



New Mexico Public Education Commission

Governing Body Member Change Notification Instructions

Purpose: To notify the Public Education Commission (PEC) of a change in a member or members of the school's Governing Body. The school may report multiple member resignations/removals and designations on the same form.

Submission Deadline: Changes to the Governing Body membership do not require prior approval of the PEC; however, notice must be received within 30 calendar days of the change. Vacancies must be filled within 45 days; one 30-day extension may be requested as long as the board is not dropping below five members.

Notifications completed 14 days prior to the next PEC meeting will be placed on the next agenda. Notifications of this type are typically placed on the consent agenda; however, any notification may be removed from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda for full discussion and possible action by the PEC.

Meeting minutes of the governing board of the school and the PEC will serve as an amendment to, or compliance with, the charter contract regarding this membership change. The documentation will be added to the board of finance documentation on file with CSD.

Information the school must provide for Governing Body Member change:

- ☒ Fully completed form
- ☒ Certification of the vote taken by the board (assurance by signature on form; no board minutes required)
- ☐ Resignation Letter or board meeting minutes removing the previous member
- ☒ Statement of Governing Body Member to Consult with PED
- ☒ Affidavit of Governing Body Member
- ☒ Assurances of Governing Body Member

Contact charter.schools@ped.nm.gov if you have questions about completing or submitting documents. Submit this form and all supporting documents to **Epicenter**.

Governing Body Member Change Notification Form

The Charter Contract was entered into by and between the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) and Explore Academy – Las Cruces, hereafter "the school," effective on 7/1/2021

Current Governing Body Members and Positions: Dr. Christine Reyes – Chair; Gabriela Graham – Member; Lanell Pahe – Secretary; Terrence Moore – Member; Angela Rivera - Member

Governing Body Member Resigning or Removed: N/A

New Governing Body Member name: Rey Gomez – Member; Violeta Paxton – Member

Position/Office held by incoming new governing board member: Member

Contact information for New Governing Body Member (phone and email): Rey Gomez: rgomezbball24@gmail.com, (915) 433-2395; Violeta Paxton – violetabustamante@rocketmail.com, (575) 496-4497

Is the school requesting an extension to fill a vacancy: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, provide date of vacancy: Click or tap here to enter text.

Number of Governing Body Member changes, including this change, submitted to PEC in the last 12 months: 9

Date of board meeting approving the requested amendment: 7/23/2025

Date the requested amendment will go into effect: 7/23/2025

Signatures below constitute assurance that the governing board has approved the requested change:

Signature of School Representative: Alexis Black Alexis Black (Aug 1, 2025 11:06:31 MDT) **Date:** 08/01/2025 Click or tap to enter a date.

Signature of Governing Board Chair: Christine Reyes **Date:** 08/01/2025 Click or tap to enter a date.

For PEC/CSD Use Only

PEC Meeting Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Agenda: ☐ Consent (typical) ☐ Regular (unusual circumstance)

The school's notification was: ☐ Accepted ☐ Rejected (provide reason)

Electronic signature of CSD Director: _____ **Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

ASSURANCES

My name is Reynaldo Gomez and I reside in Las Cruces, NM. I am a member of the governing body for Explore Academy a charter school which is located at 850 N. Telshor Blvd Las Cruces, NM, I assure that in my capacity as a member of the governing body, the CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all applicable federal and state laws governing the organizational, programmatic, and financial requirements applicable to charter schools, including:

1. The CHARTER SCHOOL'S admission processes are in compliance with Sections 22-2-4(A)-(D) and 22-8B-4.1 NMSA 1978.
2. The CHARTER SCHOOL'S admission process do not discriminate against anyone regarding race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, spousal affiliation, physical or mental disability, or serious medical condition.
3. The CHARTER SCHOOL is a nonsectarian and non-religious public school.
4. Except as otherwise provided in Section 22-12-5(C) NMSA 1978 the Public School Code, the CHARTER SCHOOL does not charge tuition or have admission requirements.
5. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all state and federal health and safety requirements applicable to public schools, complies with Sections 22-8B-4.2(A), (C), and (D) NMSA 1978, and must produce an E-Occupancy certificate for all school facilities.
6. The governing body does not and will not contract with a for-profit entity for the management of the CHARTER SCHOOL.
7. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all applicable state and federal laws and rules related to identifying and providing special education services.
8. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with provisions regarding public property identified in the Public School Code, the New Mexico Procurement Code, and the New Mexico Prohibited Sales Act, the Internal Revenue Code, and other applicable federal and state regulations.
9. The CHARTER SCHOOL ensures that criminal background checks are conducted on all employees and applicable reporting is completed in accordance with Section 22-10A-5 NMSA 1978.
10. The CHARTER SCHOOL ensures that it complies with state regulations regarding the use of volunteers set out in Section 6. 50.18 NMAC.
11. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
12. The CHARTER SCHOOL provides equitable access to and participation in its federally assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs.
13. Meetings of the CHARTER SCHOOL Governing Body comply with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Sections 10-15-1 et seq., NMSA 1978 and the Inspection of Public Records Act, Section 14-2-1 et seq., NMSA 1978.

14. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all requirements of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99.
15. The CHARTER SCHOOL has and will adopt all policies and procedures required by the Public School Code, the New Mexico Administrative Code, and the Public Education Commission.
16. The Governing Body or head administrator of the CHARTER SCHOOL recognizes and works with employee labor representatives, if any.
17. The CHARTER SCHOOL has and will develop personnel policies that comply with all applicable federal and state labor laws, regulations and rules implementing them.
18. The CHARTER SCHOOL had and will develop a curriculum that is aligned to the New Mexico State Standards found in Title 6 Chapter 29 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, as amended.

Reynaldo Gomez

Printed Name

Reynaldo Gomez

Reynaldo Gomez (Aug 1, 2025 12:55:07 MDT)

Signature

08/01/2025

Date

ASSURANCES

My name is Violeta Paxton and I reside in Las Cruces. I am a member of the governing body for Explore Academy Las Cruces a charter school which is located at Las Cruces, NM, I assure that in my capacity as a member of the governing body, the CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all applicable federal and state laws governing the organizational, programmatic, and financial requirements applicable to charter schools, including:

1. The CHARTER SCHOOL'S admission processes are in compliance with Sections 22-2-4(A)-(D) and 22-8B-4.1 NMSA 1978.
2. The CHARTER SCHOOL'S admission process do not discriminate against anyone regarding race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, spousal affiliation, physical or mental disability, or serious medical condition.
3. The CHARTER SCHOOL is a nonsectarian and non-religious public school.
4. Except as otherwise provided in Section 22-12-5(C) NMSA 1978 the Public School Code, the CHARTER SCHOOL does not charge tuition or have admission requirements.
5. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all state and federal health and safety requirements applicable to public schools, complies with Sections 22-8B-4.2(A), (C), and (D) NMSA 1978, and must produce an E-Occupancy certificate for all school facilities.
6. The governing body does not and will not contract with a for-profit entity for the management of the CHARTER SCHOOL.
7. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with all applicable state and federal laws and rules related to identifying and providing special education services.
8. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with provisions regarding public property identified in the Public School Code, the New Mexico Procurement Code, and the New Mexico Prohibited Sales Act, the Internal Revenue Code, and other applicable federal and state regulations.
9. The CHARTER SCHOOL ensures that criminal background checks are conducted on all employees and applicable reporting is completed in accordance with Section 22-10A-5 NMSA 1978.
10. The CHARTER SCHOOL ensures that it complies with state regulations regarding the use of volunteers set out in Section 6. 50.18 NMAC.
11. The CHARTER SCHOOL complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
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17. The CHARTER SCHOOL has and will develop personnel policies that comply with all applicable federal and state labor laws, regulations and rules implementing them.
18. The CHARTER SCHOOL had and will develop a curriculum that is aligned to the New Mexico State Standards found in Title 6 Chapter 29 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, as amended.

Violeta Paxton

Printed Name


Violeta Paxton (Aug 1, 2025 11:28:47 MDT)

Signature

08/01/2025

Date

STATEMENT OF GOVERNING BODY TO CONSULT WITH PED

We, the undersigned, make up the governing body of the [Explore Academy – Las Cruces], located in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In accordance with 6.80.4.16 NMAC, we agree to consult with the New Mexico Public Education Department on any matter not covered by the manual of accounting and budgeting before taking any action related to funds held as a board of finance.

We make this statement as part of [Explore Academy – Las Cruces]’s application to the Public Education Commission for status as a board of finance under 6.80.4.16 NMAC.

