

New Mexico  
Public Education Department

# Charter Schools Strategy

Improving Access to High-Quality Charters

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Hanna Skandera  
Secretary of Education

# The Vision for New Mexico

Driving student success in New Mexico by supporting excellent authorizing practices and charter schools that provide quality, innovative education



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# What We Know

- 99 charter schools operate in New Mexico
  - 62 state-chartered
  - 37 district-chartered

## 2014-2015 Report Cards 3 Year Average Letter Grade

Grade	Total	State Chartered	District Chartered
A	21	13	8
B	18	11	7
C	27	16	11
D	19	8	11
F	12	9	3

# What We Want to Achieve

Increase the number and percentage of effective, quality schools in New Mexico.



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# What We Need To Do

- Recognize quality educational choices as a driver of student success.
- Ensure the implementation of effective and high-quality charter school authorizing practices.
  - Support the approval of only high-quality applications.
  - Implement *targeted* evaluations of academic, organizational, and financial performance to increase the quality of existing charter schools and provide operators information necessary for success.
  - Address charter schools with unacceptable academic, organizational, and financial performance.
- Develop a charter-friendly environment in New Mexico by reducing administrative burdens for and encouraging the growth of charter schools that are effective and high-quality.

# How We Can Achieve Our Goals

To meet our strategic goals, we must focus actions in four key areas:

- Recognizing, rewarding, and supporting the growth and expansion of effective and high-quality charter schools
- Improving evaluation and reporting processes to substantiate imposition of disciplinary action on poorly performing charter schools
- Improving charter school support and communications to increase charter school outcomes
- Reforming governing body training and requirements to enhance the quality of charter school governance

# What Actions Must We Take: Recognizing Charter School Success

- Differentiate annual and renewal requirements for effective and high-quality charter schools.
- Advocate for policies that support effective and high-quality charter schools.
- Collaborate with stakeholders throughout the state to disseminate the best practices from effective and high-quality charter schools.

# What Actions Must We Take: Evaluation and Reporting

- Enhance evaluation of schools that do not meet academic, financial, or organizational performance expectations.
- Streamline reporting requirements.
- Strengthen quality of operational and fiscal evaluations.
- Provide meaningful, early review of new schools and quickly intervene to address performance concerns.

# What Actions Must We Take: Support and Communications

- Provide consistent and meaningful technical assistance and communications to charter schools.
- Increase training to address charter school governance, performance, applications, planning year requirements and renewal.
- Establish rigorous and transparent improvement plan expectations for underperforming charter schools.

# What Actions Must We Take: Governing Board Training

- Establish rigorous expectations for timely completion of meaningful governing board training.
- Improve quality and effectiveness of governing board training and support.
- Enforce governance expectations.

# How We Will Know We've Achieved our Goals

- Increase the number of effective, high-quality educational seats.
- Measure demonstrated improvements in the performance of struggling charter schools.
- Close charter schools that do not meet expectations and are not able to demonstrate measurable improved achievement.
- Demonstrate improved organizational and financial performance for all charter schools.

# Possible Policy Changes to Support These Efforts

- Reward high-quality charters
  - 10-year charter terms
  - Create a pathway for replication
  - Remove caps
- Establish a long-term facilities solution
- Close low-performing charters
  - Automatic closure language for charter schools that demonstrate chronically low academic, fiscal, or organizational performance