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MARIANA D. PADILLA  
SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

**Charter Schools Division  
2023-24 Annual Report  
Revised December 19, 2024**

**School Name:** Alma d'Arte Charter High School

**School Address:** 402 W. Court Ave Las Cruces, NM 88005

**Head Administrator:** Dr. Adam Amador

**Governing Board Chair:** Richelle Peugh-Swafford

**Business Manager:** Chris Masters

**Authorized Grade Levels:** 9-12

**Grade Levels Served:** 9-12

**Authorized Enrollment Cap:** 280

**2023-24 Enrollment:** 132 (NMVistas.org: Enrollment Count from Avg. of 80 & 120 day Active Students Report)

**Contract Term:** 2022-2027

**CAPs or Conditions:** PEC Corrective Action Plan; SPED Corrective Action Plan (Indicator 4 & 13 CAPs closed as of October 29, 2024); Academic Renewal Conditions

**Notice from 2022-23 Annual Report:** Unsatisfactory performance; the school is not on track for renewal.

**Unsatisfactory terms that need to be addressed from 2022-23 Annual Report:**

- The Vistas designation of CSI Graduation; the low academic proficiency rates in math and science; the lack of growth in reading overall and for the subgroups identified on page 6 of the annual report; the lack of growth in math overall and for the subgroups identified on page 7 of the annual report; the low graduation rates; the inability to provide data for the Mission Specific

Indicators resulting in no score; the overall designation on the Organizational and Financial Frameworks of “Does Not Meet”, and the unsatisfactory performance related to 1.c. Rights of Students with Disabilities, 3.a. Rights of All Students, 3.c. Staff Credentialing, 3.d. Employee Rights, and 5.a. 5.f. indicators related to fiscal management

- Reporting on the School’s Condition of Renewal is unsatisfactory (see 2022-23 Annual Report for details).
- Breach of Contract: Based on concerns in the 2022-2023 annual report, the report on the Condition and concerns outlined in the letter from February 26, 2024, the PEC voted on April, 19, 2024 to provide notice of breach of the charter school contract and to place the school on the intervention ladder. The PEC has issued a Corrective Action Plan which includes concerns to be remedied that are academic, financial, and organizational.
- For full details, please review the letter from the PEC to the school at the end of their 2022-23 Annual Report.

#### **Progress from 2022-23 Notice to 2023-24:**

- The school’s NM Vistas designation changed from CSI.Grad in 2022-23 to Traditional in 2023-24.
- Low academic proficiency rates in math and science: math proficiencies were masked for the school in 2023-24, so a comparison cannot be made. Overall science proficiencies increased from 10% in 2022-23 to 36% in 2023-24.
- Lack of growth in reading and math: NM Vistas changed the business rules for computing growth from 2022-23 to 2023-24, so comparative growth cannot be obtained. Growth is not available for high school students as data is limited to 11th grade SAT and Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR).
- Low graduation rates: 4-year graduation rates dropped from 72% in 2022-23 to 68% in 2023-24. 5-year graduation rates increased from 67% to 80%; 6-year rates increased from 72% to 75%.
- Inability to provide data for the Mission Specific Indicators: this continues to be an issue; as of December 3, 2024, the school still has not submitted Mission Goal data for 2023-24.
- Unsatisfactory performance related to organizational indicators: 1.c. Rights of Students with Disabilities; 3.a. Rights of All Students, and 3.c. Staff Credentialing earned repeat ratings of Does Not Meet in 2022-23 and 2023-24, 3.d. Employee Rights improved from Does Not Meet to Working to Meet in 2023-24.
- Unsatisfactory performance related to financial indicators: 5.a. and 5.d. improved from Does Not Meet to Meets in 2023-24; 5.b. and 5.c. earned repeat ratings of Does Not Meet in 2022-23 and 2023-24; 5.e dropped from Working to Meet to Does Not Meet in 2023-24.
- The Overall Designation of Does Not Meet in 2022-23 was repeated in 2023-24.
- Reporting on the School’s Condition of Renewal was unsatisfactory in 2022-23 and continues to be an issue in 2023-24, as the school has not submitted the required academic data.
- Breach of Contract: the school continues to address the academic, financial, and organizational concerns listed in the PEC Corrective Action Plan (attached).

**Waivers:** none

**Mission:** To Graduate Artist/ Scholars Prepared to Succeed.

To be an preeminent Center for artistic and academic excellence in preparing students for post-secondary education and successful living in a global community.

