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SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

**Charter Schools Division
2023-24 Annual Report
Revised December 20, 2024**

School Name: Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts

School Address: 1401 Old Coors Dr SW, Albuquerque, NM 87121

Head Administrator: K-3; Jordan Franco 6-8; Michelle Platis

Governing Board Chair: Kathy McClendon

Business Manager: Jennifer Yamat

Authorized Grade Levels: K-12

Grade Levels Served: K-2, 6,7

Authorized Enrollment Cap: 1,144

2023-24 Enrollment: 137 (NMVistas.org: Enrollment Count from Avg. of 80 & 120 day Active Students Report)

Contract Term: 2022-2027

CAPs or Conditions: none

Notice from 2022-23 Annual Report: Satisfactory performance

Unsatisfactory terms that need to be addressed from 2022-23 Annual Report: the PEC has identified one area of unsatisfactory performance related to 3.c. Staffing Credentials and 5.d. Managing Grant Funding concerns on page 7 of the annual report.

Progress from 2022-23 Notice to 2023-24:

- 3.c. Staffing Credentials: in 2023-24, the school improved their rating to Meets.
- 5.d. Managing Grant Funding: the school improved, earning Working to Meet in 2023-24.

Waivers: none

Mission: The mission of Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts is to educate students through an arts-integration curriculum that promotes problem solving and creativity and supports all K-12 students to achieve grade-level standards.

Educational Program:

- A. Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts will use arts integration and arts enhanced instruction. Arts integration instruction that is an approach to teaching and learning through which academic standards are taught and assessed equitably in and through the arts. Arts-integration is *what* we will teach, but it is also *how* we will teach.

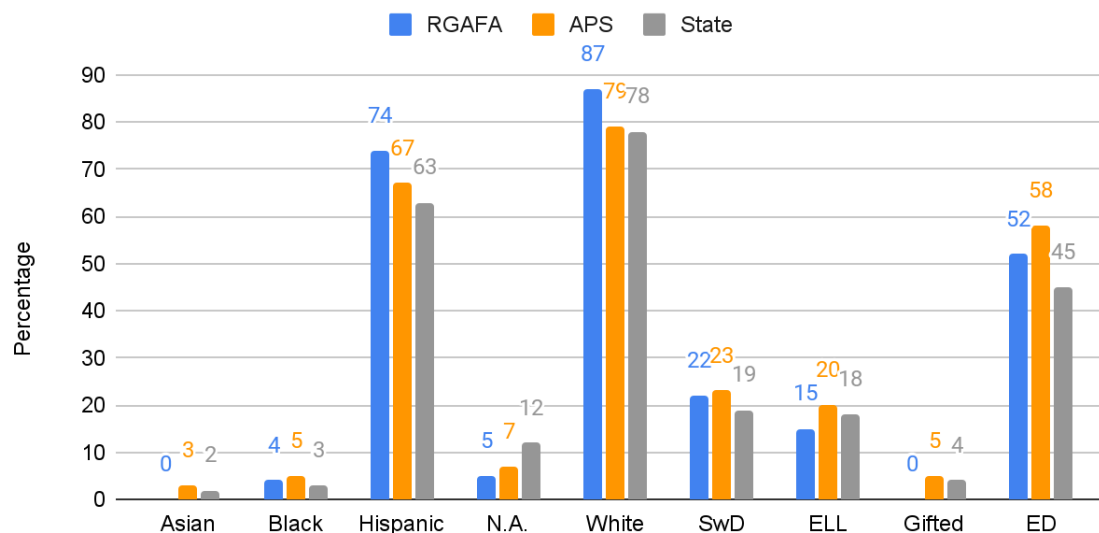
- B. Students will receive rigorous, culturally responsive content-based on grade level CCSS while integrating the NM Core Arts Standards (NMCAS) to allow students to reach goals while investigating their talents.

- C. Through community partnerships of local media, performing, and visual artists and organizations, students will be exposed to and learn a variety of art forms.

