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**Altura Preparatory School Other Amendment Request Form
July 18, 2025, Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting
Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis**

Request: Altura Preparatory School is requesting an amendment to their charter to discontinue the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program food service.

Analysis: Due to facility limitations, the school must discontinue its lunch program, which aimed to comply with New Mexico's universal meal provision rule. According to the school their current building lacks the infrastructure for a serving line, and a vendor providing individually packaged meals could not meet the "universal" demand. Despite efforts to find alternative providers, no suitable solution was found. The school recognizes the importance of food access and is exploring options to support student meals and long-term solutions to reinstate a universal meal program.

In the Food Service Survey sent out by the PEC in March 2024, Altura cited funding, facility, and kitchen equipment as barriers, noting a lack of space for a full kitchen and funds to staff food monitoring/serving/management.

In 2024, the Student Nutrition "Infrastructure Grant" was available to help grantees improve kitchen facilities and equipment, as well as renovate and build new spaces, thereby increasing access to high-quality meals and promoting healthier food choices for students. However, Altura either did not apply for or did not receive this grant, with only 10 PEC schools receiving funding.

Food service at schools is an equity issue, and Commissioners have been increasingly unwilling to negotiate contracts that do not include food service.

Recommendation: CSD recommends that the PEC grant a one-year exemption to the contractual provision for 2025-26 but not remove the contractual requirement to provide food service for the remainder of the contract term.