Their mission was taken from their website: <https://www.almadarte.org/>

(This does not match the contract that we have online):

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Alma-d%E2%80%99arte-Charter-High-School-Amended-Contract-and-Performance-Framework-2022-2027.1.pdf>

**Educational Program:**

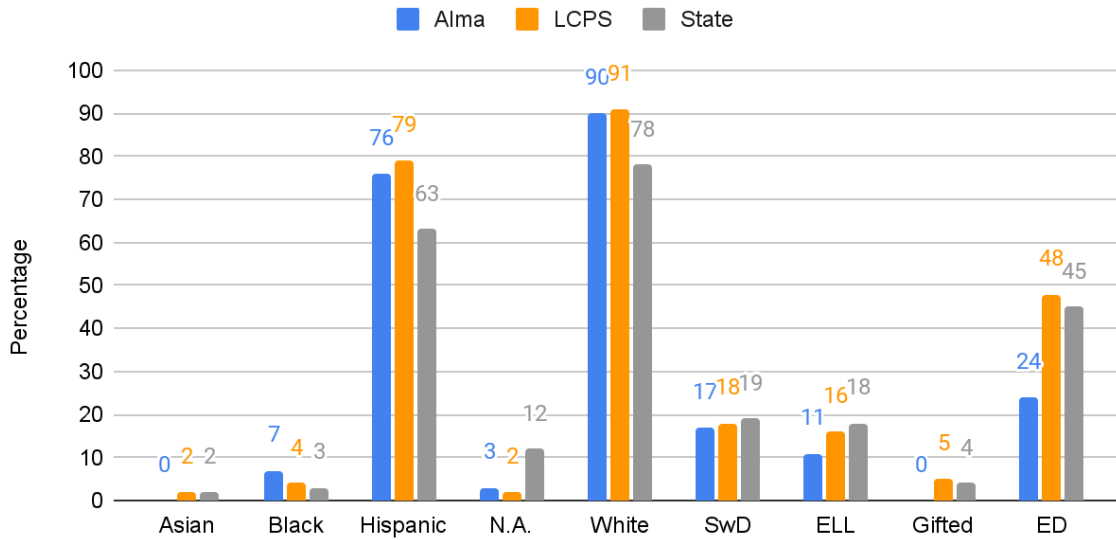
School Vision: To be a pre-eminent center for artistic and academic excellence in preparing students for post-secondary education and successful living in a global community.

- i. Alma d'arte provides at least four art strands (visual arts, performing arts, culinary arts and literary arts) that students choose from year to year.
- ii. Alma d'arte students are expected to contribute in one or more of the following each semester:
  - a. the school's Winter Arts Showcase,
  - b. a recruiting presentation or event,
  - c. a community arts event, or
  - d. a community-based activity or event as part of the apprenticeship experience.
- iii. As an essential component of the school's academic and artistic focus, seniors at the school will participate in community apprenticeships. The teachers work with the students to identify the community mentors for the apprenticeships.
- iv. Alma will provide annual training for teachers in integrating arts with core curriculum.
- v. Arts integration shall be demonstrated via evidence such as, but not limited to, lesson plans, classroom evidence, or completed projects.

## Demographics as reported in Nova 2023-24 (120-Day)

Note. Students are identified as Hispanic independently of their race.

### Enrollment by Subgroup (120D) 2023-24



Source: Nova Enrollment Subgroup Percentages with Averages

## Academic Performance

Academic Performance Framework Indicators	2022-23 Score (100 points possible)	2023-24 Score (100 points possible)
1: State Accountability System: NMVistas Overall Score	<b>CSI.Grad 56.3</b>	<b>Traditional 53.3*</b>
2: Subgroup performance: high, middle, and low-performing quartiles	unavailable	unavailable
3: School-specific Goals: if two goals, average of points on each	<b>0</b>	<b>0**</b>
<b>Overall Academic Score: average of indicators 1 and 3</b>	<b>28.15</b>	<b>26.65</b>

\*Note: Per NM Vistas, point totals from SY22-23 and SY23-24 cannot be compared due to changes in business rules. For more information about point differentials, refer to: [2022-23 Accountability Measures Overview](#) and [2023-24 Accountability Measures Overview.pdf - Google Drive](#)

\*\*Note: Mission Goal Data not received for school year 2023-24.

**State Accountability System:**

State and federal statute mandates accountability for all public schools. This section provides a snapshot of the school’s academic performance according to data collected by the Public Education Department (PED) for the school years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.

The New Mexico State Accountability System ([NM Vistas](#)) gives every public school in the state an overall score. NM Vistas scored schools according to the following designations:

<p><b>Spotlight:</b> Top 25% of schools, excluding schools with designations of CSI, Graduation Rate or TSI/ATSI</p>	<p><b>Traditional:</b> No other designation</p>	<p><b>TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement):</b> Multi-year low performing subgroup(s)</p>
		<p><b>ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement):</b> TSI in the lowest 5% of schools. Exit from ATSI status requires an increase in subgroup performance in both of the next 2 years.</p>
		<p><b>CSI (Comprehensive Support):</b> Lowest 5% of all schools; OR 3 years in ATSI; OR 3-year average of 4-Year Graduation rate is below 66.67%</p>
		<p><b>MRI (More Rigorous Intervention):</b> on CSI for 3 years</p>

**Note:** According to the May 20, 2024 NM Vistas revision, the highest **overall** designation a school may receive is “Spotlight,” however, an additional designation/distinction of “Excellence” is assigned to schools scoring above the 90th percentile on specific indicators.

