 10	22	28	27	18	24	22	24
Grade 11	21	15	20	29	17	21	22
Grade 12	12	23	12	18	22	15	20
Total High School	91	88	79	91	86	82	99
Middle School							
Grade 6	19	16	21	30	22	18	23
Grade 7	15	22	17	19	27	28	27
Grade 8	16	16	18	19	25	33	22
Total Middle School	50	54	56	68	74	79	72

2.2.2 Projected Enrollment

The charter renewal for ALCS has an annual enrollment cap of 210 students.

For the 2020/21 SY, ALCS 6th grade received more applications than the 30 student/grade cap, which activated the ALCS enrollment lottery to fill the 30 slots.

There are five lottery drawings throughout each spring semester, although it is recommended that applicants register for the February lottery drawing. The February 2020 6th grade lottery drawing awarded ALCS enrollment to 22 applicants.

Lottery awardees are notified by phone of their application acceptance, immediately after each lottery drawing.

Lotteries occur from February until July, or until all 210 slots have been filled. The lottery occurs until the cap has been met in each grade. 6th grade-22 students, 7th grade- 34, 8th grade- 34 Total=90 High school- 9th – 10th grade- 34 students/grade level 11th and 12th- 30 students. A waiting list occurs after the cap has been met.

In previous years, there have been waiting lists for applicants, particularly for slots in the Middle School.

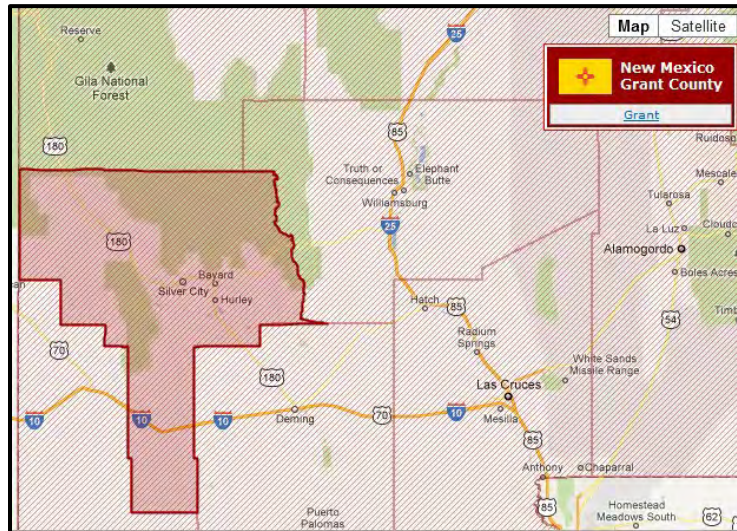
ALCS PROJECTED ENROLLMENT – 2018-2023

SCHOOL YEAR	GRADE LEVEL	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	ACTUAL ENROLLMENT
2018 / 2019	6 - 12		161
2019 / 2020	6 - 12		172
2020 / 2021	6 - 12	173	
2021 / 2022	6 - 12	180	
2022 / 2023	6 - 12	185	

2.2.3 Student Origination

ALCS serves students in Silver City and the wider Grant County area.

This area is located in rural Southwestern New Mexico.



Grant County has historically been dependent upon copper mining and the economic ebbs and flows within that industry. The mines have been in a down-turn in recent years, ultimately affecting the economy of the area. Other major industries/businesses in the area are Western New Mexico University (WNMU), the Gila Regional Medical Center, and the US Forest Service. The estimated total population of Grant County in 2019, according to the US Census Bureau, was 26,998, with an estimated population drop of 8.5% over the past ten years. As of March 2020, Grant County had an estimated unemployment rate of 5.4%, dropping significantly from 11% in 2010.

