



New Mexico
Public Education Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Education Commission Meets to Approve or Deny New Charter School Applicants

(Santa Fe, NM)—The New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) will meet to vote on approval or denial of nine applications for new charter schools on Thursday and Friday, September 9 and 10, 2010 at 9:0 a.m., at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, Pugash Hall, 9201 Balloon Museum Drive, Albuquerque.

At this meeting, the New Mexico Public Education Department's Charter School Division will make recommendations to the PEC on each of the new charter school applications. Applicants will have 15 minutes to make a final comment to the PEC. The PEC will have the opportunity ask questions of the PED Charter School Division, and/or make a comment, and then vote to approve or deny the requests.

The nine charter school applicants who will appear before the PEC are: from Albuquerque, Achieve Academy, Aspen Grove Academy, The GREAT Academy, Kid's College Academy Charter K-8 School, New Mexico International School, Sage Academy, Trinity High School; from Las Cruces, J. Paul Taylor Academy; and Uplift: a School of Expeditionary Learning from Gallup.

Three applicants withdrew the applications prior to the public hearings. They were: Abbie Paiz Charter High School from Belen, The Edge Academy, and the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Academy both from Albuquerque.

The PEC held public hearings August 16-18, 2010 in Las Cruces, Gallup, Albuquerque, and Espanola for the public input on the charter school applicants. During those hearings, the PEC listened to presentations from the charter schools, followed by comments from local school district representatives, and the public.

All charter school applications can be viewed at: www.ped.state.nm.us then clicking on the link for the Public Education Commission or at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/charter/index.html#applications>

The PEC became an official state authorizer for charter schools July 1, 2007 as a result of the passage of the New Mexico Charter Schools Act which was passed in 2006. Charter schools may also be authorized by their local school districts. For more information concerning this meeting, please call Bernadette Tennyson, PEC Administrative Assistant, at 505-827-6519.

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