



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
Revised Final Renewal Recommendation
December 3, 2024**

School Name: Turquoise Trail Charter School

School Address: 13A San Marcos Loop Santa Fe, NM 87508

Head Administrator: Stephanie Behning

Governing Board Chair: Sammi Triolo

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.

Renewal Recommendation

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) recommends renewal for 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	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.b. Financial Compliance	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
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 were released on 11.12.24. Turquoise Trail received a designation of Traditional in school years 2022-23 and 2023-24.*

1.a. Student Outcomes

Turquoise Trail Charter School has received a Vistas designation of Traditional each year that ratings have been available. From 2021-22 to 2022-23, their Vistas score rose from 25 to 41.8. The school performs lower than the district and state in math and reading; however, the application describes numerous adult actions implemented to address "academic stagnation:" offering bilingual education, making core curriculum changes and enhancements, reorganizing the schedule by content area experts, and providing math and MLSS coaching. The school recently adopted ELA and Math curricula (Amplify, Bridges, and Eureka Math) that align vertically across grade levels, with the goal of ensuring cohesiveness, improving comprehension, and boosting academic outcomes. The school offers tutoring in reading from Reading Quest and "math emergency" tutoring. Faculty meet weekly in PLCs to discuss student needs, collaborate on curriculum, and analyze short-cycle (Istation, MAP) and formative assessments to inform instruction. The school shared that they are committed to providing a foundation at the PreK level to foster future success. Data shared from 2023-24 iMSSA assessments show growth from the beginning to the end of the year for all grade levels in math and reading, except for 5th grade.

Overall, the section on student outcomes is rated Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

1.b. Mission-specific Goals

TTCS has met or exceeded their mission-specific goals every year of the contract, earning them a rating of Meets the Standards.

2.a. Educational Program

The school's educational program has suffered from the disruption of covid and high teacher turnover; however, over the course of the charter term, they have worked toward restoring all elements of it. For example, the school is promoting more hands-on, project-based learning at Turquoise Trail. The students' Demonstrations of Mastery are the best example of this, and teachers are encouraged to incorporate more project-based learning in their units. In addition, the head administrator has made an effort to foster data-driven instruction, which is a practice that has been growing every year. After-school enrichment has been a challenge, but they recently partnered with Boys and Girls Club to facilitate aftercare. The school's educational program is expanding, as they have recently added a Spanish bilingual component to their curriculum. Arts integration has been very successful, as evidenced by the delightful student artwork throughout the campus and the students' rave reviews about the process.

The rating for this category is Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

2.b. Financial Compliance

Turquoise Trail had three audit findings in FY23, none in FY22, 1 in FY21, and 2 in FY20. The application explains adult actions taken to resolve any findings. They have adopted a clear reconciliation process, and have worked with auditors to clean up processes. The governing board has maintained a Board of Finance for the duration of the contract.

The rating for this section is Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

2.c. Governance Responsibilities

The school has a very engaged, committed governing board. All training hours have been met throughout the charter term. They only had two Working to Meet ratings during the charter term due to untimely notifications.

This section is rated Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

2.d. Equity and Identity

The school has made tremendous strides in terms of establishing and maintaining an Equity Council. This year, the Equity Council consists of 12 members, representing a diverse cross-section of the school's population. They meet regularly, have completed the readiness assessment, and provide input into the school's programs. Staff has completed half of the Black Education Act anti-racism training and plans to complete the rest soon. School leadership is taking active measures to address inequities, bullying, and racism at the school, by inviting

guest speakers, planning professional development for staff, and conveying a message of kindness and tolerance throughout the student body. They offer community events that honor diversity and welcome all families and stakeholders. The school’s leadership team has offered professional development on Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning, but implementation has been inconsistent due to teacher turnover; therefore, they plan to revisit the training for new and returning teachers.

This section is 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 school provided detailed explanations of adult actions they are taking to remedy issues on the performance framework. For example, to address the letter they received from the Language and Culture Division concerning English Learner identification, the school has hired a dedicated EL and Bilingual Director. This new position is ensuring the school’s compliance and improving the quality of support to English Learners. The EL and Bilingual Director will work closely with the NOVA and Records Coordinator to ensure that all EL data is correctly entered into the system. To improve attendance and retention, the school is working to improve communication with families. Lastly, the school has hired a testing coordinator to address state assessment requirements.

This section is rated Demonstrates Substantial Progress.

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

Renewal Site Visit Attendees

October 24, 2024

CSD Team: Cheryl Rowe (Lead), Lucy Valenzuela and Kristen LaVolpa

Remote CSD Team: Martica Davis and Kenneth Norris

School Leadership: Stephanie Behning, Evy Lareau, Kathleen Moore, Becca Jones, Zach Chavez, Joe Dan Lovato, Francesca Margaritondo, Leslie Meehan, Mary Ellen Dannenberg and Aurora del Valle

Governing Board: Sammi Triolo and Alejandra Rodriguez Campia Porras