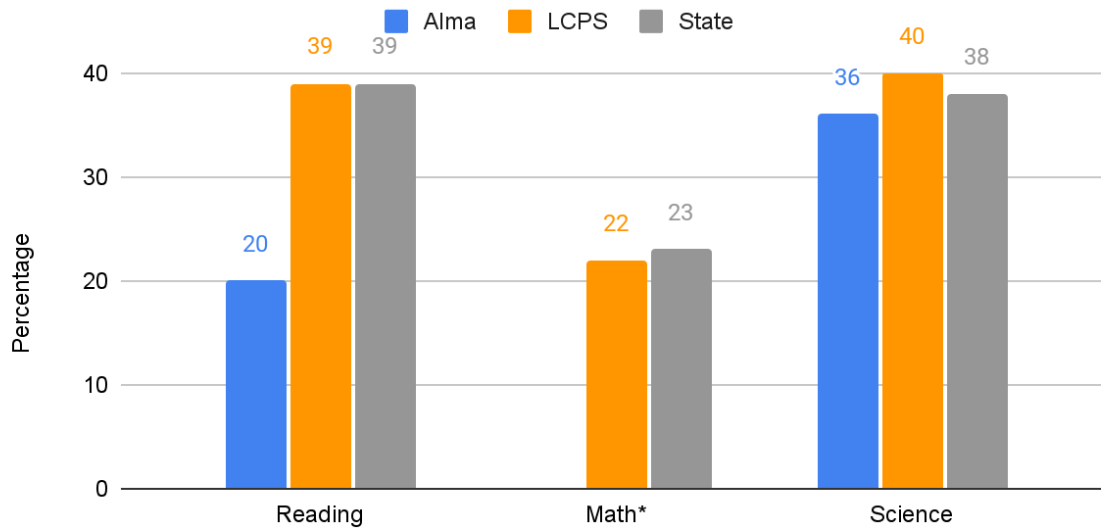
Refer to the [2023-24 Accountability Measures Overview](#) for a summary of indicators included in Vistas calculations. Further details and criteria for each designation are provided in the *Accountability Technical Manual* linked to the [NM Vistas](#) web page.

For the school year 2023-24, **Alma d’Arte Charter High School** received a designation of **Traditional**.

**Proficiency**

Because science is assessed only in grades 5, 8, and 11, schools that do not serve these grades do not have science proficiency data.

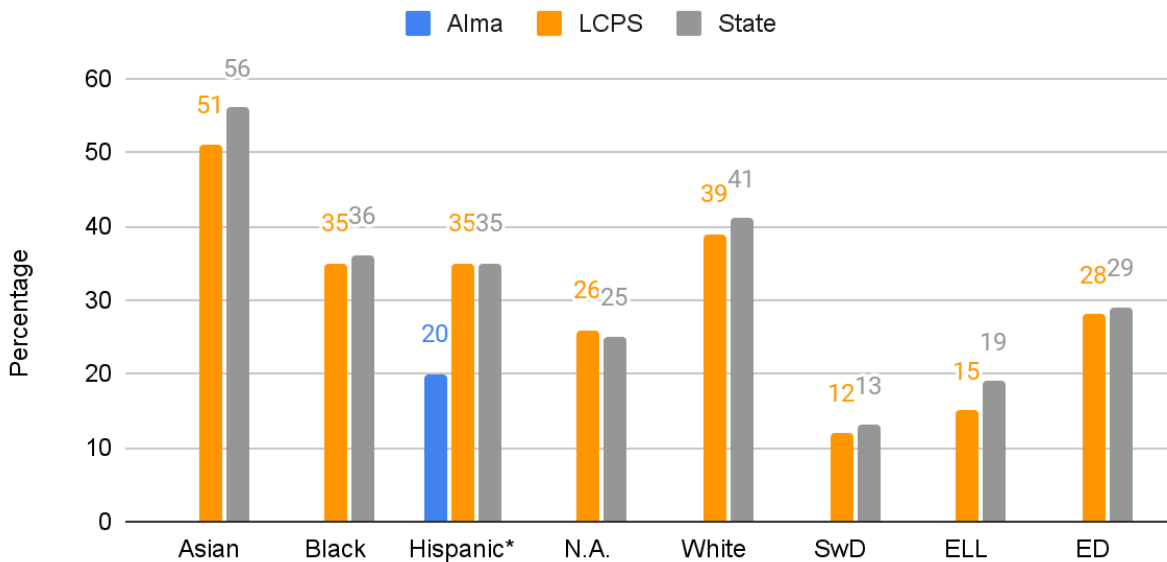
## Percent of Students Proficient in Core Subjects 2023-24



Source: NMVistas.org

**\*Note:** due to population size, proficiency rates in math are **masked** for Alma d'Arte High School, per NM Vistas: [NM Vistas | Alma D'arte Charter](#)