2.2.4 Classroom Loading Policy

ALCS' education program is project-based and interactive. Students are expected to meet in groups – both small and large to fully discuss issues. Classes are no typically no larger than 15 students in order to allow for a more personal setting and engaged interactions. The 15:1 Pupil/Teacher Ratio allows for more student-teacher and student-student interaction and collaboration following the educational philosophy of ALCS. Special Education classrooms will follow state-wide requirements of 8:1 PTR.

For the 2019/2020 SY, there was not access to an ALCS Science Lab in the Ritch Hall campus. Development of a Science Lab on the Ritch Hall campus is planned for completion by August 2020. On the Hwy 180 ALMS campus, science classes were limited to PTR rates of 9:1 for the proper investigative learning to take place. The small science lab did not allow for more than 9 students at one time, and classes were managed by careful scheduling and balance between classroom and lab time. This issue will be resolved with the creation of a science lab that will accommodate at least 15 students per class.

2.2.5 Classroom Need

The following charts show the total existing and planned classroom spaces at ALCS, Ritch Hall campus. It is noted that classroom sizes do not meet the State standards of a minimum of 650sf per classroom – however, due to the nature of Charter Schools, the outdoor learning/experiential educational opportunities outside of the classroom, and the ALCS student loading factor, the majority of these general classrooms are deemed adequate.

It is planned that Summer 2020 renovations to Ritch Hall will include the creation of 9 additional classrooms, a library, and a science lab, which will provide adequate facilities for two 6th Grade classes, two 7th grade classes, and two 8th grade classes.

Ritch Hall – Existing & Planned Classrooms

Total Permanent Classrooms	Total Portable Classrooms	Total Permanent and Portable Classrooms	% Portable Classrooms	Total General & Specialized Permanent/Portable	Total SPED & Ancillary Services Classrooms	Total Regular, C&D Classrooms
21.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	16.0	5.0	21.0
21.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	16.0	5.0	21.0

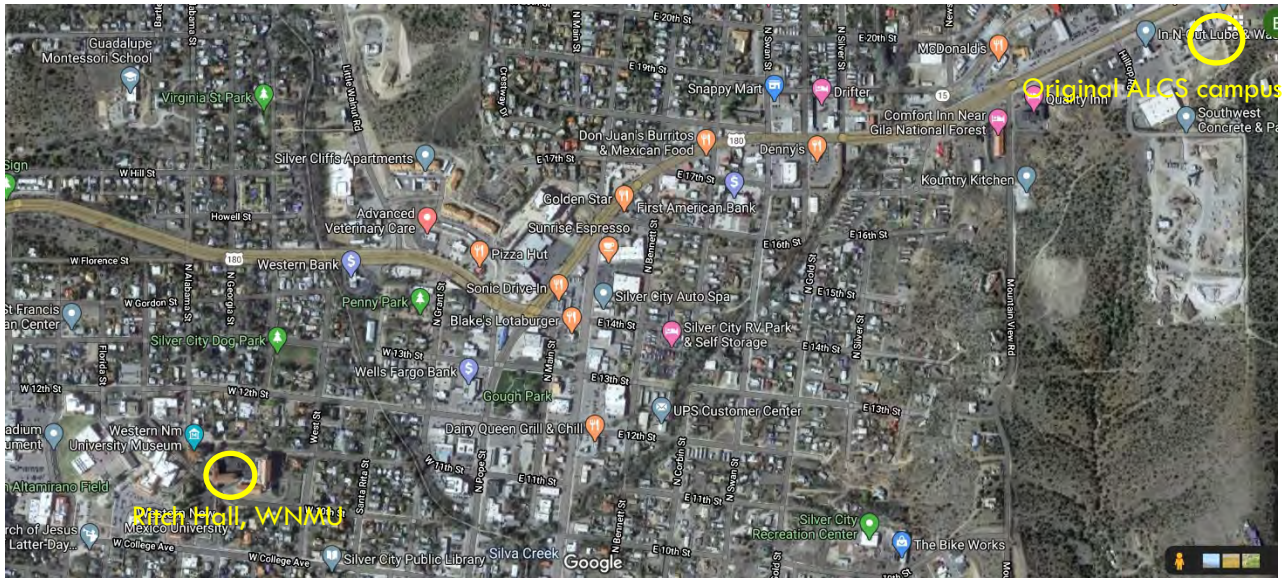
Ritch Hall – General and Specialized Classroom Need

