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New Mexico
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Public Notice

For Immediate Release: December 8, 2015

PED Announces 2016 Deadline for Letters of Intent for Establishing New Charter Schools in New Mexico

All potential applicants who wish to file an application to open a new charter school in New Mexico are required to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) to submit a charter school application with the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) and the Public Education Department (PED) on or before the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second Tuesday in January (January 12, 2016). Failure to provide the required written notice could result in the application not being accepted.

The NOI must be submitted in writing to both the district superintendent where the charter school is proposed to be located *and* to the PEC regardless with whom the applicant wishes to apply. NOI should be sent to the PEC in care of Options for Parents, 300 Don Gaspar – Room 301, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501. Applicants must check with individual school districts for where the NOI will be sent. The form for the notice has been revised, and can be accessed on the PED Charter School Division (CSD) website under Document Library:

<http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/CharterSchoolsDocs/Forms/Notice%20of%20Intent%20FORM.pdf>

NOTE – A LOCAL DISTRICT AUTHORIZER MAY ACCEPT OR EVEN REQUIRE A DIFFERENT FORM FOR THE NOI. IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE LOCAL DISTRICT TO DETERMINE IF THE NEW PEC NOI FORM IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORIZER.

The PEC Charter School Initial Application will be released in early 2016. New applicant trainings are planned to be provided by the PED-Charter Schools Division monthly from January through May of 2016.

An applicant may submit an application to either a school district in which the charter school is to be located or to the PEC to be considered for a state-chartered charter school. The completed application may be submitted to only one authorizer – either the district OR the PEC. Regardless of an applicant's choice of authorizer, both the district and the PEC must be provided written notice of the intent to open a charter school by January 12, 2016 deadline.

Current law provides that all applications for new charter schools must be filed no later than June 1, 2016 to be considered to begin operating in the following fiscal year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018). Therefore, the 2016 completed applications must be received by the local district or the PEC by close of business on June 1, 2016. All applications to the PEC must be submitted according to the process outlined in the CSD trainings and the application kit.

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