## Percent Proficient in Reading by Subgroup 2023-24



Source: NMVistas.org

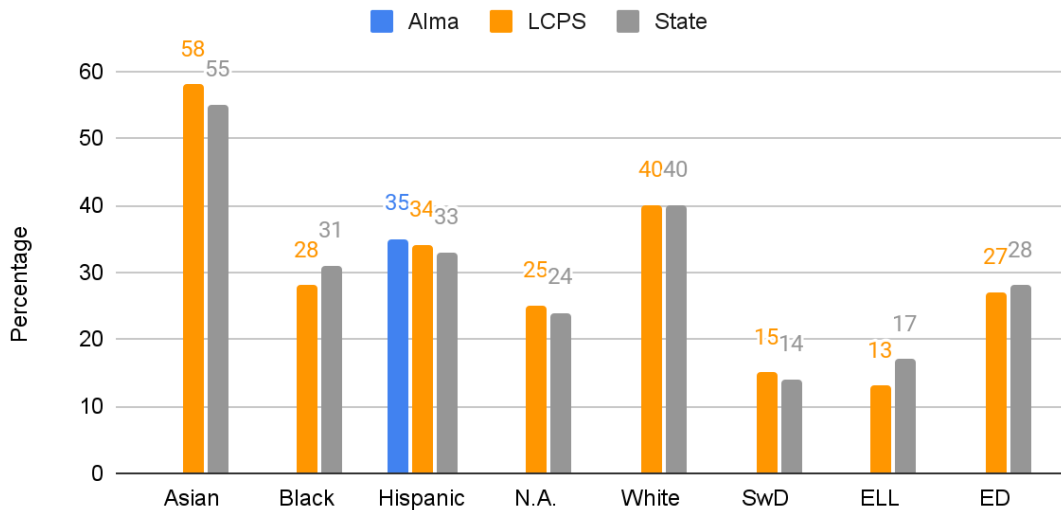
**Note:** groups are masked due to population size, and/or some groups are not represented in the school.

**\*Note:** The school's Hispanic population is partially masked,  $\leq 20\%$  in reading.

## Math

**Note:** proficiency rates in math are **masked** for Alma d’Arte High School, per NM Vistas: [NM Vistas | Alma D'arte Charter](#)

Percent Proficient in Science by Subgroup 2023-24



Source: NMVistas.org

**Note:** groups are masked due to population size, and/or some groups are not represented in the school.

## Growth

**Definition per NM Vistas:** median growth of students (Student Growth Percentile, or SGP) in math or reading compared to their peers who had similar scores on previous tests. Percentile ranges from 34-66 represent about a year's growth typical for the academic peer group. Growth is not available for high school students as data is limited to 11th grade SAT and Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR).

### English Learner Progress (ELP):

English Learner Progress measures the percentage of students currently identified for EL services who are on track toward achieving English language proficiency (an ACCESS score of 4.7 or higher) within five years as measured by the ACCESS English language development assessment. (NMVistas.org)

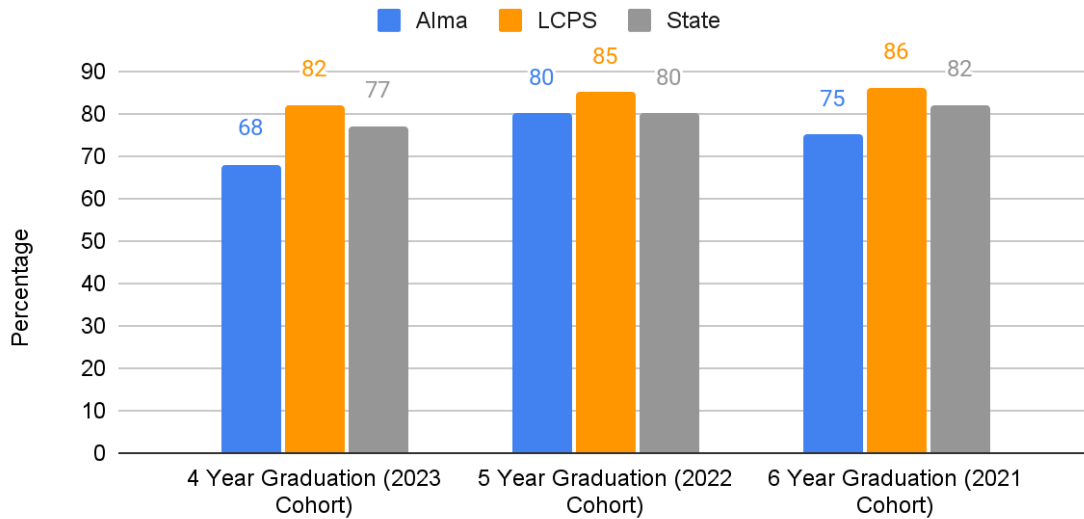
Alma ELP: ≤20% (masked)	LCPS ELP: 17.4%	State ELP: 17.5%
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Source: NMVistas.org

## High School Graduation

Data refer to prior year cohorts, with the most recent 4-year graduation data available for the **2023** graduation cohort, 5-year data for the **2022** cohort, and 6-year data for the **2021** cohort. The 4-year, 5-year, and 6-year graduation rates for these years are provided with comparative data for the state and district. The 4-year rate is then disaggregated by ethnicity and student group.