General & Specialized Classrooms	Total SPED (A,B,C,D) & Ancillary Service Classrooms	Federal Program Classrooms	Total Reg and C&D Classrooms Needed	Classroom Surplus/Deficit
16.0	4.0	1.0	21.0	0.0
16.0	4.0	1.0	21.0	0.0

2.3 SITES AND FACILITIES

2.3.1 Location

The new Aldo Leopold Charter School campus is located at Ritch Hall, on the Western New Mexico University campus, just west of downtown Silver City, NM, at 410 West 10th street .



RITCH HALL LOCATION, WNMU CAMPUS, SILVER CITY, NM

2.3.2 Site

ALCS currently leases the second floor of Ritch Hall - 6,310 square feet of classroom and 120 square feet of administrative space. ALCS will lease an additional 6,599 square feet of the first floor of Ritch Hall, to accommodate ALMS students and staff, beginning August 2020.

Ritch Hall sits on approximately 3 acres of land within the WNMU campus.



Ritch Hall

2.3.3 Facility Evaluation

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL - MIDDLE SCHOOL (SY 2019/20 Facility)

Aldo Leopold Middle School is currently located at 1422 Highway 180 East in Silver City, NM, and is a State Chartered Charter School. As previously mentioned, the middle school is scheduled to move from the 1422 Hwy 180 campus to join the high school in Ritch Hall, WNMU campus, by August 2020.

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL – RITCH HALL - HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (SY 20/21)

Aldo Leopold High School is located on the second floor of Ritch Hall, Western New Mexico campus, 410 W. 10th Street, Silver City, NM. ALCS is a State Chartered Charter School. The High School campus currently consists of 6 classrooms, two special education classrooms, one ancillary room, and three administration offices. Second floor occupancy is ninth through twelfth grade students, with 6 full-time staff, 1 full-time administrator, one special education teacher, plus various elective-program teachers. There is a cafeteria and common area/student lounge on the second floor, which are not leased from WNMU and are designated as shared space between WNMU and ALCS.

Renovation of the first floor is underway and will be completed by August 2020, allowing ALMS to move into Ritch - Hall first floor before the start of the 2020/2021 school year. ALMS staff include: 5 full-time teachers, one part-time administration staff, one special education teacher, and various elective-program teachers. Renovation of the Ritch Hall first floor includes seven middle school classrooms, a science lab, a library, one special education classroom, and one ancillary classroom.



ALCS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SMALLER, DARKER CLASSROOMS ON HWY 180 CAMPUS

RITCH HALL

Structure: Built in 1905 with brick exterior walls and wood frame floors and roof; addition built in 1950 with masonry walls and concrete floors. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Building is in good condition. The building has operable windows with hot water heating. Building is equipped with fire sprinklers, accessible WC's, and an elevator to all 3 floors. Egress is provided by a central stairway in the 1905 wing and an offset stairway in the 1950 wing; both stairways are open to the hallways. Additional egress is provided at the end of each wing via steel fire escapes accessed by a combination of doors and windows.

Site: The parking lot is not leased space – it is shared space with WNMU. ALCS is allocated 40 parking spaces, including 6 reserved, 3 visitor, and 3 ADA spaces, plus 24 bike spaces. There are additional overflow shared parking spaces in a smaller parking lots within very close proximity to Ritch Hall. Concrete sidewalks are in good condition and pose no tripping hazard. There are shaded grassy areas around Ritch Hall for outdoor classrooms and eating areas. Currently under construction is a playground/drop-off/pick-up area, specifically for Middle School Students – this site is located in a greenways area located on the southern perimeter of the Ritch Hall parking lot.