We understand that we must retain or hire a Licensed School Business Manager as soon as financial feasible and, thereafter, notify the New Mexico Public Education Commission within 30 days of hiring and/or changing in a Licensed School Business Manager for the school, and a new, signed “Affidavit of Financial Custodian” must be submitted.

We understand that we must submit an Affidavit of Governing Body Member to the Public Education Commission within 60 days of a change in membership of our governing body.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL] GIVE THE FOREGOING STATEMENT THIS 1 s t DAY OF August, 2025.

1. Reynaldo Gomez
Reynaldo Gomez (Aug 1, 2025 12:55:07 MDT)

[signature]
Reynaldo Gomez

[print]
2. Violeta Paxton
Violeta Paxton (Aug 1, 2025 11:29:44 MDT)

[signature]
Violeta Paxton

[print]
3. _____
[signature]

[print]
4. _____
[signature]

[print]
5. _____
[signature]

[print]

Attach additional pages if membership exceeds five.

AFFIDAVIT OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)

COUNTY OF Dona Ana)

I, Violeta Paxton, after being duly sworn, state:

1. My name is Violeta Paxton and I reside in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
2. I am a member of the governing body of the Explore Academy Las Cruces [insert name of school] in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
3. I attest that I am currently not a current governing body member of any other charter school authorized in the state of New Mexico.
4. I have never been a governing body member of a charter school that was suspended or failed to receive or maintain their board of finance designation.
5. I understand that as a member of the [insert name of school]'s governing body, I am entrusted with oversight of expenditure of public funds in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and rules, including but without limitation any laws or rules pertaining to conflicts of interest, public school finance, and procurement.

Violeta Paxton
[Signature]

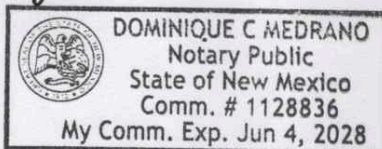
8/1/2025
Date

Violeta Paxton
[Print]

VERIFICATION

The forgoing Affidavit of Governing Body Member was subscribed and sworn to before me, this 1st day of August, 2025.

[Notary Seal:]



My commission expires: June 04, 2028.

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC

AFFIDAVIT OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
)
COUNTY OF)

I, Reynaldo Gomez, after being duly sworn, state:

1. My name is Reynaldo Gomez and I reside in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

2. I am a member of the governing body of the Explore Academy LC [insert name of school] in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

3. I attest that I am currently not a current governing body member of any other charter school authorized in the state of New Mexico.

4. I have never been a governing body member of a charter school that was suspended or failed to receive or maintain their board of finance designation.

5. I understand that as a member of the [insert name of school]'s governing body, I am entrusted with oversight of expenditure of public funds in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and rules, including but without limitation any laws or rules pertaining to conflicts of interest, public school finance, and procurement.

Reynaldo Gomez
[Signature]

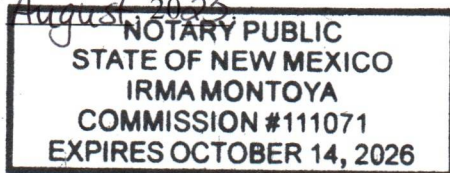
08/01/25
Date

Reynaldo Gomez
[Print]

VERIFICATION

The forgoing Affidavit of Governing Body Member was subscribed and sworn to before me, this 01 day of August, 2025.

[Notary Seal:]



Irma Montoya
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: October 14, 2026.

EXPLORE ACADEMY LAS CRUCES

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE

850 N. TELSHOR BLVD, LAS CRUCES, NM 88011



This Certificate of Vote certifies the action taken by the Governing Council of Explore Academy – Las Cruces at a duly noticed public meeting held on July 23, 2025.

Action Taken:

Appointment of two new Governing Council members:

- Rey Gomez
- Violeta Paxton

Motion:

Member Angel Rivera made a motion to nominate Violeta Paxton and Rey Gomez to serve as members of the Governing Council of Explore Academy – Las Cruces. The motion was seconded by Gabriela Graham.

Vote:

The motion was passed by a unanimous roll call vote (5-0) of the Governing Council. There were no dissenting votes or abstentions.


Certification:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct record of the action taken by the Explore Academy – Las Cruces Governing Council on July 23, 2025.

Signed this 1st day of August,, 2025.



Dr. Christine Reyes
Chair

 (Aug 1, 2025 11:46:47 MDT)

Lanell Pahe
Secretary