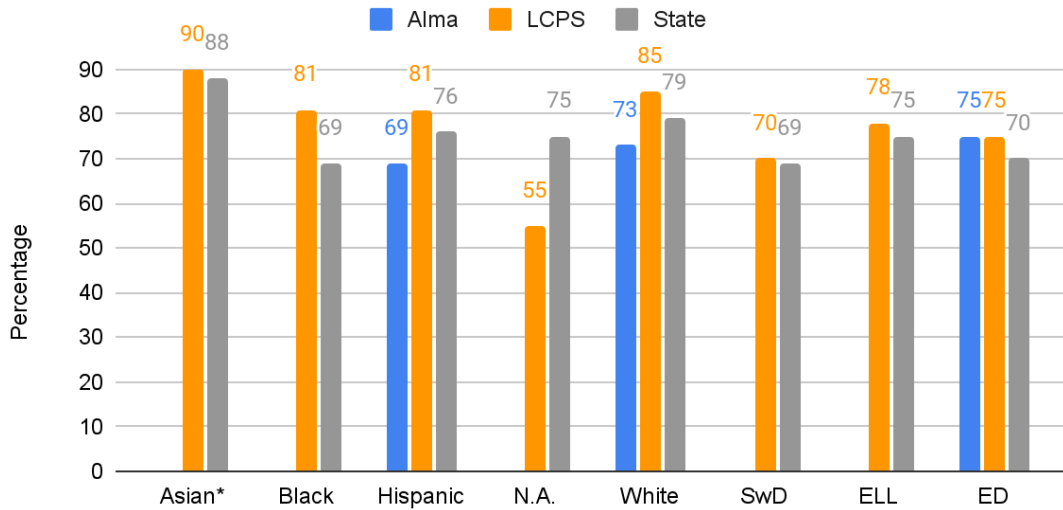
### High School Graduation



Source: NMVistas.org



## 4-Year Graduation by Subgroup



Source: NMVistas.org

**Note:** groups are masked due to population size.

**\*Note:** The district’s Asian population is partially masked,  $\geq 90\%$  4-year graduation rate.

### Mission-Specific Goals

**Goal 1:** Graduating 12th graders, who are enrolled on the 40th day and 120th day, will complete 100 hours in their apprenticeship by the end of April. Timesheets will be verified by the apprenticeship teacher and turned in every Monday for the previous week.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	90% or more of the graduating 12th graders, who are enrolled on the 40th day and 120th day, will complete 100 hours in their apprenticeship by the end of April.	100
Meets Standard	75-89% of graduating 12th graders, who are enrolled on the 40th day and 120th day, will complete 100 hours in their apprenticeship by the end of April.	75
Working to Meet Standard	55-74% of graduating 12th graders, who are enrolled on the 40th day and 120th day, will complete 100 hours in their apprenticeship by the end of April.	25
Does Not Meet Standard	Less than 55% of graduating 12th graders, who are enrolled on the 40th day and 120th day, will complete 100 hours in their apprenticeship by the end of April.	0

**Goal 1 Rating: 0** – Mission Goal Data not received.

**Goal 2:** All 9-12th graders enrolled on the 40th and 120th day, will earn 20 out of 24 points (83%), using the school-provided rubric, on a year-long arts-integrated project including an oral presentation to a panel of staff members.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	90% or more 9-12th graders, enrolled on the 40th and 120th day, will earn a score of 20 out of 24 possible points (83%), using the school provided rubric, on a year-long arts-integrated project including an oral presentation to a panel of staff members.	100
Meets Standard	80-89% of 9-12th graders, enrolled on the 40th and 120th day, will earn a score of 20 out of 24 possible points (83%), using the school provided rubric, on a year-long arts-integrated project including an oral presentation to a panel of staff members.	75
Working to Meet Standard	70-79% of 9- 12th graders, enrolled on the 40th and 120th day, will earn a score of 20 out of 24 possible points (83%), using the school provided rubric, on a year-long arts-integrated project including an oral presentation to a panel of staff members.	25
Does Not Meet Standard	Less than 70% of 9-12th graders, enrolled on the 40th and 120th day, will earn a score of 20 out of 24 possible points (83%), using the school provided rubric, on a year-long arts-integrated project including an oral presentation to a panel of staff members.	0

**Goal 2 Rating: 0** – Mission Goal Data not received.

## Organizational and Financial Performance Framework

**2023-24 Overall Rating: Does Not Meet Standard**

Pursuant to the [PEC Performance Framework and Accountability System](#), schools receive ratings of **Meets Standard**, **Working to Meet Standard**, or **Does Not Meet Standard** for individual indicators in the framework. Explanations for any rating other than Meets Standard are provided below.

The school also receives an overall rating of either **Meets Standard** or **Does Not Meet Standard** for the year. If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating for three or more indicators, it will receive an overall rating of **Does Not Meet Standard**.

If a school receives a **Does Not Meet Standard** rating, on any indicator, the CSD and PEC may conduct a closer review the following year on that indicator, and/or the PEC may require the school to submit a corrective action plan in order to specify actions and a timeline to correct the performance deficiency.