Site drainage: The building is sited on a ridge top with asphalt paving for parking lots on three sides sloped to drain. Planting areas at the west front of the building separate guest parking from the 1905 facade. On the north side is the middle school drop off area paved to slope downhill but away from the new MS outdoor activity area. On the west is a shared parking lot and the drop off exit. On the south is a narrow strip of outdoor tables with sitting areas under shade trees.

Interior finishes: 1905 wing has plaster finished walls and ceilings with laminate flooring over the historic hardwood floors. The 1950 wing has plaster walls and ceilings except in the hallways which have been lowered for sprinklers and alarm wiring with lay in ceiling. The flooring in the newer wing is laminate flooring or carpet over concrete subfloor.

Mechanical system: Heating is provided by a gas fired furnace feeding hot water fan coil units in the classrooms, offices and hallways. Each FCU is controlled by a thermostat. Fresh air and cooling in the classrooms is provided by operable windows with insect screens. Office areas are supplied with window AC units. All toilet rooms are vented by continuous exhaust fans to the exterior. Plumbing fixtures date from the 1980's to 2018 for the accessible bathrooms.

Electrical system: System has been upgraded over the life of the building. Central electrical room with single phase disconnects to all sub panels. Lighting is generally LED in all public spaces with fluorescent tubes in service areas. Lighting is adequate, especially when combined with natural light from numerous large windows in each classroom. Emergency exit signs were upgraded in 2018 and all are operable. Ritch Hall does not have an emergency generator but there is emergency lighting in the hallways.

Ritch Hall has access to WNMU Wifi and each classroom has hardwired access to cable internet and WiFi. There is CATV wiring, but ALCS does not currently use this feature.

Fire Protection / Life Safety Systems / Accessibility: The Ritch Hall fire alarm system was upgraded in 2018 and consists of audible/strobe annunciators in each classroom and in all hallways. The system is activated by a central station at the main computer terminal, and by smoke detectors. There are sprinklers in each classroom and in all hallways and the elevator. Ritch Hall does not have a security system. Ritch Hall is ADA compliant. The school does have a functioning one-way public address system (through the fire alarm system). Stairway Railings Existing hand rails and guards are structurally sound and shall remain at all stairways and fire escapes.

2.3.4 Statewide Adequacy Standards

General Classrooms:

As previously mentioned in this FMP, NM State Standards require a general classroom to be at least 650 nsf. ALCS classrooms in Ritch Hall do not meet this requirement; however, given the smaller student loading factor at the school, general classrooms are adequate for the population, with classroom sizes averaging a 15 or less PTR.

Science Lab:

The Science Lab is currently under construction and creation in the Ritch Hall facility. The Lab will be designed to meet adequacy standards for both minimum size of the room and for minimum storage requirements. The ALCS student loading factor of 15 will be feasible in this room. NM Adequacy Standards state the Science Lecture and Lab rooms be no smaller than the average classroom with 4nsf per student and must contain 80 nsf of storage/prep. The ALCS Ritch Hall Science Lab will meet these requirements and will be able to accommodate a maximum of 20 students. ALCS students will have access to the additional space needed to conduct experiments and for exhibition and storage space.



Computer Lab:

ALCS does not have any plans or need for a Computer Lab at the Ritch Hall location, as all ALCS students have access to Google Chromebooks, which are stored in classrooms. There are ample quantities of Chromebooks for each student to have their own Chromebook while on campus.

Special Education Rooms:

The Ritch Hall campus has designated a total of three classrooms for Special Education.

Ancillary Rooms:

The Ritch Hall campus has designated a total of two classrooms for ancillary services, including: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work (?), and Speech Therapy. Both rooms are designed for one-on-one services. These two rooms can also be utilized for other programs on an as-needed basis, such as for Health Program services.

Title One Room:

With the incorporation of the lower floor of Ritch Hall into the ALCS facility, there is ample space to allocate a room specifically for Title One services.

