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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Education Commission Schedules Charter School Hearings for August 25, 26, & 27

(Santa Fe, NM)—The New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) has scheduled public hearings on August 25, 26, and 27, 2008 in Los Lunas, Albuquerque, Moriarty, Santa Fe, and Taos for the 11 charter school applicants who have applied for authorization through the PEC. The PEC became the official state authorizer for charter schools in 2006 with the passage of the New Mexico Charter Schools Act.

During the public hearings, a quorum of the PEC will listen to presentations from the charter schools. This will be followed by comments from local school district representatives. The public will also have an opportunity to speak for or against the school.

The first hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2008 for the School of Dreams Academy at 8:30 a.m. in Los Lunas at the UNM-Valencia Campus, Multipurpose Room 104. PEC Commissioners will then travel to Albuquerque where five hearings will take place at the New Mexico Activities Association, 6600 Palomas Avenue, in Albuquerque. The Ray of Hope hearing will be at 11:00 a.m. The New America School will present at 1:30 p.m.; Henry David Thoreau High School at 2:30 p.m.; Cien Aguas International School at 3:30 p.m. and The International School at Mesa del Sol at 4:30 p.m. (All times after the 1:30 p.m. hearing will be approximate, depending on the length of the previous hearing.)

On Tuesday, August 26, 2008, the first hearing is at 8:30 a.m. at the Moriarty Civic Center, 202 Broadway, Moriarty, NM to hear from The Resource and Learning Center. PEC Commissioners will travel to Santa Fe for two hearings at the Public Education Department, Jerry Apodaca Education Building in Mabry Hall, 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, NM. The MASTERS Program is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., and New Mexico School for the Arts is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., but the time is approximate, depending on the length of the previous hearing.

The last two hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at the Taos Convention Center, 120 Civic Plaza, Taos, New Mexico. Taos Academy will present at 9:00 a.m. and The Enchanted Circle at 10:00 a.m.

PEC members will voting to authorize or deny the applications for the charter schools at their next PEC meeting which is scheduled for September 12, 2008 at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum in Pugash Hall, 9201 Balloon Museum Drive, Albuquerque, NM from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The PEC encourages public input in writing no later than September 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Comments should be mailed to: Public Education Commission, c/o Beverly Friedman, PEC Liaison, 300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, or emailed to: Bev.Friedman@state.nm.us All 11 charter school applications can be viewed at: www.ped.state.nm.us and at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/charter/index.html#applications>

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