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	Traditional 59.1	Traditional 51.5*
2: Subgroup performance: high, middle, and low-performing quartiles	unavailable	unavailable
3: School-specific Goals: if two goals, average of points on each	100	100
Overall Academic Score: average of indicators 1 and 3	79.55	75.75

*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](#)

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>Spotlight: Top 25% of schools, excluding schools with designations of CSI, Graduation Rate or TSI/ATSI</p>	<p>Traditional: No other designation</p>	<p>TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement): Multi-year low performing subgroup(s)</p>
		<p>ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement): 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>CSI (Comprehensive Support): 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>MRI (More Rigorous Intervention): on CSI for 3 years</p>

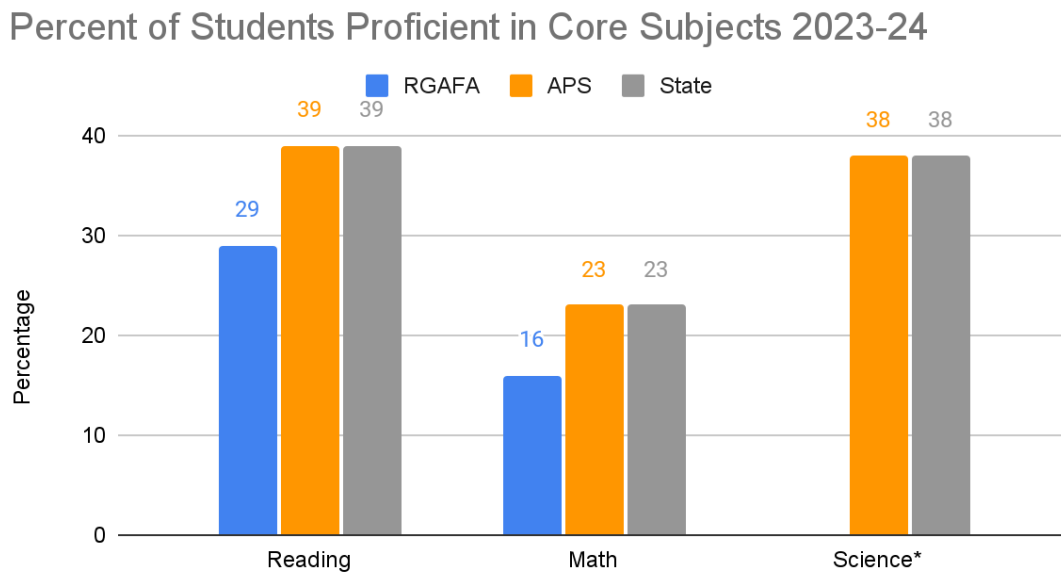
Note: According to the May 20, 2024 NM Vistas revision, the highest **overall** designation a school may receive is “Spotlight,” however, an additional designation/distinction of “Excellence” is assigned to schools scoring above the 90th percentile on specific indicators.

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, **Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts** received a designation of **Traditional**.