A school may receive a **Working to Meet Standard** rating on multiple indicators and still receive an overall rating of **Meets Standard**. If a school receives this rating across multiple years, the CSD and PEC may conduct a closer review the following year on that indicator, and the school will need to address the issue in its renewal application at the end of its charter term.

### Screenshot of Multi-year Performance Framework Ratings

Alma d'Arte Charter High School	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Organizational and Financial Performance Ratings</b>		
1a Mission and Educational Program	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1b State Assessment Requirements	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1c Rights of Students with Disabilities	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
1d Rights of English Learners	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
1e Meeting Program Requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
1f NM DASH Plan	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
2a Governance Requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
2b Nepotism, Conflict of Interest	Meets Standard	Working to Meet Standard
2c Reporting Requirements	Working to Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
3a Rights of All Students	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
3b Attendance and Retention	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
3c Staff Credentialing	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
3d Employee Rights	Does Not Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
3e Background Checks, Ethics	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
4a Facilities	Working to Meet Standard	Working to Meet Standard
4b Transportation	N/A	N/A
4c Health and Safety	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
4d Handling Information	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
4e Information accessible to the public	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
4f School climate	Working to Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
5a Financial Reporting and Compliance	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard
5b Accounting Principles	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
5c Responsive to Audit Findings	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
5d Managing Grant Funds	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard
5e Staffing for Fiscal Management	Working to Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
5f Internal Controls	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

#### Explanation of 2023-24 Indicator Ratings

1.a. Observations and interviews demonstrate program/mission being implemented >50%; plan in place for full implementation.

1.b. The school's assessment participation rate was ≥90% for both Math and reading, the target rate is 95% for both.

1.c. SPED CAPs issued (Annual Determination and State Complaint). [OSE lifted the CAPs in fall of 2024. This does not affect the 2023-24 rating as it was after the school year was over, but may help future PF ratings.]

1.e. CCRB indicated that the school is not compliant with Innovation Zone or CTE Perkins/Next Gen grants.

2.a. Board training not complete for some members.

- 2.b. Conflict of interest complaints received re: governing board; no nepotism or conflict of interest policy in place.
- 2.c. More than 3 late notification requests; concerns meeting requirements not addressed adequately and timely.
- 3.a. More than 3 complaints determined valid re: disenrollment, transcripts. Complaint policy published late spring 2024.
- 3.b. Attendance percentage rate is 98% (95% target), retention rate is 45% (80% target) and recurrent is 51% (70% target).
- 3.c. As of 7.8.24, not all licensure discrepancies have been cleared.
- 3.d. New teacher mentorship program was not in place in February; was in place by April.
- 3.e. The school had employees without background checks complete and did not provide evidence that those staff were not alone with students.
- 4.a. PSFA report (Facility Maintenance Assessment Report) indicated that school has rating of "Poor". Safety concerns noted during site visit. School has improved some areas in the Art Wing and Gallery since Feb. visit, but still have work to do.
- 4.c. Safe Schools Plan letter of non-compliance issued on 7.3.24.
- 4.e. As of the end of the school year, Handbook still not posted to the website or complete.
- 4.f. The school did not have an active EC this year; no evidence of building intentional connections to family and community. Antagonistic relationships between stakeholders (Admin, parents, GB, students, staff).
- 5.b. [FY23 Audit](#): 6 Audit findings in FY23 Audit, 1 Material weakness.
- 5.c. The school has three repeat findings in FY23.
- 5.e. GC created Finance Committee in spring; no finance or audit committees were in place at time of visit in Feb. CPO's certificate expired in Jan. 2023.

#### **Site Visit Attendees**

February 7, 2024 and April 15, 2024

**CSD Team:** Cheryl Rowe (lead), Corina Chavez, Dr. Brigette Russell and Lucy Valenzuela

**School Leadership:** Dr. Adam Amador (Head administrator) and Cecilia Romero

**Governing Board:** Kim Skaggs and Richelle Peugh-Swafford

# Memo

**To:** Patti Gipson, PEC Chair  
Julia Barnes, PEC Counselor  
Dr. Brigette Russell, NMPED CSD Deputy Director

**From:** Dr. E. Vanessa de León, Counsel Alma d'Arte Charter High School (LEA)

**cc:** Dr. Adam Amador, LEA Chief Academic Officer/Principal  
Ms. Richelle Peugh-Swofford, LEA Governing Council President

**Date:** December 18, 2024

**Re:** CSD 2023-2024 Annual Report – Response from Alma d'Arte CHS

Per [6.2.9.12 NMAC](#), “the state charter school may provide a written response to the division’s phase 2 annual report within 20 days of receipt from the division, including the state charter school’s response to the division’s assessment regarding correction of unsatisfactory performance if the state charter school received an annual report notice from the commission for the previous school year. The response shall include documents or other evidence to support the state charter school’s response.” Per NMPED’s guidance, [a response from the school is not required, but if the school should choose to submit one, it may do so using the file upload tool in the Annual Report 2023-24 Feedback form.](#)

Alma d'Arte Charter High School (LEA) is providing a written response to the 2023-2024 Annual Report via email to PEC Attorney, PEC Chair, and CSD using the portal provided. It is important to note that the LEA provided a similar written response addressed to the CSD/PEC to the Preliminary 2023-2024 Annual Report. However, the LEA did not receive any feedback from CSD. The LEA’s concerns were not addressed by CSD nor did CSD make any updates to the final report based on the information provided within the Preliminary report response from the LEA. Further, the LEA hired an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) to assist with the analysis of the preliminary data which was also included within the LEA’s response to the Preliminary report. The 2023-2024 Annual Report is identical as the 2023-2024 Preliminary report.

