



*Charter Schools 2006:
Innovation. Creativity.
Accountability.*

The Albuquerque Partnership
Albuquerque, New Mexico



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Charter Schools Shouldn't Duplicate Failure

The purpose of the 1999 Charter School Act was to create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating students within the public school system. The end result was expected to be improved student achievement.

Would choice through charter schools provide opportunities for students with the greatest educational need? More important, what would be the educational performance of those same students in charter schools when compared with conventional public schools?

The Albuquerque Partnership has always been in favor of providing educational choice and options for those students who are not performing well and for those schools in need of improvement. The legislation was based on assumptions that charter schools:

- Would be more accountable than other schools for student outcomes. Given the threat of having its charter revoked, a charter school will work harder to meet its stated performance goals
- Would be more efficient, freed from bureaucratic demands and able to do more with fewer resources
- Would provide more choices to more families, particularly those who traditionally have had the fewest choices in the public educational system
- Would be more innovative, serving as laboratories from which other public schools could learn

Have those assumptions been proven true? Whether a student attends a public high school, a charter or a private school, what matters most is student achievement. Will the graduate be prepared for post-secondary education or the work force?

We support the possible expansion of charter schools. The only thing we ask is that they be accountable for improving achievement for all students, especially those who transfer from public schools in need of improvement.

The data in the accompanying tables shows vast differences in student proficiency between high-and-low scoring charter schools. The average gap is 20-30 percentile points among the different charter schools in Albuquerque. The gap between the high and low charters in APS is 60 percentile points. The other charter schools in the rest of the state (Table 5) can be compared to state averages by ethnicity (Tables 6-21) and grade levels. The question again is, does your local charter provide choice and an improvement for student performance compared to where the students transferred from?

Table 1: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, APS Grades 3-11, 2005-06						
				% Proficient or Above		
School	% Minority	Quadrant	Grade	Reading Score	Math Score	Reading Achievement Gap
Horizon Academy South	88	SW	3	21.4	9.5	60.7
Montessori Elementary School	59.7	NE	3	82.1	75	
Horizon Academy NW	76.1	NW	4	36.1	25	63.9
SW Primary Learning Center	34	NE	4	100	88.5	
Horizon Academy NW	76.1	NW	5	37.2	25.6	62.8
SW Primary Learning Center	34	NE	5	100	84.6	
Horizon Academy South	88	SW	6	13.2	15	67.9
SW Primary Learning Center	34	NE	6	81.1	79.2	
La Academia de Esperanza	79.4	NW	7	16.7	0	57
SW Learning Center	35.3	NE	7	73.7	36.8	
La Academia de Esperanza	79.4	NW	8	3.4	0	70.4
Twenty-First Century	53.5	NE	8	73.8	55.4	
Robert F. Kennedy	92.6	NE	9	2.9	2.9	76.6
Public Academy Performing Arts	43.7	NE	9	79.5	45.5	
La Academia de Esperanza	79.4	NW	11	0	0	90
Public Academy Performing Arts	43.7	NE	11	90	40	

Table 2: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, APS, Grades 3-5, 2005-06.

School	% Minority Enrollment **	School Cluster	Grade	04-05 Reading % Proficient or Above	05-06 Reading % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss	04-05 Math % Proficient or Above	05-06 Math % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss
HORIZON ACADEMY NORTHWEST***	76.1	87114	3	52.6	27.8	-24.8	39.5	27.8	-11.7
			4	64.4	36.1	-28.3	55.6	25	-30.6
			5	42.2	37.2	-5	22.2	25.6	3.4
HORIZON ACADEMY SOUTH***	88	87105	3	32.6	21.4	-11.1	26.1	9.5	-16.6
			4	32.5	36.6	4.1	32.5	43.9	11.4
			5	24.5	43.2	18.7	6.7	6.8	0.1
HORIZON ACADEMY WEST***	90.8	87120	3	48.5	47.1	-1.4	29.4	33.8	4.4
			4	56.5	42.4	-14.1	28.9	40.9	12
			5	62.7	52.9	-9.8	17.9	22.1	4.2
MONTESSORI OF THE RIO GRANDE	59.5	87104	3	75.1	57.1	-18	25	34.3	9.3
			4	53.9	90.9	37	30.8	45.5	14.7
			5	73.4	58.3	-15.1	46.7	33.3	-13.4
SW PRIMARY LEARNING CTR	34	87112	4	95.5	100	4.5	90.9	88.5	-2.4
			5	95.7	100	4.3	73.9	84.6	10.7
LA PROMESA EARLY LEARNING***	78.5	87105	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	34.4	87109	3	*	82.1	*	*	75	*
			4	*	58.3	*	*	50	*

*Data not available.

