



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
Final Renewal Recommendation
November 4, 2024**

School Name: Amy Biehl Charter High School

School Address: 123 4th Street SW Albuquerque, NM 87102

Head Administrator: Dr. Stephanie Becker

Governing Board Chair: Rachel Berenson

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 Amy Biehl High School 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	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
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	Meets the Standards
2.e. Tribal Consultation	N/A
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Meets the Standards

** 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

Amy Biehl High School is located in downtown Albuquerque and they have a diverse student population. The school was designated a Spotlight school for two (2) consecutive years. In SY 2019-20 76% of students met the demonstration of competency standards for math, reading and science. A strong teacher group has helped ABHS. School leadership and teachers examined PSAT/NMSQT data and decided to start interdisciplinary math activities to support math literacy for all grade levels (for example in ELA 11 classes, students were solving Algebra II problems). In SY 2023-24 the school removed TinkerCad due to their disappointing math scores and instituted a class called STEM 3D for its incoming 9th graders.

The school has faced challenges in achieving proficiency at the state and district levels in math, which is reflected in their designation of "Demonstrates Substantial Progress" for this section.

1.b. Mission-specific Goals

The school exceeded their mission goal for the entire contract term; all students have taken at least two dual credit classes throughout their high school career. All students have also participated in at least four (4) yearly service learning projects. Therefore the school is rated as Meets the Standard.

2.a. Educational Program

Students are engaged in impactful projects and public exhibitions that emphasize all aspects of their educational program. Students spoke highly of this and were able to explain in great detail what their senior project is. School leadership and teachers also spoke about how during COVID they found inventive ways to still be able to work within the community, for example advisories met at parks around the city and left messages on rocks for the community and their students. In 2020 the school was using the ACT and Accuplacer for data collection but after the state initiated the SAT to measure student growth and proficiency, Amy Biehl began to use the PSAT/NMSQT as assessments to prepare students for tests like the SAT.

The school's education program is broken up into nine (9) sections: Exhibitions, assessment that drives instruction, graduation credit requirements, advisory support, dual credit, civic engagement, personalized teacher professional development, collaborative professional development and content terms.

All students participate in a mixed advisory period where they are peer mentored by each other and their ninth grade advisory teacher follows them all through graduation. All staff and leadership partake in professional development throughout the year and leadership conducts teacher evaluations, which remained ongoing throughout the pandemic even though it was not a state requirement. Teachers tend to spend about 20-25 days in professional development every year, they analyze student data, collaborate with each other on curriculum planning, and receive the required PED training along with schoolwide required training.

And lastly, all Amy Biehl faculty place a high value on collaboration and continue to work together to offer the most effective and relevant engaging content that aligns with standards.

2.b. Financial Compliance

Amy Biehl High School has demonstrated strong financial oversight throughout its contract term. The only Does Not Meet Standard on a financial indicator was for Indicator 2.a. due to a significant deficiency finding on the FY 2023 audit. That finding was the school's only audit finding for the year, and they have received four audit findings over the course of the contract term, none of them repeat findings, none material weaknesses, and one significant deficiency. That finding resulted from a construction project that was concluding near the end of the fiscal year, and the school has taken steps to avoid similar findings going forward. The majority of its finance indicator ratings have been Meets the Standard throughout the contract term.

2.c. Governance Responsibilities

The school has earned two working to meet (WTM) ratings throughout the contract term; one was for indicator 3.a and one for indicator 3.c. The board is current on all training hours this school year, and appreciates that they have options and opportunities for earning required training hours.

2.d. Equity and Identity

The school Meets the Standard for this category. The school has a very active council that meets regularly and they have completed all of the New Mexico Public Education Departments requirements. They use a social justice curriculum “Facing History and Ourselves” which fosters a positive, culturally relevant environment for students, staff, and the community. This curriculum guides all staff initiatives and actions, ensuring that social justice principles are at the forefront of the school’s educational approach. This commitment not only enhances the learning experience but also strengthens community engagement and inclusivity.

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

Throughout its contract term, Amy Biehl has received seven (7) working to meet standard and one (1) does not meet standard ratings. However, the school has demonstrated a proactive approach to addressing these challenges. After the audit exit meeting, the school took swift action to not let that same issue happen again for the following audit year. Furthermore, the school has maintained a positive record, having received no complaints from the Office of Civil Rights or the Office of Special Education. This commitment to continuous improvement and compliance emphasizes the school’s dedication to providing a supportive and equitable learning environment for all.

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 17, 2024

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

CSD Remote Team: Martica Davis and Ken Norris

School Leadership: Stephanie Becker (Head Administrator) and Halley Wheelless (Dean of Students & Curriculum)

Governing Board: Leslie Andrews (Vice-Chair), Cliff Wintrode (Treasurer), Melaine Lewis (Secretary) and SueAnne Athens