

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER OF ACES**

ACES is a public entity composed of only Charter Schools, established by Charter Schools and for the benefit of the Charter Schools. To become a member, the Charter School must become a party to the Joint Powers Agreement to Establish the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association (JPA).

The process is easy as one – two – three:

1. Read the attached Joint Powers Agreement. If this is something that you believe can be beneficial to your Charter School, have your Governing Board adopt and sign the final page of the attachment - RESOLUTION OF CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD. The JPA is a living, growing document. This resolution approves becoming a party to the JPA and delegates to the Principal or Chief Educational Officer of your charter school the authority to approve certain amendments that may be made in the future;
2. Enter the name of your Charter School on the Name of Institution line on page six under PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT, sign your name on the signature line, enter the date signed on the date line, and print your name on the print name line. Please complete only on the four lines indicated (school name, signature, printed name and date);
3. Mail the original of the seventh page, RESOLUTION OF CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD and the original of the sixth page, PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT. Be certain to retain copies of both documents.

ACES supports Charter Schools through cooperative procurement and training. We are a public entity whose membership is authorized by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) of the State of New Mexico. When the signed JPA from your school is received by ACES it will also be signed by the ACES president and sent to DFA for final approval. Governance is through the Governing Board composed of the Chief Executive Officer or designee of each member, so your Charter School will have one seat on the ACES Governing Board.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the ACES Executive Director, Christy Takacs at (575)308-1844.

**1. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE  
NEW MEXICO CHARTER SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

This Joint Powers Agreement to Establish the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Powers Agreement”) was entered into by and among the signatory parties, hereinafter referred to as the “member” or “members” and approved by the Secretary of Finance and Administration on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Amendment One was approved August 2018. Amendment Two was approved July 10, 2020.

**RECITALS:** The parties are public charter schools within the State of New Mexico as defined in NMSA § 22-8B. Each public charter school is authorized by its governing body and the Procurement Code 13-1-135 NMSA 1978 to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements. Pursuant to NMSA Sec. 11-1-1 et seq. NMSA 1978 and NMSA 13.1.21 et seq. NMSA 1978 they are desirous of entering into this Joint Powers Agreement for the purpose of pooling their efforts and resources in order to bring additional, necessary educational services and items of tangible personal property to their respective institutions at an affordable cost. The members enter into this Joint Powers Agreement to exercise this common power. This Joint Powers Agreement to establish the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association, (sometimes “Association”), a public entity created through the member charter schools, is subject to the legal restrictions, including statutory and regulatory requirements, imposed upon its member charter schools. A party to the JPA is not liable for the contracts and debts of the Association beyond any contributions or payments expressly and unanimously agreed to by the members. The members agree that the terms and conditions of this Joint Powers Agreement shall not be effective until authorized by appropriate resolutions of their respective boards and formal approval by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RECITALS AND FOR OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS.** By this reference, the Recitals set forth above are incorporated into and made part of this Joint Powers Agreement as if fully set forth herein.
  
- 2. ASSOCIATION CREATED.** The New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association is created, to be governed in accordance with and exercise the powers set forth in this Joint Powers Agreement.

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**3. PURPOSE:** The participating members may cooperate on an equitable cost basis in establishing the Association to fulfill the following purposes:

Services and Items of Tangible Personal Property. All services and items of tangible personal property shall be secured by the Association in accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Code and the policy, procedures and guidelines established by the JPA Membership Board of this Joint Powers Agreement. Each participating member shall have the option to purchase those services and items of tangible personal property established through the Association's procurement activities, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a.) Business management services and training.
- (b.) Student management services and training.
- (c.) Technology assistance, services and training.
- (d.) Data and performance management services and training.
- (e.) Special education student's services.
- (f.) Teachers, administrators and council members training.
- (g.) Public Education Department compliance assistance.
- (h.) Grant writing and securing of external funding sources.
- (i.) Cooperative purchase of insurance coverage.
- (j.) Purchase of professional services, construction services, and tangible personal property.
- (k.) Purchase of professional services, construction services and tangible personal property for local public bodies, external procurement units and state agencies, when so requested and in accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Code.

**4. GOVERNANCE:** The governance of the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association shall be provided by two bodies, the JPA Membership Board and the Executive Committee.

(a.) Legal Status The governance of the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association shall be vested in the JPA Membership Board, in accordance with this Agreement and Joint Powers Agreement Bylaws and Policy.

(b.) JPA Membership Board The JPA Membership Board is the legal body through which the functions governing the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association are exercised. It shall retain full authority over the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association. The JPA

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Membership Board shall be composed of the chief executive officer or the designee of each member and shall assign the administrative function of the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association to the Executive Director. Certain duties may be delegated by the JPA Membership Board through resolution to the Executive Committee. Among those duties which shall not be delegated are election of the President and Vice President, establishing of Bylaws and Policy, and dissolution of the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association.

(c.) Officers The Officers of the New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association shall be the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be specified in Bylaws, Policy, resolutions or other directives of the JPA Membership Board or Executive Committee.

(d.) Executive Committee The Executive Committee shall function in the tradition of a board of directors and shall retain control of the management decision common to a board of directors including but not limited to strategic planning, Association evaluation, financial oversight, and setting of staff salaries. The Executive Committee shall also exercise such other functions as may be delegated to it by the JPA Membership Board. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Association president and vice-president, seven at large Joint Powers Agreement members selected by the JPA Membership Board, an ex-officio representative the Public Education Department selected by the Secretary of Education and not to exceed two ex-officio representatives from the New Mexico Charter School Coalition which is a private non-profit corporation as selected by its Executive Director.

