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**Roots and Wings Community School Educational Program Amendment Request
June 27, 2025, Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting
Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis**

Request: Roots and Wings Community School (RWCS) requests PEC approval to amend Sections 5.8 and 5.9 of the Charter Contract to provide that the School may utilize no more than 12 remote instruction days in its school calendar per school year, as an intentional extension of its expeditionary learning educational model.

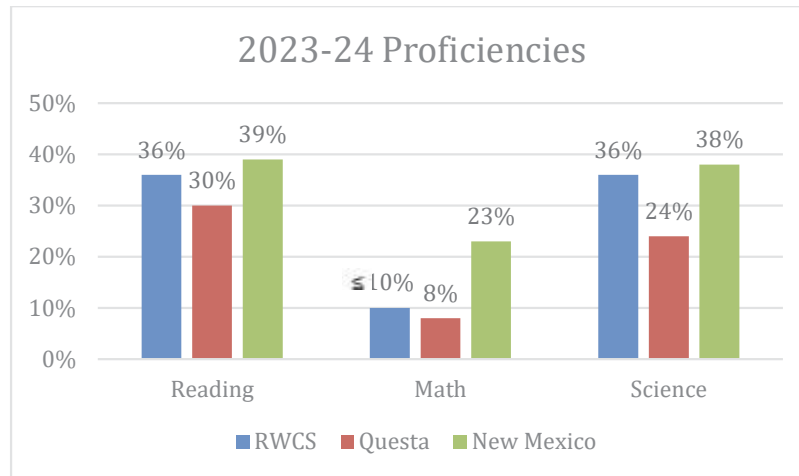
Analysis: In school year 2024-25, RWCS's calendar included eleven days of asynchronous remote instruction. The amendment request stated that the 2024-25 calendar included nine days and the school proposed adding three more days for a total of twelve, but a subsequent communication from the school to CSD corrected this. The total number of asynchronous remote instructional days proposed for the 2025-26 calendar remains twelve, but this is an increase of only one day from the prior year rather than three days.

The school is requesting the amendment at this time because Section 6.10.5.8 G2 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) limits asynchronous learning to four days; an exception is made for charter schools in accordance with the contract between the school and its chartering authority. The Public Education Department (PED) School Budget Bureau approved 2024-25 calendars that included more than four asynchronous remote instructional days, but will not approve 2025-26 calendars unless a charter school's contract specifically allows them.

The school has planned staff professional development for these days, when students are expected to work on projects that are part of the school's expeditionary learning curriculum.

In their amendment request, RWCS provided documentation of how the asynchronous days serve their experiential learning curriculum, including an account of how the asynchronous days were used in 2024-25, along with examples of the passion project and logs and a sample lesson plan for one of their remote learning days. These plans detail an intentionally planned project with deliverable benchmarks to be completed during these asynchronous days.

RWCS had a Vistas designation of Traditional in 2023-24 with proficiencies shown below:



Because school proficiencies are lower than those of the state as a whole, it could be argued that the school should not add additional remote days to its calendar, but the following facts work in the school's favor:

- the additional day requested is only one more than the school already has;
- the school's justification regarding its experiential learning program is persuasive; and
- proficiencies are higher than those of the local district in reading and science (math is masked at $\leq 10\%$ due to N size, so the comparison cannot be determined).

Recommendation: CSD recommends approving the change requested.