2.4 UTILIZATION AND CAPACITY

2.4.1. Utilization

Utilization identifies the number of classrooms needed to accommodate a given student enrollment. This facility's supply of classrooms is based on the identification of use and inventory of all instructional spaces available. These spaces house both general and special education. The demand for classrooms is determined by the school's enrollment cap and programmatic requirements. In addition, ALCS requires a lower than standard classroom room loading /PTR at 15:1.

ALCS currently utilizes two entire campuses per their Middle School and High School programmatic needs. Classrooms in the current Middle School are small, but generally accommodate the lower student loading factor. High School classes utilize all classrooms available on the second floor of the Ritch Hall campus, while still maintaining the lower student loading factor. The Science Lab and Library will be utilized by both ALMS and ALHS students.

With the Middle School move to the Ritch Hall campus in August 2020, there will be available classrooms to accommodate two 6th grade classes, two 7th grade classes, and two 8th grade classes. At this time, it is uncertain whether SY 20/21 will enroll enough 6th graders to fill two classrooms, which could leave one classroom available for additional programmatic needs and/or storage.

ALCS Utilization (Projected for SY 20/21)		
Ritch Hall (ALCS & ALMS) Classrooms (Reg. Ed, SPED., & Spec Programs)	Needed (ALCS &ALMS) Classrooms (Reg. Ed, SPED & Spec. Programs)	Percentage Utilization
21.0	19.0	90%

2.4.2 Capacity

Capacity, while similar to utilization, identifies the number of students a facility can accommodate. The intent of capacity analysis is to determine the student maximum and working capacities of a facility, given existing facility and program constraints for that student population.

- The ALCS cap is 210 students (Grades 6-12)
- The ALCS standard classroom room loading/PTR is 15:1
- The ALCS Ritch Hall **Maximum Capacity is 315** (21 CR x 15 PTR)
- The ALCS Ritch Hall **Working Capacity is 251**
(15 CR x 15 PTR plus 3 SPED-CR x 8 PTR plus 2 ANC-CR x 1 PTR plus 1 T-One x 1 PTR)
- The Maximum Capacity and Working Capacity are both well over the 210 ALCS Charter Cap

SECTION THREE: EDUCATION SPECIFICATIONS



ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

Section Three outlines the Education Specification that is unique to the Facility Master Plan for charter school facilities. This section helps to define the functional requirements of the building so that the facility that is leased works for the special program for which this charter was approved. The program should drive the space use – not vice versa.

Section 3: EDUCATION SPECIFICATIONS

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

3.1 FACILITY GOALS AND CONCEPTS

3.1.1 GOALS

ALCS provides an engaging and challenging educational program, emphasizing direct experience, inquiry learning, stimulation of the creative process, and involvement in the community and natural environment. ALCS supports the intellectual, social, and personal growth of the individual while preparing students to take responsibility for themselves, their communities, and the natural environment. ALCS graduates learn to create sustainable futures.

The following list outlines the broad spatial goals and concepts developed by ALCS from the previous ALCS FMP (2012-2017) and indicates the goals that have been met with the recent move to Ritch Hall, WNMU campus:

- Student / Commercial Kitchen GOAL MET
- Large gathering space for students, staff, teachers to enhance active learning, collaboration, socialization, Socratic Seminars, community meetings, and presentations GOAL MET
- A welcoming, warm ambience to stimulate emotional and intellectual response GOAL MET
- Small group gathering spaces to encourage collaboration GOAL MET
- “Open”, flexible classrooms that allow for various group size interactions GOAL MET
- Student and community access to facility GOAL MET
- Project exhibition space GOAL MET
- Storage space for tools GOAL MET
- Technology to enhance learning and connect to larger community GOAL MET

3.1.2 CONCEPTS

The most important overall concepts for education at Aldo Leopold Charter School are: **Community, Safety, and Connection.**

Community

A feeling of real *community* should exist within ALCS. This community or “*connectiveness*” promotes a feeling of safety and security among teachers, students, and staff. “Isolation leads to insecurity; Connection leads to security.” It is interesting to note when planners spoke to staff and students about security, the response was community. Initially we discussed items such as security cameras, etc., however we soon discovered that when a true sense of community is present, the spatial forms will enhance that community philosophy and naturally promote security of all facility inhabitants; a unique, but effective view of security. Thus, community and connection goals and security goals are synonymous to ALCS. This feeling of community informs the spaces within ALCS.