(e.) Meetings All meetings shall be held in accordance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Notice of all meetings of the participating members shall be sent at least ten days in advance of the meeting date to all participating members. Meetings may be conducted in person or electronically. The JPA Membership Board shall meet at least annually. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

**5. FUNDING:** Contributions from the funds of participating members may be made for the purpose set forth in Paragraph 3 above. Funding will be from administrative fees imposed on property and services purchased through the Association, and if determined by unanimous approval by all members, a periodic assessment.

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**6. ADMINISTRATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS:** This Agreement establishes an Association that is a public entity with a corporate existence. The Association shall be able to employ and discharge staff; acquire, lease and dispose of real and personal property; sue and be sued; establish access to services and items of tangible personal property, subject to the Procurement Code; adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the Association and accept or reject charitable gifts or bequests. The Association is solely responsible for its own debts and obligations. The Association is subject to the Procurement Code and Audit Act. The Association shall be an entity to whom funds shall be paid and from whom funds shall be disbursed for the purposes of procuring the services and property under the terms of this Agreement. All decisions relating to the purposes in Paragraph 1, above, and all procurements of services and property shall be pursuant to, and strictly in accordance with, the Bylaws and Policy as determined by the JPA Membership Board which is composed of a representative from each member. All checks, drafts, or order for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be in accordance with Board Policies approved by the JPA Membership Board.

**7. ACCOUNTING AND BILLING:** The Association shall invoice each participating member for the cost of services or property which has been provided to the member according to the Procurement Code. Also included will be an administrative fee as determined by the JPA Membership Board. At least semi-annually all participating members shall be furnished with a detailed accounting showing all receipts and disbursements by the Association regarding this Joint Powers Agreement. No later than 1 October of each year each participating member shall be furnished with a certified audit report of the previous year's fiscal operations. Copies of such reports shall also be furnished to such agencies as required by law.

**8. TERM:** This Joint Powers Agreement shall continue until it is rescinded or terminated by a majority vote of the participating members or if the School Charter of the member is terminated. Any member may unilaterally terminate its participation in this Joint Powers Agreement by giving 30 days written notice of its intention to do so.

**9. REVIEW PERIOD:** This Agreement shall be reviewed by the JPA Membership Board at the end of the third year of this Agreement. If a majority of the JPA Membership Board determines through a

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vote that continuation of this Agreement is not in the best interests of the membership, then this Agreement and the entity that it has formed shall be dissolved as set out in Paragraph 10. There shall be no further Review Process.

**10. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY:** The Association will not make any cash or other distributions to its members, and no member has any vested right to any distributions, prior to dissolution of the JPA and the Association. Instead, all retained Association funds shall be used by the Association to provide additional services to its membership at the discretion of the Association. Upon dissolution of the JPA and the Association, net Association assets shall be distributed to the then current members in proportion to their contributions made to the Association, whether through administrative fees or periodic assessments, and in accordance with Joint Powers Agreement Bylaws and with state law and regulations, including but not limited to Section 13-6-1 et seq. NMSA 1978, the Sale of Public Property.

**11. ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:** The JPA Membership Board may admit a new member (hereinafter "New Member") to the Joint Powers Agreement provided:

- (a) The New Member furnish to the JPA Membership Board a resolution of the proposed New Member's governing body authorizing joining the Joint Powers Agreement,
- (b) The New Member executes a counterpart Joint Powers Agreement document through an appropriate representative accepting the terms and conditions of the Joint Powers Agreement and all amendments thereto, and
- (c) The President of the JPA Membership Board, as the designated representative of all current participating members, signs the same counterpart Joint Powers Agreement.
- (d) The Secretary of DFA signs the same counterpart Joint Powers Agreement.

**12. AMENDMENT:** The Joint Powers Agreement may be amended upon approval by a majority vote of the members and approval by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration.

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Witness the signatures of the parties to this Counterpart Joint Powers Agreement effective on the date of the signature the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration.

**PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

Name of Institution Explore Academy – Las Cruces

  
Signature of Authorized Official

7/14/2021  
Date

Karen Casedy  
Printed Name of Authorized Official

**NEW MEXICO CHARTER SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

  
Eric Ahner (Sep 13, 2021 09:03 MDT)  
Signature of President

Sep 13, 2021  
Date

Eric Ahner  
Printed Name of President

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

DocuSigned by:  
Deborah K Romero  
DCA2D2A1284C454...  
Secretary

9/28/2021  
Date

Deborah K Romero  
Printed Name of Secretary

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**RESOLUTION OF CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD**

This Resolution of the Governing Board of the Explore Academy - Las Cruces

hereinafter called 'Charter School', a Charter School in New Mexico, is made on this 14 day  
of July, 2021.

Whereas, the Governing Board desires the Charter School to become a party to the *Joint Powers Agreement To Establish The New Mexico Charter School Educational Service Association*, hereinafter called Joint Powers Agreement, among various New Mexico Charter Schools for the cooperative purchase of goods and services; and

Whereas, there will be occasions when modifications of the Joint Powers Agreement may be necessary which do not affect the fundamental interests of the Charter School, but which address the operations of the Joint Powers Agreement; and


Whereas, the efficient functioning of the Joint Powers Agreement is facilitated by delegating certain authority to the Principal or Chief Educational Officer of the Charter School to approve certain amendments.

Be it resolved that the Governing Board approves (1) becoming a party to this Joint Powers Agreement and (2) delegating to the Principal or Chief Educational Officer such modifications to the Joint Powers Agreement that relate to the scope of the purpose of the Joint Venture, the parties to the Joint Powers Agreement and such other matters that do not involve the non-delegable responsibilities of the Governing Board.

GOVERNING BOARD:

  
President

7/14/2021  
Date

  
Secretary

7/14/2021  
Date