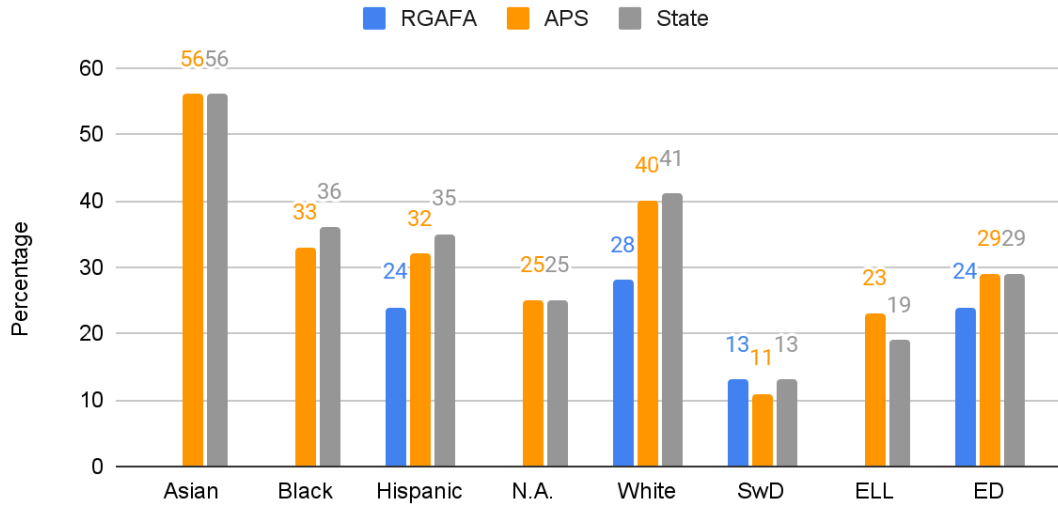
Proficiency

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



Source: NMVistas.org

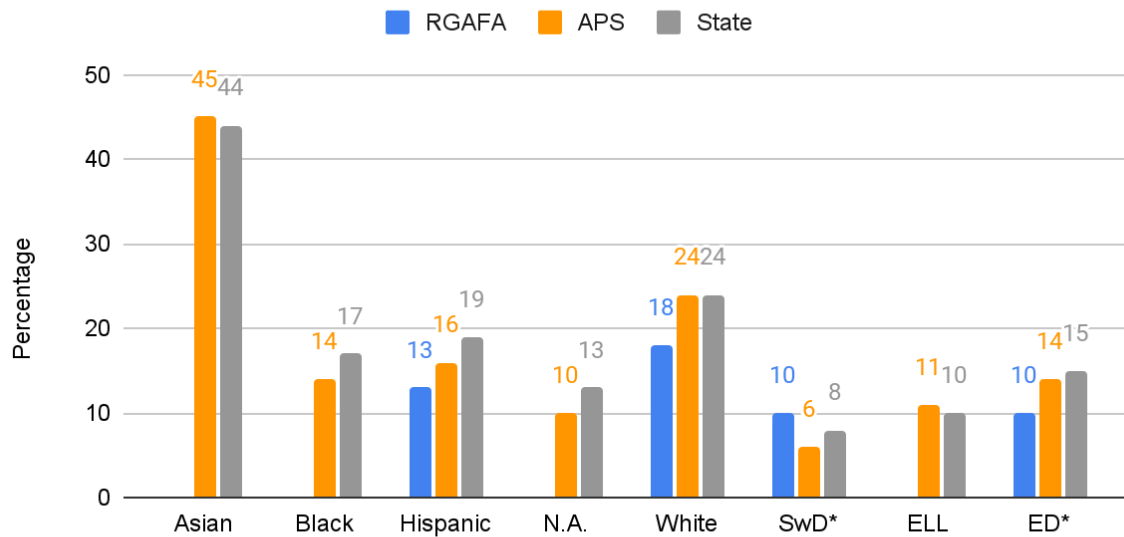
Percent Proficient in Reading by Subgroup 2023-24



Source: NMVistas.org

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

Percent Proficient in Math 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 students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged populations are partially masked, $\leq 10\%$ in math.

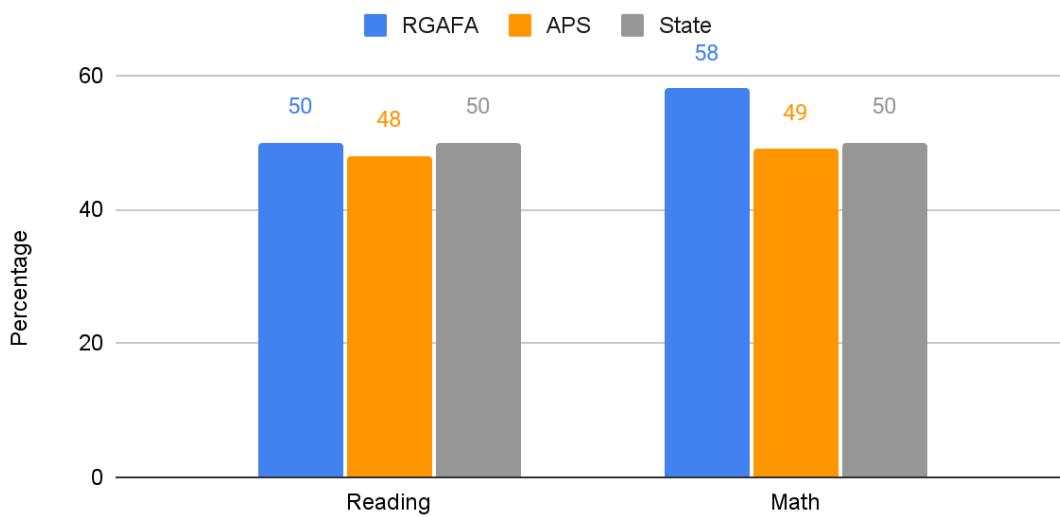
Science

Note: Science proficiencies are not available since the school did not serve grades 5, 8, or 11 in 2023-24.