The LEA respectfully requests CSD/PEC to ensure the updated CAP results are reflected within the 2023-24 Multi-year Performance Framework Ratings that are used to compile the Charter Schools Division 2023-2024 Annual Report for Alma d'Arte Charter High School. The following updates are respectfully requested based on the June 20, 2024, CAP and/or work that was completed according to the CAP expectations. In December 2024, the LEA requested an updated CAP report from the CSD and is expecting an updated CAP report this week. A follow-up update on this 2023-2024 Annual Report will likely be required after the CSD has updated the CAP.

**1c. Rights of Students with Disabilities** – Based on the OSE findings and communications with the LEA, the LEA has satisfied its requirements for 2 State OSE Complaints, a Federal Indicator 4 Prong I and Prong II review, and a Federal Indicator 13 review.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**                      **Rating Update – Meets (ref: OSE report 10/29/24)**

**3a. Rights of All Students** – Based on the June 20, 2024, CAP report updated by the CSD and reviewed by the PEC, the LEA attained a “**Meets**” designation. As of Spring 2024, complaints were addressed with each individual complainant. The LEA also adopted and provided a grievance policy for parents, students, and community that is accessible on Alma’s school website. Prior to the new administration, the policy was nonexistent.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**                      **Rating Update - Meets (ref: CAP 06/20/24)**

**3c. Staff Credentialing** – Based on the June 20, 2024, CAP report updated by the CSD and reviewed by the PEC, the LEA attained a “**Working to Meet**” designation. As of Summer 2024, 100% of licensure discrepancies were addressed and cleared. The licensure issues date back to SY 2021-2022.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**                      **Rating Update - Working to Meet (ref: CAP 06/20/24)**

**3e. Background Checks** – Based on the June 20, 2024, CAP report updated by the CSD and reviewed by the PEC, the LEA attained a “**Working to Meet**” designation. As of Spring 2024, 100% of background checks were addressed and cleared.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**                      **Rating Update - Working to Meet (ref: CAP 06/20/24)**

**4e. Information Accessible to the Public** – Based on the June 20, 2024, CAP report updated by the CSD and reviewed by the PEC, the LEA attained a “**Meets**” designation. As of Fall 2023, the school maintains a website with contact information for school staff/board members, students/parent, and up to date governance meeting information. The LEA has ensured OMA compliance including webcasting board meetings, utilizing roll call votes for action items, following OMA timelines, and making governing board meeting minutes available via the LEA website. As of Fall 2024, the student handbook was uploaded to the school website.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**                      **Rating Update - Meets (ref: CAP 06/20/24)**

**4f. School Climate** – As of Spring 2024, the LEA created a community that supports all students and parents. Anecdotal data collected from parents, students, and staff participating within Alma’s Winter/Spring Art Showcases, Alma’s Artisan Market Days, Alma’s Spanish Market Days, Alma’s Dance Team, Alma’s All City Art Competition team, and Alma’s Culinary Competition team reflect a positive school culture. A climate survey was drafted with the guidance of the EPP team during Fall 2024. The Alma Climate Survey will be provided to parents, faculty, staff during Spring 2025.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**

**Rating Update - Pending CAP Update from CSD**

**5b. Accounting Principles** – Based on the June 20, 2024, CAP report updated by the CSD and reviewed by the PEC, the LEA attained a “**Working to Meet**” designation. RFR reimbursements were coded appropriately to the correct funding source. Meal counts were accurate, and spreadsheets precisely reflected the accounting for food services.

CSD Rating - **Does Not Meet**

**Rating Update – Pending CAP Update from CSD**

**5c. Responsive to Audit Findings** – As of Summer 2024, the LEA has been working to meet all financial components addressed by the two simultaneous audits (CAP Financial Audit/ LEA’s Annual Audit). The LEA provided all the documentation requested by the CSD consultant through the CAP website launched by the CSD and/or email. Further, the CAP financial requests made by the CSD consultant resulted in a data breach. CSD consultant requested the LEA’s unredacted personal identifiable information (PID) as part of her audit. The LEA responded and provided the data as requested by the CSD consultant. CSD uploaded unredacted PID as part of the CAP financial audit. On or about June 10, 2024, the PEC Counsel approved access to a disgruntled former Alma parent who then used this entry to access the financial audit information which included the PID of the LEA’s staff members.