**Denotes minority enrollment of 50% or above.

***Title 1 School

Table 3: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, APS, Grades 6-8, 2005-06.

School	% Minority Enrollment	School Cluster	Grade	04-05 Reading % Proficient or Above	05-06 Reading % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss	04-05 Math % Proficient or Above	05-06 Math % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss
ACADEMIA DE LENGUA Y CULTURA***	98.4	87119	6	24.4	24	-0.4	4.4	12	7.6
			7	30.3	52.8	22.5	0	3.8	3.8
			8	*	38.2	*	*	2.9	*
HORIZON ACADEMY NORTHWEST***	76.1	87114	6	14.6	19.6	5	19.5	10.9	-8.6
			7	34.7	48.8	14.1	10.9	14	3.1
			8	31.1	27.5	-3.6	8.9	5	
HORIZON ACADEMY SOUTH***	88	87105	6	19	13.3	-5.7	15.9	15	-0.9
			7	36.1	*	*	1.6	*	*
			8	28.6	*	*	1.8	*	*
HORIZON ACADEMY WEST***	90.8	87120	6	17.4	39.6	22.2	2.9	13.2	10.3
			7	36.3	*	*	3	*	*
			8	47.8	*	*	13	*	*
LA ACADEMIA DE ESPERANZA***	79.4	87120	6	*	*	*	*	*	*
			7	3.4	16.7	13.3	0	0	0
			8	2.6	3.4	0.8	0	0	0
LA LUZ DEL MONTE		87112	7	*	69.5	*	*	52.5	*
LOS PUENTES CHARTER SCHOOL***	81.7	87107	8	14.3	19	4.7	0	0	0
PUBLIC ACAD FOR PERF ARTS	47.3	87110	6	65.3	68		36.7	40	3.3
			7	70.6	66	-4.6	31.4	28	-3.4
			8	71.4	65.3	-6.1	20.4	24.5	4.1
SW PRIMARY LEARNING CTR	34	87112	6	*	81.1	*	*	79.2	*
SW SECONDARY LEARNING CTR	35.3	87112	6	96	*	*	70.8	*	*
			7	55	73.7	18.7	40	36.8	-3.2
			8	81.2	62.5	-18.7	34.4	37.5	3.1
THE LEARNING COMMUNITY	64	87109	6	40	28.6	-11.4	13.3	7.1	-6.2
			7	57.9	50	-7.9	10.5	5.6	-4.9
			8	51.9	63.2	11.3	7.4	26.3	18.9
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY CHARTER	53.5	87107	6	51.5	64.2	12.7	27.9	38.8	10.9
			7	62.2	72.1	9.9	33.3	16.2	-17.1
			8	71.7	73.8	2.1	43.3	55.4	12.1

*Data not available.

**Denotes minority enrollment of 50% or above.

***Title 1 School

Table 4: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, APS, Grades 9, 11, 2005-06.