The following list outlines the broad spatial concepts of COMMUNITY, developed by ALCS planning team from the previous ALCS FMP (2012-2017) and indicates the concepts that have been met with the recent move to Ritch Hall, WNMU campus:

- Classrooms should not promote isolation, rather create a feeling of ‘openness’ with spaces that are flexible for both large and small group teaming, collaboration, and discussion. GOAL MET
- Hallways should lend themselves to connection with nooks, perhaps with whiteboards, where collaboration can take place. GOAL MET
- Common areas should promote the feeling of internal connectiveness – they should be large enough to allow staff, students, teachers, and community to gather. GOAL MET
- Services and spaces at ALCS should encourage all to stay on campus during school hours: A commercial kitchen and space for communal meals to promote relaxation, socialization, and collaboration. These spaces may serve dual purposes such as a commercial / student kitchen. GOAL MET
- The facility itself should have a welcome, warm look – both indoors and out – to draw people in emotionally and intellectually. GOAL MET

Safety and Security:

With the move to Ritch Hall, there is now safe access to the ALCS school facility by cyclists and pedestrians. Again, the definition of safety to the staff and students of ALCS is synonymous with “Community”. By having a real sense of community where teacher spaces, administrative spaces, and student gathering spaces are intermixed and open, the school would then be considered safe.

The new Ritch hall location of ALCS is now miles away from a major Highway and nestled in the quiet WNMU Campus, which has limited roads (with 15 mph speed limits) throughout the campus. Pedestrian and cycling students no longer have to cross a major highway to get to school as they did at the previous Hwy 180 campus. Sidewalks and road crossing areas are well kept and signposted. WNMU Campus Security offers 24 patrolling and call-in services.

Connections:

Not only does ALCS value the interpersonal connection, but also connection to the larger community surrounding the school, globally, and connection to nature, which is the basis of all learning at ALCS.

The following list outlines the broad spatial concepts of CONNECTION, developed by ALCS planning team from the previous ALCS FMP (2012-2017) and indicates the concepts that have been met with the recent move to Ritch Hall, WNMU campus:

CONNECTION TO THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Community garden at ALCS – space to plant, with irrigation and storage space for implements. GOAL MET
- Kitchen - Students growing, harvesting, preparing and potentially sharing with greater community, along with being able to offer free/reduced meals to students. GOAL MET

- Large, flexible spaces - Access to ALCS after school hours by parents, and community. GOAL MET
- Utilize community venues for ALCS functions; WNMU, other available indoor/outdoor venues. GOAL MET
- Students volunteering in the community – project exhibition space and storage space for tools. GOAL MET
- Technology as a tool to enhance learning - Connection to the international community. GOAL MET

CONNECTION TO NATURE

- Indoor learning spaces not isolated from outdoor spaces. GOAL MET
- Outdoor learning spaces which are comfortable in summer or winter. GOAL MET
- Amphitheatre. PERMITTED WNMU VENUE RENTAL FOR OUTDOOR STADIUM & INDOOR AUDITORIUMS
- Garden/greenhouse. GOAL IN PROCESS
- Easy access to hiking, forest. GOAL MET
- Water reclamation on campus. GOAL IN PROCESS WITH WATER CATCHMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNED FOR RITCH HALL RENOVATIONS.