Growth

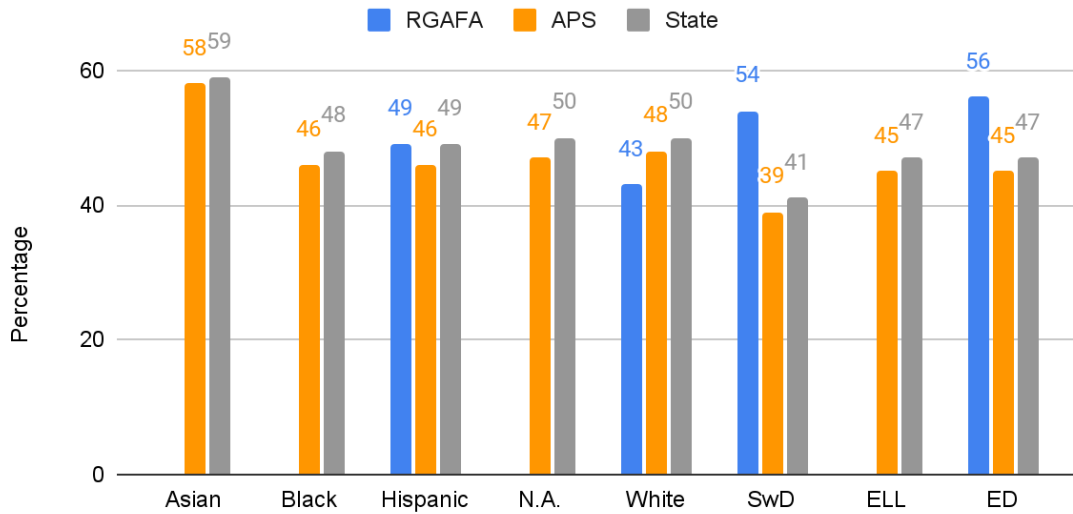
Definition per NM Vistas: median growth of students (Student Growth Percentile, or SGP) in math or reading compared to their peers who had similar scores on previous tests. Percentile ranges from 34-66 represent about a year's growth typical for the academic peer group. Growth is not available for high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

Growth Percentile for All Students (2022-23 to 2023-24)



Source: NMVistas.org

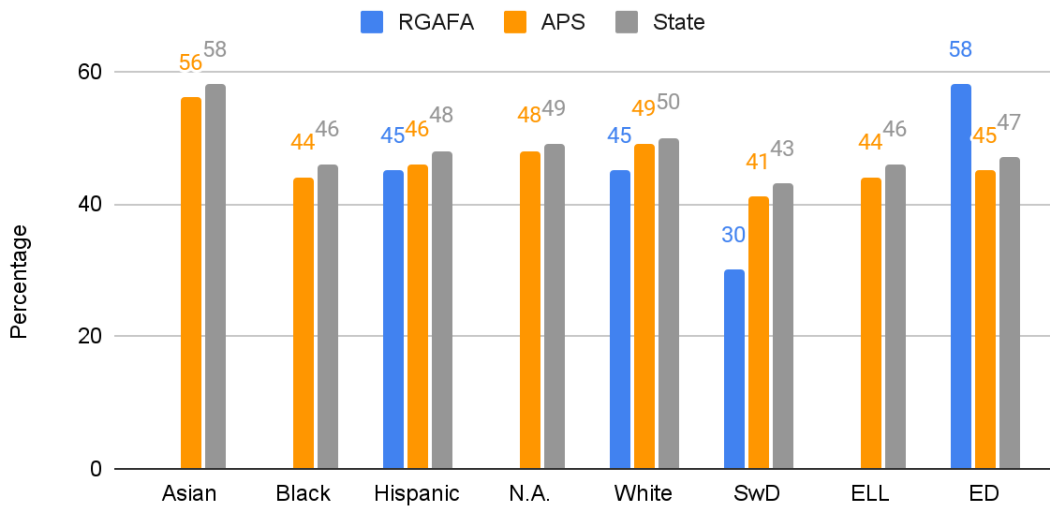
Reading Growth Percentile by Subgroup (2022-23 to 2023-24)



Source: NMVistas.org

Note: groups are masked due to population size.

Math Growth Percentile by Subgroup (2022-23 to 2023-24)



Source: NMVistas.org

Note: groups are masked due to population size.