School	% Minority Enrollment**	School Cluster	Grade	04-05 Reading % Proficient or Above	05-06 Reading % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss	04-05 Math % Proficient or Above	05-06 Math % Proficient or Above	Gain / Loss
AMY BIEHL CHARTER HS	48.2	87102	9	60.2	45.2	-15	48.4	43.4	-5
			11	61.3	62.2	0.9	25.9	40.5	14.6
CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL***	95.1	87106	9	4.7	7.4	2.7	2.3	3.8	1.5
			11	20	25	5	0	25	25
CHARTER VOCATIONAL HS***	70	87107	9	20.5	*	*	5.4	*	*
			11	19.3	*	*	5.3	*	*
CHARTER VOC-TECH CENTER***	57.9		11	21.2	13.9	-7.3	3	5.6	2.6
CREATIVE EDUCATION PREP #1***	71.1	87181	9	23	15.5	-7.5	7.7	7.1	-0.6
			11	31.3	36	4.7	6.3	20	13.7
CREATIVE EDUCATION PREP #2	68.7	87181	9	37.5	33.3	-4.2	7.1	7.5	0.4
			11	60	23.1	-36.9	20	0	-20
EAST MOUNTAIN HS	21.1	87047	9	76.5	77.8	1.3	69.2	48.9	-20.3
			11	80.3	81.5	1.2	33.8	60	26.2
HORIZON ACADEMY NORTHWEST***	76.1		9	24.1	*	*	13	*	*
HORIZON ACADEMY SOUTH***	88	87105	9	23.1	*	*	2.6	*	*
LA ACADEMIA DE ESPERANZA***	79.4	87120	9	17.4	7.5	-9.9	13	5	-8
			11	20	0	-20	12	0	-12
LOS PUENTES CHARTER SCHOOL***	81.7	87107	9	2.7	7.7	5	2.7	0	-2.7
			11	0	9.1	9.1	0	0	0
NUESTROS VALORES CHARTER***	97.3	87105	9	13.5	23.1	9.6	0	7.7	7.7
			11	7.1	24	16.9	0	4	4
PUBLIC ACAD FOR PERF ARTS	43.7	87110	9	83.6	79.5	-4.1	61.2	45.5	-15.7
			11	71.5	90	18.5	26.2	40	13.8
ROBERT F. KENNEDY CHARTER***	92.6	87106	9	10.1	2.9	-7.2	2.9	2.9	0
			11	18.4	16.7	-1.7	2.6	8.3	5.7
S.I.A. TECH***	89.9	87104	9	27.3	*	*	9.1	*	*
			11	*	*	*	*	*	*
SOUTH VALLEY ACADEMY***	93.9	87105	9	36.5	23	-13.5	17.6	13.5	-4.1
			11	47.8	50	2.2	17.4	27.4	10
SW SECONDARY LEARNING CTR	35.3	87112	9	78.3	75	-3.3	65	56.8	-8.2
			11	73.9	86	12.1	43.5	41.9	-1.6
THE LEARNING COMMUNITY	64	87109	9	24	28.1	4.1	20	15.6	-4.4
			11	42.9	40.9	-2	23.8	9.1	-14.7

*Data not available.

**Denotes minority enrollment of 50% or above.

***Title 1 School

Table 5: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, State, Grades 3-11, 2005-06.

District	School	Grade	05-06 Reading % proficient and above	05-06 Math % proficient and above
Alamogordo	Lacy Sims	6	*	*
	Lacy Sims	7	50	30
	Lacy Sims	8	30	5
Carlsbad	Jefferson Montessori	3	*	*
	Jefferson Montessori	4	*	*
	Jefferson Montessori	5	*	*
	Jefferson Montessori	6	*	*
	Jefferson Montessori	7	*	*
	Jefferson Montessori	8	27.3	9.1
Cimmarron	Moreno Valley	9	70	56.7
	Moreno Valley	11	66.7	46.7
Clayton	Amistad	3	*	*
	Amistad	4	*	*
	Amistad	5	*	*
	Amistad	6	*	*
	Amistad	7	*	*
	Amistad	8	*	*
Jemez Valley	San Diego Riverside	3	*	*
	San Diego Riverside	4	*	*
	San Diego Riverside	5	*	*
	San Diego Riverside	6	*	*
	San Diego Riverside	7	18.2	0
	San Diego Riverside	8	40	13.3
	Walatowa	9	0	8.3
	Walatowa	11	36.4	0
Las Cruces	Alma Darte Charter	9	52.3	34.1
	Alma Darte Charter	11	45.9	21.6
Santa Fe	Monte Del Sol	7	66.1	30.6
	Monte Del Sol	8	68.3	22.2
	Monte Del Sol	9	78	44.1
	Monte Del Sol	11	76.3	54.2

Table 5: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, State, Grades 3-11, 2005-06, continued.