3.1.3 LEARNING PROCESS

Curriculum Framework

The ALCS goal is to provide dynamic learning opportunities – inquiry-based, experientially connected, grounded in engagement in the natural environment.

Fundamental academic subjects are reinforced and enhanced by community-based elements – students become actively involved in community processes, which are focused and relevant to the application of academic concepts. The curriculum includes multi-day immersion field trips, for instance, to encourage patterns of inquiry, place-based learning, and teamwork.

The basis for the curriculum frame work at ALCS is the environment. The model emphasizes use of local surroundings as the context of standards-based instruction. This model:

- encourages problem solving, strategic thinking, creative thinking, information synthesis, examination of complex interrelationships.
- allows students to make sense of their academic subjects, but also of their world.
- integrated curriculum.
- using the outdoors as a learning lab, ALCS addresses the health and education of the whole student through direct experience with nature.
- outdoor activities develop intellectual, emotional, and physical skills, develop self-confidence, and improved fitness, foster teambuilding, and connection to the natural world.

The ALCS curriculum is Inquiry-based – students learn HOW to think, not WHAT to think in the pursuit of knowledge through exploration, discovery, and invention:

- across academic disciplines
- in community settings
- in nature
- in cooperative-learning groups
- through Socratic questioning and Socratic Seminars

Ritch Hall facilities that now support the ALCS curriculum include:

- Interior connection to outdoor spaces
- Outdoor learning spaces
- Easy access to nature
- Students volunteering for nature projects
- Storage space on campus for tools and equipment
- Space to present nature findings
- Student kitchen to learn how to cook what is grown on-campus
- Spaces that support opportunities to learn patterns and language of thinking and questing – including Socratic Seminars.
- Large rooms – egalitarian in nature for Socratic Seminars. White boards on all walls. Large group interaction and discussion. Each participant empowered to stand and speak. Students & teacher sit together face to face at large diamond shaped conference tables.
- Open, roomy spaces with lots of natural light.

Flexible Spaces within Ritch Hall campus that support interaction, inquiry, collaboration, and connectivity:

- The Common Area/ Student Lounge / Cafeteria: An assembly/multi-purpose space that can be also used for smaller groups – socially and collaboratively
- Good technological infrastructure – both for students and staff within the school, but also for connectivity with the international community.
- Spaces are flexible enough to enhance the different types of learning/teaching. This flexibility can be accomplished by moving furniture in classrooms.
- Science Laboratory – spaces where projects can be set up and observed for long periods of time, often spanning years.
- Large kitchen area where students may prepare lunch.
- Spaces for students or for teachers to informally meet and/or learn.

Settings that support Integrated Learning:

- Space for projects that involve students from different classes
- Easy access to the natural environment to promote active, inquiry-based learning across subjects.
- Close proximity to hiking trails, streams, parks, and recreation areas
- Functional/up-to-date communication and technology systems, promoting collaboration between ALCS students and the international/national community.
- Utilizing the building and environment as a teaching tool might include solar collection, water collection, recycling, building control systems, and gardening, harvesting, preparing, and serving produce.
- Spaces should accommodate technology as a tool to learning: Smart boards, high-speed internet access, LCD projectors, computer access for all students.

SECTION FOUR: CAPITAL PLAN



ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

The purpose of this section is to identify and prioritize any capital projects and apply available funding to the projects that have the greatest impact on the educational facility. The goal is to make sure that the students are provided the best possible environment in which to learn.

Section 4: CAPITAL PLAN

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

4.1 TOTAL CAPITAL NEEDS

ALCS does not anticipate any capital needs in the short term at Ritch Hall. The building is owned and maintained by Western New Mexico University, and ALCS has neither the authority nor the need to alter or add to it. All necessary alterations/renovations were completed by WNMU in 2019 and 2020 to meet all ALCS requirements.

