

**Albuquerque Public Schools Recommendation for Renewal**  
**Nuestros Valores**  
**Policy and Instruction Committee**  
**November 11, 2015**

The Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Administration recommends that the charter school renewal application submitted by the Nuestros Valores charter school be **approved for a term of five years with one condition**. The condition is that the school work with the APS Charter School Business Office to create a list of financial goals for the school, to be included in the charter school performance contract.

The school has been found in full compliance with New Mexico Charter School Law and APS requirements. The renewal application has been reviewed by the APS Director, Charter/Magnet School Department and staff from other appropriate APS departments. Nuestros Valores has negotiated and signed a charter school performance contract as required by New Mexico Statute 22-8B-9. The recommendation to approve Nuestros Valores’s charter renewal with APS is based on the application’s evidence of financial viability, satisfactory facilities and strong educational program..

Nuestros Valores has met the standard in all of the categories in the Renewal Evaluation Instrument used by APS as follow.

1. **Material Violations** – None.
2. **Report on Progress** –

YEAR	POINTS	GRADE
2012-2013	63.22	C
2013-2014	42.75	D
2014-2015	NOT RELEASED	NOT RELEASED

The school year 2013-2014 was a transition year for students at Nuestros Valores Charter School. That was the first school year in our new location. Modular classrooms were not set up on time and five teachers were teaching class in the common area (school cafeteria) during the months of August – January. Five modular classrooms were finally ready to move in during the month of January 2014. I strongly believe this was a factor in the decrease in standards based assessment results. Also, during school 2013-2014 common core standards were implemented and the standards based assessment was a “Bridge Assessment” dually aligned to the NMCCSS Standards and the NM State Standards. This was a change for all students and staff.

3. **Fiscal Management** –
  - a. Nuestros Valores Charter School *Meets Standard* with their enrollment projection for all 3 years during this renewal period.
  - b. Nuestros Valores Charter School received the rating *Falls Far Below Standard* in liquidity for Year 1 and *Does Not Meet Standard* in Year 2 and 3. As of June 30, 2015, (Year 4) Nuestros Valores has a cash carryover of \$367,138 and this *Meets Standard*.

- c. Nuestros Valores Charter School *Does Not Meet Standard* for Year 1 and *Falls Far Below Standard* for Years 2 and 3 for number of audit findings (FY 12 = 4, FY 13 = 8 and FY 14 = 5).
- d. Nuestros Valores Charter School *Does Not Meet Standard* for Year 1 and *Falls Far Below Standard* for Years 2 and 3 for number of repeat audit findings.
- e. Nuestros Valores had multiple significant deficiency findings or at least 1 material weakness rated finding each year during this renewal period.

Nuestros Valores *Falls Far Below Standard* with 4 or more negative exceptions noted on the Fiscal Section of the APS annual site visit for each year (FY 12 = 6, FY 13 = 4 and FY 14 = 5).

The finance and audit committee has received copies of the findings and have had intense training on reading the financial statements and how to follow-up and track monthly financial reports to help ensure there not repeat findings.

- 4. **Legal Review of Charter History** – There have been no Special Education due process complaints or official grievances filed against the school or governing council. No citations by any State or Federal agency for noncompliance with any statute or regulation have been issued to the school.
- 5. **Changes to Initial Charter** – Nuestros Valores is requesting an increase in the enrollment cap of 60 students. They will go from their current cap of 140 to 200 (50 students for each grade 9-12). They also are requesting a change in their organizational structure to address the current staff assignments.
- 6. **Facilities** – Facility has E-occupancy rating. The school is currently in a lease agreement. The school is located at 6800 Gonzales Road, Albuquerque, NM 87121.
- 7. **Performance Contract and Framework:** Nuestros Valores has negotiated an acceptable contract and frame work with the appropriate APS department.
- 8. **Term of Renewal** – Nuestros Valores is now in a facility that will help them to better implement their academic goals has a solid plan for academic improvement. They fill a unique need in the Albuquerque community. A five year renewal is recommended with one condition .