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Charter Schools Division Amendment Request Analysis

School Name: Albuquerque Sign Language Academy

Date of Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting: October 18, 2024

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy requests PEC approval to amend the charter contract to reflect changes to the square-footage of the school facilities, as follows: *Add additional square footage by adding the use of North 4th Arts Center for all students, with an emphasis on students with disabilities.*

Current square footage of the school: *The current square footage of the ASLA's current (leased from APS) facility is approximately 59,000 square feet. This square footage is comprised of classrooms, administrative offices, gym and cafeteria.*

Additional square footage proposed: Not specified in application.

School-provided explanation of how additional square footage will be used: *The addition of square footage of North 4th Arts Center will be used to add and enhance fine arts programming for all students and to serve the ASLA's increasing student population in its transition programing. The new facility will allow the ASLA to house its expanding music program and has a performing arts center that will allow for adaptive performances for students with disabilities and those who are deaf.*

School-provided rationale for the amendment request:

This request is to expand access to fine arts facility that is specifically suited to serve students with disabilities. It is important to note two key issues:

- *The N.4th Arts facility touches the fence of the current educational location of the ASLA. It is physically situated to be an extension of the current school plant.*
- *The N4th Arts program was initially known as the Very Special Arts (VSA) Program, a program and facility that was specifically built out to provide fine arts programming for the disability community. As such, the building is ADA compliant, and disability focused.*

CSD Analysis

The amendment request submitted by Albuquerque Sign Language Academy is inclusive of the required verifications from PSFA, the school governing body, and required assurances. [A map](#) of the current school area and the proposed additional site, known as the North Fourth Art Center, shows that building, located at 4904 4th Street NW within a strip mall. The location is in immediate area of the school within a 2-minute walk near the intersection of 4th Street and Griegos Rd. CSD does verify that the current school grounds and the proposed additional site location are separated by fencing. According to PSFA, the proposed facility exceeds their requirements for school use.

CSD Recommendation

The Charter Schools Division recommends the approval of the proposed square footage amendment request. Given the school location near the intersection of 4th Street and Griegos, a historically high-traffic volume intersection, CSD is particularly interested in details of the school's plans to have students and staff safely access the proposed facility from the current school site, either by traversing the corner of 4th Street and Griegos Rd., or directly from the school grounds, via the currently existing fencing.