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NEWS RELEASE

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Seven New Charter Schools Approved by the Public Education Commission

ALBUQUERQUE — The Public Education Commission today approved seven new charter schools at their regular meeting in Albuquerque. The schools are scheduled to open in the 2010-11 school year.

The Charter School Division of the Public Education Department (PED) reviewed all charter school applications before recommending an approval or denial to the Public Education Commission. Charter schools are public, tuition-free schools that have unique academic missions. They are governed by their own boards, and must be approved either by the Public Education Commission or a local school board.

The Public Education Commission approved the following charter school applications today:

- The ASK Academy – Rio Rancho
- The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy - Albuquerque
- South Valley Preparatory School - Albuquerque
- Albuquerque School of Excellence, - Albuquerque
- Tierra Adentro: The New Mexico School of Academics, Art, and Artesanía, - Albuquerque
- The MASTERS Program, Santa Fe
- Taos Integrated School of the Arts - Taos

The following applications were denied:

- Organ Mountain Community School - Las Cruces
- Senator Dennis Chavez Academy - Las Cruces
- New Mexico School for Architecture, Construction, and Engineering - Albuquerque
- Center for Inquiry Southwest - Albuquerque
- Kaplan Academy of New Mexico - Albuquerque
- Sandia Academy - Albuquerque
- Luna Charter Academy - Las Vegas

Gallup Montessori School from Gallup and the Sage Charter School from Albuquerque withdrew their applications. Applicants who were denied have 30 days to appeal the decision to Secretary Garcia.

The Public Education Commission approved two new charter schools in 2007 and six in 2008. Today's approvals bring the total number of charter schools in New Mexico to 80. Applications, transcripts of public hearings, and Public Education Department (PED) Charter School Division recommendations can be viewed on the Public Education Commission website at: <http://ped.state.nm.us/pec/index.html>

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