District	School	Grade	05-06 Reading % proficient and above	05-06 Math % proficient and above
Santa Fe	Turquoise Trail	3	57.6	39.4
	Turquoise Trail	4	61.2	55.1
	Turquoise Trail	5	62.1	45.5
Silver City	Aldo Leopold	9	51.9	40.7
Socorro	Cottonwood Valley	3	64.3	50
	Cottonwood Valley	4	66.7	46.7
	Cottonwood Valley	5	68.4	36.8
	Cottonwood Valley	6	46.7	33.3
	Cottonwood Valley	7	77.8	55.6
	Cottonwood Valley	8	84.6	61.5
Taos	Taos Municipals	3	75	70.8
	Taos Municipals	4	83.3	75
	Taos Municipals	5	83.3	62.5
	Taos Municipals	6	79.2	50
	Taos Municipals	7	66.7	29.2
	Taos Municipals	8	79.2	45.8
Rio Rancho	Vista Grande Elem.	3	77.5	74.4
	Vista Grande Elem.	4	80.1	63
	Vista Grande Elem.	5	78.6	63.5
West Las Vegas	Rio Gallinas School	4	*	*
	Rio Gallinas School	5	78.6	71.4
	Rio Gallinas School	6	45.5	18.2
	Rio Gallinas School	7	*	*
	Rio Gallinas School	8	42.9	21.4
Espanola	Espanola Military Academy	6	20.6	8.8
	Espanola Military Academy	7	23.4	4.7
	Espanola Military Academy	8	35.6	2.7
	Espanola Military Academy	9	14	0
Las Vegas	Bridge Academy Charter High	9	*	*
	Bridge Academy Charter High	11	*	*

Table 5: NMSBA Results, Charter Schools, State, Grades 3-11, 2005-06, continued.

District	School	Grade	05-06 Reading % proficient and above	05-06 Math % proficient and above
Red River	Red River Valley Charter	3	50	57.1
	Red River Valley Charter	4	66.7	66.7
	Red River Valley Charter	5	61.1	27.8
	Red River Valley Charter	6	*	*
	Red River Valley Charter	7	*	*
	Red River Valley Charter	8	*	*
Roswell	Sidney Gutierrez Middle	6	81.8	50
	Sidney Gutierrez Middle	7	70.6	76.5
	Sidney Gutierrez Middle	8	94.4	66.7

*Data not available.

Table 6: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 3.

Grade 3 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	9.0%	20.1%	59.9%	10.8%
<i>African American</i>	21.0%	30.1%	44.9%	3.9%	
<i>Hispanic</i>	16.6%	34.3%	44.1%	4.6%	
<i>Asian</i>	5.7%	21.3%	59.2%	12.1%	
<i>Native American</i>	26.4%	35.5%	35.0%	2.2%	

Table 7: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 3.

Grade 3 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	4.0%	36.3%	52.4%	6.9%
<i>African American</i>	13.8%	52.0%	31.7%	2.3%	
<i>Hispanic</i>	8.6%	50.8%	37.4%	2.8%	
<i>Asian</i>	2.6%	26.8%	57.3%	13.4%	
<i>Native American</i>	11.2%	59.9%	26.7%	2.0%	

Table 8: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 4.

	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
Grade 4 Reading	<i>Anglo</i>	5.9%	22.2%	52.8%	18.8%
	<i>African American</i>	13.1%	35.3%	44.3%	6.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	12.7%	39.8%	40.2%	7.1%
	<i>Asian</i>	3.7%	21.1%	49.7%	25.5%
	<i>Native American</i>	18.5%	46.0%	31.6%	3.6%

Table 9: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 4.

	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
Grade 4 Math	<i>Anglo</i>	5.2%	37.1%	41.9%	15.5%
	<i>African American</i>	16.3%	51.0%	27.6%	4.6%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	11.9%	53.0%	29.0%	5.7%
	<i>Asian</i>	2.1%	30.3%	41.8%	25.8%
	<i>Native American</i>	15.2%	58.5%	23.0%	3.0%

Table 10: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 5.

	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
Grade 5 Reading	<i>Anglo</i>	4.5%	21.1%	49.4%	24.7%
	<i>African American</i>	10.4%	38.8%	38.9%	11.7%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	11.0%	37.7%	40.6%	10.6%
	<i>Asian</i>	3.1%	22.9%	46.4%	27.3%
	<i>Native American</i>	13.5%	47.1%	33.8%	5.4%

Table 11: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 5.