SECTION FIVE: MASTER PLAN SUPPORT MATERIALS

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ENROLLMENT](#) [FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS](#)
[VOLUNTEERING](#) [CALENDAR](#) [FUNDRAISING & PLEDGE DRIVE](#) [YCC](#)

CONTINUOUS
LEARNING

CENSUS
2020

COVID-19
DEVELOPMENTS

Aldo Leopold Charter School
THINK OUTSIDE THE DESK

"it evolves in the minds of a thinking community."

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

JUNE 2020

The purpose of Section Five is to provide data supporting discussion of the ALCS Ritch Hall facility. Support materials include: Facility data tables, site and floor plans, classroom inventory table and representative images of the ALCS facility and site.

Section 5: MASTER PLAN SUPPORT MATERIALS

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

5.1 SITE AND FACILITIES DATA TABLES

Facility Inventory Tables: SY 2019/2020 and SY 2020/2021

FACILITIES INVENTORY DATA - ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL - SY 2019/2020																
Facility Name	State ID	Address	Zip	Phone	Director	Open Date	Age (Yrs)	Renovation Date	Site Acreage	Own/Lease	Total Perm Bldg Area (sq. ft)	Grades	Current Year Enrollment (40 day)	Full Size CR	TTL Perm CR (NO Port)	GSF per Student
ALHS	532-001	410 W 10 th Street	88061	575-538-2547	Wayne Sherwood	1950	70	2019	N/A	Lease	6,520	9-12	99	7	7	65.85
ALMS	532-001	1422 Hwy 180 E	88061	575-538-2547	Wayne Sherwood	1970	50	1970	2.8	Lease	10,800	6-8	73	6	6	149.15

FACILITIES INVENTORY DATA - ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL - SY 2020/2021																
Facility Name	State ID	Address	Zip	Phone	Director	Open Date	Age (Yrs)	Renovation Date	Site Acreage	Own/Lease	Total Perm Bldg Area (sq. ft)	Grades	Projected Enrollment 20/21	Full Size CR	TTL Perm CR (NO Port)	GSF per Student
ALHS	532-001	410 W 10 th Street	88061	575-538-2547	Wayne Sherwood	1950	70	2019	N/A	Lease	6,520	9-12	100	7	7	65.2
ALMS	532-001	410 W 10 th Street	88061	575-538-2547	Wayne Sherwood	1950	70	2020	N/A	Lease	6,599	6-8	80	7	7	82.49



ALCS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BUILDING SOLAR OVENS OUTSIDE OF RITCH HALL

RITCH HALL – FIRST FLOOR: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ritch Hall, Lower Level Floor Plan



GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
100'-0"

ALCS RITCH HALL – CLASSROOM INVENTORY

RITCH HALL FLOOR DESIGNATION	CLASSROOM INVENTORY	CLASSROOM SQUARE FOOTAGE
MAIN FLOOR (High School)	HS CLASSROOM 1	464
	HS CLASSROOM 2	455
	HS CLASSROOM 3	455
	HS CLASSROOM 4	455
	HS CLASSROOM 5	455
	HS CLASSROOM 6	455
	SCIENCE LAB	455
	OFFICE 1	208
	OFFICE 2	192
	OFFICE 3	203
	OFFICE 4	137
	OFFICE 5	195
	SPECIAL ED CR 1	336
	SPECIAL ED CR 2	256
	COPY ROOM	54
	ANCILLARY CR 1	224
	SCIENCE STORAGE ROOM	224
FIRST FLOOR (Middle School)	MS CLASSROOM 1	464
	MS CLASSROOM 2	455
	MS CLASSROOM 3	455
	MS CLASSROOM 4	455
	MS CLASSROOM 5	455
	MS CLASSROOM 6	455
	STORAGE ROOM	455
	SPECIAL ED CR 3	224
	ANCILLARY CR 2	224
	LIBRARY	390
	TITLE ONE CR	256
	BIKE/GEAR STORAGE ROOM	224
	TOOL ROOM	126
	LAUNDRY ROOM	201
	CUSTODIAL CLOSET	22