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**Explore Academy – Rio Rancho Additional Square Footage Amendment Request
June 27, 2025, Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting
Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis**

Request: Explore Academy – Rio Rancho requests PEC approval to add 35,000 square feet of additional space to their current 40,000 square feet, adding buildings adjacent to the existing facility.

Analysis: The school is approved to serve 1,200 students in grades K-12. The school is now in the third year of its first contract term, with 420 students enrolled in grades K-7. They will add a grade a year until they reach their approved K-12 grade span.

With the contractually approved and projected growth, the school needs to expand its classroom space, as the CSD site visit team observed at the spring 2025 visit. The addition will provide classroom space, another bank of student restrooms, adult restrooms, a larger cafeteria, and gym space.

There are currently 165 students on the waiting list for 2025-26, reflecting the growing Rio Rancho population and increasing family interest in the school's model. The school's Vistas designation is Traditional, with proficiencies 47% in reading, 28% in math, and 50% in science.

Recommendation: CSD recommends approving the change requested.