	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
Grade 5 Math	<i>Anglo</i>	7.6%	40.7%	39.9%	11.6%
	<i>African American</i>	20.3%	52.8%	22.7%	4.1%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	18.6%	53.8%	23.7%	3.7%
	<i>Asian</i>	6.4%	35.1%	37.8%	20.3%
	<i>Native American</i>	21.0%	57.0%	18.0%	1.2%

Table 12: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 6.

Grade 6 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	5.4%	36.2%	49.0%	9.1%
	<i>African American</i>	12.2%	49.6%	34.3%	3.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	12.6%	53.5%	30.3%	3.1%
	<i>Asian</i>	7.5%	32.4%	48.4%	11.0%
	<i>Native American</i>	14.7%	60.3%	22.6%	1.8%

Table 13: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 6.

Grade 6 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	12.4%	45.2%	30.8%	8.3%
	<i>African American</i>	26.8%	53.8%	13.0%	1.9%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	27.0%	53.8%	15.1%	2.0%
	<i>Asian</i>	12.2%	33.9%	31.1%	16.4%
	<i>Native American</i>	30.6%	54.5%	11.9%	1.5%

Table 14: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 7.

Grade 7 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	5.4%	27.5%	56.9%	9.9%
	<i>African American</i>	16.3%	40.5%	39.2%	3.6%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	12.3%	42.2%	41.2%	3.6%
	<i>Asian</i>	4.2%	28.2%	50.9%	16.7%
	<i>Native American</i>	15.5%	51.0%	30.5%	1.9%

Table 15: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 7.

Grade 7 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	14.1%	42.7%	32.5%	7.1%
	<i>African American</i>	31.9%	47.4%	13.8%	2.5%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	31.7%	50.0%	14.5%	1.5%
	<i>Asian</i>	10.0%	36.0%	32.5%	18.0%
	<i>Native American</i>	38.5%	47.8%	11.1%	1.1%

Table 16: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 8.

Grade 8 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	4.9%	26.4%	62.4%	5.8%
	<i>African American</i>	14.2%	40.1%	40.7%	3.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	11.9%	42.4%	42.9%	1.9%
	<i>Asian</i>	4.5%	28.9%	57.1%	8.6%
	<i>Native American</i>	15.2%	51.2%	30.8%	1.0%

Table 17: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 8.

Grade 8 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	11.7%	42.5%	34.3%	8.5%
	<i>African American</i>	31.5%	43.9%	17.9%	1.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	28.5%	50.2%	17.1%	1.8%
	<i>Asian</i>	10.8%	31.0%	34.3%	19.4%
	<i>Native American</i>	32.6%	51.7%	12.4%	1.5%

Table 18: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 9.

Grade 9 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	14.2%	22.0%	60.5%	2.0%
	<i>African American</i>	29.8%	25.9%	39.9%	0.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	30.1%	31.6%	35.0%	0.7%
	<i>Asian</i>	16.5%	24.2%	52.9%	4.4%
	<i>Native American</i>	33.4%	34.9%	28.1%	0.3%

Table 19: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 9.

Grade 9 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	9.1%	37.3%	40.9%	11.2%
	<i>African American</i>	19.7%	50.2%	23.3%	2.8%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	20.1%	52.4%	22.5%	2.3%
	<i>Asian</i>	8.1%	30.3%	40.1%	19.2%
	<i>Native American</i>	19.9%	58.1%	17.8%	1.2%

Table 20: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 11.

Grade 11 Reading	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	7.7%	18.0%	50.3%	23.0%
	<i>African American</i>	17.1%	30.7%	43.2%	6.9%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	16.6%	32.5%	41.8%	7.1%
	<i>Asian</i>	11.1%	21.3%	44.6%	19.7%
	<i>Native American</i>	9.9%	39.6%	43.8%	5.1%

Table 21: 2005-2006 New Mexico, NMSBA, by Ethnicity, Grade 11.

Grade 11 Math	Group	Beginning Step	Nearing Proficiency	Proficient	Advanced
	<i>Anglo</i>	11.6%	37.6%	35.9%	13.7%
	<i>African American</i>	32.7%	44.9%	17.0%	2.7%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	27.2%	50.3%	16.8%	2.8%
	<i>Asian</i>	13.1%	33.1%	31.5%	19.4%
	<i>Native American</i>	25.7%	55.7%	14.7%	1.8%