

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us**

MARIANA D. PADILLA
SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

**Charter Schools Division
Renewal Analysis and Recommendation
October 1, 2024**

School Name: 21st Century Public Academy

School Address: 4300 Cutler Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Head Administrator: Mary Tarango

Governing Board Chair: Art Silva

Contract Term: 2020–2025

Statutory Renewal Requirements

According to New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1979, Section 22-8B-12 K., a charter may be suspended, revoked, or not renewed by the chartering authority if the chartering authority determines that the charter school:

- (1) committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards or procedures set forth in the charter contract;
- (2) failed to meet or make substantial progress toward achievement of the department's standards of excellence or student performance standards identified in the charter contract;
- (3) failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- (4) for a charter school located on tribal land, failed to comply with ongoing consultations pursuant to the Indian Education Act; or
- (5) violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Preliminary Renewal Recommendation

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) recommends 21st Century Public Academy be renewed with a charter contract term of five years, without conditions.

Part B: Progress Report

The school’s narratives in Part B are rated **Meets the Standards, Demonstrates Substantial Progress, or Failing to Demonstrate Progress** according to the rubric on pages 6-7 of the 2024 Charter School Renewal Application.

Part B: Progress Report	
Academic Performance	Rating
1.a. Student Outcomes	Meets the Standards
1.b. Mission-Specific Goals	Meets the Standards
Organizational Performance	Rating
2.a. Educational Program	Meets the Standards
2.b. Financial Compliance	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Meets the Standards
2.d. Equity and Identity	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.e. Tribal Consultation	N/A
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Demonstrates Substantial Progress

** Results from 2023-24 Vistas data, scheduled to be released in November 2024, could change this rating in the final recommendation.*

1.a. Student Outcomes

During the renewal visit school leadership addressed adult actions that have taken place to address their math rates, for example the school started using sample questions to support student growth in math outcomes on state assessments. School leadership also spoke about how their focus is heavy on short-cycle assessments- NWEA MAP, growth targets are set at the beginning of year. Students check their own progress and are aware of where they are at any given time.

The rating of Meets the Standard is appropriate.

1.b. Mission-specific Goals

Throughout the contract term the school met the standard in years 2 & 4 and exceeded the standard in year 3. School leadership spoke of the importance of their Outside School Instruction (OSI) especially during COVID. School maintained the OSI experience by doing virtual visits to local and national museums. Post-COVID school began to go out into the community for their students OSIs and they were able to see the positive impact it made on all students. The school also mentioned that their community partnerships have positively impacted them.

The rating of Meets the Standard is appropriate, as the school met or exceeded this portion of their performance framework.

2.a. Educational Program

Since its inception in 2000, the school has successfully implemented Outside School Instruction (OSI), connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences. Every month, students engage in OSIs that align with their academic content, reinforcing their learning. What is learned in the classroom is tied to their OSI experience for the month. All elementary students have physical education (PE) everyday. The school also incorporates the GRIT model, fostering student accountability and restorative justice practices throughout the school environment. This approach empowers students to take responsibility for their actions and learn from their experiences.

Every year students at 21st Century meet their goal of completing 20 OSIs through the year, across all content areas. The staff aims for double expected growth each year and it is applicable knowledge that is scaffolded from elementary and middle school. For short cycle assessments the school utilizes NWEA Map to drive instruction. Growth target rates are set school wide, by grade level, by teacher and by individual student needs.

The strong sense of community is echoed by both staff and leadership, major businesses in the area know who the school and students are and they support them. The school is very family oriented. The music and athletic program are noticed throughout the city, students perform and compete against other local charters.

Teacher collaboration was discussed in our focus groups with leadership and teachers. Teachers spoke highly of the time spent working together doing professional development as a whole and in teams on a monthly basis. Middle school has the opportunity to have a second prep period to review data, work with another teacher and or prepare lessons for the following day.

2.b. Financial Compliance

The rating of Demonstrates Substantial Progress rather than Meets Standard is due to a single Working to Meet rating for Indicator 2.a. Financial Reporting. This is because the school had one quarterly report submitted late in fiscal year 2023. Apart from that, the school has a stellar record of financial performance, with only a single audit finding over the course of the entire contract term, and that finding was not a repeat finding nor a significant deficiency nor a material weakness. The school demonstrates an exceptional level of fiscal responsibility. The school leadership effectively manages financial resources to ensure stability and support for its educational initiatives.

2.c. Governance Responsibilities

The school has maintained membership on the Governing Board during the charter term. All board members completed the required training hours each year of the charter term (with the exception of two members in Fiscal Year 21 (2020-21) who resigned). This commitment to governance and training reflects the school's dedication to effective leadership and oversight. 21st Century Public Academy Meets the Standards for Governance Responsibilities.

2.d. Equity and Identity

21st Century Public Academy has a very active equity council. They have met all of the PED’s training requirements for the Black Education Act, Hispanic Education Act and the Indian Education Act. The school has completed their readiness assessment but has not completed their Culturally and Linguistically Responsive framework inventory. The school is working on that this year. Because of this the school has been rated Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

2.e. Tribal Consultation

The school does not fall under the Indian Education Act (NMSA 22-23A) or the 6.35.2 NMAC definition of a “historically defined Indian-impacted” school.

2.f. Other Performance Indicators

The application team only addressed one complaint that they received through the Office of Special Education (OSE). This complaint was submitted to the OSE sometime in 2023; on September 13 the school received a letter from OSE, indicating that the allegations in the complaint were deemed insufficient and lacking factual basis, resulting in the closure of the investigation.

Throughout the contract term the school had a total of six working to meet ratings on indicators 1.b., 1.d., 2.a., 3.c., and 4.b. of the performance framework. School leadership spoke about the Working to Meet rating for indicator 1.d. only, they have taken swift adult actions to remedy the issue.

Furthermore, after receiving a Technical Assistance and Focused Monitoring review letter from the Language and Culture Division in August, the leadership responded promptly to correct the identified issues. Given these proactive measures and the focus on continuous improvement, the rating of Demonstrates Substantial Progress is appropriate.

Unrated Sections of Application	
Part D: Petitions of Support	Submitted as Required
Part E: Facilities	Submitted as Required
Part F: Change in Authorizer	N/A

Site Visit Attendees

September 9, 2024

CSD Team: Lucy Valenzuela (lead), Dr. Brigette Russell and Kristen LaVolpa

CSD Remote Team: Martica Davis and Ken Norris

School Leadership: Mary Tarango (Superintendent), Jeremy Pekins (Principal), Amy Morgan (NOVA Coordinator) and Jennifer Elliot (SPED Director)

Governing Board: Art Silva (Chair) and Charles Gutierrez