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)

RGAFa ELP: ≤20%	APS ELP: 18.2%	State ELP: 17.5%
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Source: NMVistas.org

Mission-Specific Goals

Goal 1: All students enrolled on both the 40th and 120th day at Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts (RioGAFa) will be given opportunities to demonstrate understanding of core academic subjects through a carefully designed arts integration curriculum. Teachers will administer arts integrated lessons and assessments throughout the year (based on grade-level standards) in which students will “construct and demonstrate understanding” (Kennedy Center arts integration definition) through art projects, presentations, performances, etc.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	90% to 100% of students will earn a minimum of “3” (meets standard) on the school’s rubric on at least two arts-integrated assessments for demonstrated understanding in core academic subjects and in the selected art form.	100
Meets Standard	80%-89% of students will earn a minimum of “3” (meets standard) on the school’s rubric on at least two arts-integrated assessments for demonstrated understanding in core academic subjects and in the selected art form.	75
Working to Meet Standard	70%-79% of students will earn a minimum of “3” (meets standard) on the school’s rubric on at least two arts-integrated assessments for demonstrated understanding in core academic subjects and in the selected art form.	25
Does Not Meet Standard	69% or fewer of students will earn a minimum of “3” (meets standard) on the school’s rubric on at least two arts-integrated assessments for demonstrated understanding in core academic subjects and in the selected art form.	0

Goal 1 Rating: 100% attainment- Exceeds Standard: **100 points**

Goal 2: All students enrolled on both the 40th and 120th day at Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts (RioGAFa) will work with arts experts/mentors throughout the school year to prepare for, and participate in, at least one or two arts events (1 for K-5 and 2 for 6-12) by the end of the school year. RioGAFa has scheduled one arts-related day per quarter. On arts days, students will display artwork and/or perform (dance, film, music, and/or theatrical) for one another, families, and the community.

Performance Level	Target	Points
Exceeds Standard	86% to 100% of students will work with an art expert/mentor to prepare for, and to participate in, one (1) arts event for K-5 and two (2) arts events or 6-12 by the end of the school year.	100
Meets Standard	80%-85% of students will work with an art expert/mentor to prepare for, and to participate, in one (1) arts event for K-5 and two (2) arts events for 6-12 by the end of the school year.	75

Working to Meet Standard	70%-79% of students will work with an art expert/mentor to prepare for, and to participate in, one (1) arts event for K-5 and two (2) arts events for 6-12 by the end of the school year.	25
Does Not Meet Standard	69% or fewer students will work with an art expert/mentor to prepare for, and to participate in, one (1) arts event for K-5 and two (2) arts events for 6-12 by the end of the school year.	0

Goal 2 Rating: 100% attainment- Exceeds Standard: **100 points**

Organizational and Financial Performance Framework

2023-24 Overall Rating: Meets 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.

Multi-year Performance Framework Ratings

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

Explanation of 2023-24 Indicator Ratings

2.c. 1 untimely submission of amendment requests.

3.b. Attendance percentage rate is 97% (95% target), retention rate is 87% (80% target) and recurrent is 65% (70% target). After reviewing the school's Attendance Improvement Plan, the school has a plan to engage students and parents.

5.b. Three findings on [FY23 audit](#) including one material weakness finding (2023-003).

5.d. 36% Community Schools Implementation Grant(27127) reverting grant funds not expended.

Site Visit Attendees

April 9, 2024

CSD Team: Martica Davis (lead), Ted Farnath and Kristen LaVolpa

School Leadership: Jordan Franco (co-director) and Michelle Platis (co-director)

Governing Board: Jenn Peña and Kathy McClendon



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January 25, 2025

Jordan Franco
Kathy McClendon
Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts
jordan.franco@riograndeacademyoffinearts.com
kathy.mcclendon@riograndeacademyoffinearts.com

Dear Mr. Franco and Ms. McClendon:

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 13²¹, 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 satisfactory performance. In addition, the school corrected areas of concern from last year. Thank you for this strong work. Your work as a new school with this performance is remarkable.

The PEC has identified one area of unsatisfactory performance related 5.b. Accounting Principles on page 10 of the annual report.

The unsatisfactory performance should be corrected by the next annual report. 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

²¹ <https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title06/06.002.0009.html>

receive a notice of uncorrected unsatisfactory performance next year which could impact the ultimate renewal of the school.

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