CSD Rating- **Does Not Meet**

**Rating Update - Pending CAP Update from CSD**

**5e. Staffing for Fiscal Management** – As of Spring 2024, the LEA established a Finance Committee, and a CPO has completed certificate training as of May 2024.

CSD Rating- **Does Not Meet**

**Rating Update - Pending CAP Update from CSD**

### **Notes for Consideration**

In December of 2024, Alma d’Arte Charter received recognition for advancing student achievement during the 2023-2024 school year. The LEA for several years was identified as needing school improvement support and had the designation of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI). Under the new administration, the LEA was able to obtain a Traditional designation. According to NMPED, a Traditional School designation is a school that is in good standing and not in need of additional support. There are 3 Charter High

Schools in New Mexico and Alma d'Arte is the only Charter High School in Las Cruces, NM to receive this designation. On December 19, 2024, NMPED representatives will be recognizing Alma d'Arte's efforts with an NMPED banner to commemorate the school's academic and graduation efforts. This banner will proudly hang within the school's entrance.

During the 2022-23 school year, Alma d'Arte Charter received the designation of Comprehensive Support School (CSI). Under CSI, the LEA was identified within the lowest 5% of all schools and/or a graduation rate below 66.67% as noted within the State Accountability System.

**The LEA contends that the school's performance merits acknowledgement from CSD/PEC that the LEA is "Working Towards Meeting" satisfactory performance as unsatisfactory performance identified within the letter from April 26, 2024 was corrected on or before the December 2024 annual report (referencing April 26, 2024 PEC letter to the LEA pursuant to NMAC 6.2.9).**

**Enc. See attached detailed line item response to CSD's 2023-2024 Annual Report**





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District 5, Aztec

Stewart Ingham, Member  
District 6, Deming

Michael M. Taylor, Member  
District 8, Roswell

K.T. Manis, Member  
District 9, Hobbs

January 25, 2025

Adam Amador  
Richelle Peugh-Swafford  
Alma d'Arte Charter High School  
aamador@almadarte.org  
rpeugh-swafford@almadarte.org

Dear Dr. Amador and Ms. Peugh-Swafford:

Thank you for all of your hard work to support children in New Mexico. As you know, the Charter School Division (CSD) has completed its annual report for SY 2023-2024 for your school and presented this report along with your responses to the Public Education Commission (PEC) at its January 2025 meeting.

As outlined in New Mexico rule NMAC 6.2.9.12 and 13<sup>2</sup>, the PEC has accepted this annual report. Further, as set out in the rule, the PEC asked me to provide you with notice that the PEC has issued an overall annual report notice of unsatisfactory performance and a notice that the school is not on track for renewal.

1) CAP and progress there. As you know, the school is presently under a Corrective Action Plan. The remaining items on that Corrective Action Plan will continue until they are fully resolved. I note that the school made the following improvements:

- Changing the Vistas designation of CSI to Traditional;
- the improved academic proficiency rates in science;
- 3.d Employee Rights scoring improved;

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title06/06.002.0009.html>

- Resolving issues of concern regarding Special Education findings; and
- Resolving issues of concern related to finances

2. Uncorrected unsatisfactory performance. However, there are continuing areas of concern that are now uncorrected unsatisfactory performance:

- the low academic proficiency rates in math;
- the low graduation rates;
- the inability to provide data for the Mission Specific Indicators resulting in no score;
- the overall designation on the Organizational and Financial Frameworks of “Does Not Meet”, and
- the unsatisfactory performance related to
  - Rights of Students with Disabilities,
  - Rights of All Students,
  - Staff Credentialing, and
  - 5.b and 5.c indicators related to fiscal management

The uncorrected unsatisfactory performance be added to the Corrective Action Plan to be remedied by the end of the 24-25 school year.

3. New unsatisfactory performance. Further, the following items were identified as new unsatisfactory performance related to:

- 2.c Reporting Requirements
- 3c. Background Checks
- 4.a Health and Safety
- 4.e Information accessible to the public
- 5.e Staffing for Fiscal Management

You will work with your staff and board and report your progress to the CSD through the annual site visit and report process to show your progress. If you are successful in improving the performance, CSD will report that in the next annual report, and the concerns will be identified as corrected. If you are not successful (which we hope will not be the case), the school may receive a notice of uncorrected unsatisfactory performance next year which could impact the ultimate renewal of the school.

4. No Condition Compliance form submitted. The PEC has concerns with the reporting of the information on the Condition, and CSD has indicated that no Condition Compliance document was received. Therefore, the compliance with the Condition is insufficient. The school must provide information on the Condition Compliance at the meeting

of the PEC when the CAP is next discussed which we anticipate will be the February PEC meeting. This item may be subject to further action under the intervention ladder.

The contract and all annual reports for the school are located here: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/public-education-commission/charter-school-contracts/> The SY 2023-2024 annual report and this letter will be made a part of the record of performance of the school. Please feel free to reach out to CSD or me with any questions. On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Patricia Gipson*

Chair, Public Education Commission  
District 7