

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
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Patricia Gipson, Chair
District 7, Las Cruces

November 6, 2024

Steven J. Carrillo, Vice Chair
District 10, Santa Fe

Hannah N. Weeks
hweeks@aldocs.org

Timothy E. Beck, Secretary
District 2, Albuquerque

Alexandra Tager
atager@aldocs.org
Aldo Leopold Charter School

Melissa Armijo, Member
District 1, Albuquerque

Dear Ms. Weeks and Ms. Tager:

Alan Brauer, Member
District 3, Albuquerque

Thank you for submitting your renewal application for Aldo Leopold Charter School to the Public Education Commission. We appreciate the tremendous effort that went into the application. As you know the application will be on the Public Education Commission's (PEC) agenda the week of December 9, 2024 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The PEC may renew, renew with conditions, or non-renew the school based on the performance in the charter term and the renewal application. The PEC is following the procedures set forth in the PEC rule, NMAC 6.2.9.16.

Rebekka Burt, Member
District 4, Rio Rancho

Sharon Clahchischillage, Member
District 5, Aztec

Stewart Ingham, Member
District 6, Deming

The Charter School Division (CSD) has provided you with an initial recommendation indicating that the school should be renewed for a five-year term with the following conditions:

Michael M. Taylor, Member
District 8, Roswell

K.T. Manis, Member
District 9, Hobbs

Due to repeated audit findings and sub-par financial ratings on the performance framework over the charter term, Monte del Sol "failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management." Therefore, school leadership and the governing board will provide a financial report and finance committee minutes to CSD quarterly, beginning in July 2025 (with final quarter FY24 information). The school leadership and governing board will improve financial systems and will continue to show consistent improvement on financial indicators and audit results over the next charter term.

They will finalize their recommendation prior to the renewal hearing and include final Vistas data from the New Mexico Public Education Department for 2023-2024 if available. The application looks strong.

To assist you in your team's preparation for the PEC meeting, the PEC wanted to outline questions or concerns that have arisen in the review of your application by CSD and PEC Commissioner review. While the PEC may ask questions regarding any part of the school's performance during the charter contract, the renewal application and assessment, and recommendations provided, in particular please be prepared to address the areas listed below. The PEC is incorporating "Results-Based Accountability" into

its new performance framework. While the renewal application is not being assessed under the new performance framework, you might gear your presentation and answers to issues set for below by addressing the following questions: How much did the school do? How well did you do it? Who is better off as a result?

Please note that the PEC is not requesting, nor will accept, new information at this point in the process.

Areas of specific focus are:

School Performance: Please see Renewal Application Subpart A and CSD recommendation	Rating
Academic Framework	No concerns
Organizational Framework	Rating
2.b. Financial Compliance	Failing to Demonstrate Progress
2.c. Governance Responsibilities	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
2.f. Other Performance Framework Indicators	Demonstrates Substantial Progress
Areas of Interest for Additional Information provided by PEC Commissioners	
No additional questions	
Areas of Interest for Additional Information provided by CSD	
No additional questions	

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

e/ Patricia Gipson

Chair, Public Education Commission