

ACES UPDATE #9

7-31-2014

ACES Anniversary

Thank you charter schools! ACES became 1 year old on July 3, 2013; the date it was approved by the NM Department of Finance and Administration. Starting a year ago, with 8 charter schools coming together through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to share resources and to purchase goods and services cooperatively, ACES now has 37 charter school members. Thanks so much to our members and our supporters for making our first year a huge success!

Continued Growth and Expansion of Services

Services provided to ACES members continues to grow. Charters can now take advantage of the lowest prices available for Cafeteria/Food Services; On-line Ancillary Services; Business Manager/Financial Management Services; and now, Educational Technology Services including Hardware and Support, without having to go out to bid. Each of these has gone through a competitive bidding process

The Professional Services through ACES continues to grow also. We have a Cadre of professionals that are assisting schools with Grants; Data Disaggregation and Analysis; Interim Principal Services; Leadership Searches; Staff Retreats and Team Building; and Facilities Technical Assistance; Charter Applications and Renewals; Governing Council Technical Assistance and Coaching; and other specialized services as requested by schools. Each of our Cadre staff are highly qualified and extremely experienced and we have the resources to help charters with any need they may have.

Additionally, ACES is looking to expand our list of Cadre professionals to provide student assessment administration and coordination; special education coordination; teacher evaluation observation and technical assistance; and human resources technical assistance and support services to our menu of services that can be shared among charter schools. By sharing these resources, charters can save money and receive high quality and experienced support. Persons interested in joining the ACES Cadre to provide these services to charters should contact Dr. Bruce Hegwer at Bruce.H@nmaces.org or Dr. Max Luft at Max.L@nmaces.org.

We are proud of our growth, both in the number of schools that are members of ACES and the number and variety of services we are providing to charters. We are also extremely proud of the quality of the services we are providing and we are constantly looking to expand our services and to add additional staff with expertise in areas where charter schools need assistance.

New Services

Educational Technology--hearing from charter schools that they wanted a one-stop shop for educational technology at prices they could afford. In response, ACES published a very comprehensive Request for Proposals (RFP) from tech companies to provide services and support to charter schools in 7 areas. Those areas are: Cloud Data Storage; Software; Hardware; Network Managed Services; On-call Repairs; Website Services; and; Technology Plans and Policies. I am excited to report that we have awarded contracts to 4 very innovative and dynamic companies, with charter school experience, that can provide a complete educational technology solution to charter schools. From technology planning to managing networks, to hardware and software purchases, each of these companies represent high

quality services and affordable pricing. For any technology need, we encourage charters to take advantage of these contracts with the following companies:

Ardham Technologies	Shay Daves	XXXXXXXXXX
EnvisionIT	Kevin Gray	XXXXXXXXXX
Harris Technologies	Mark Harris	XXXXXXXXXX
LDD Technology Services	David Luft	XXXXXXXXXX

Facilities Assistance

Richard Romero, formerly of the Public Schools Facilities Authority, has now joined the ACES Cadre of professionals offering support and technical assistance to charters. Many of you know Richard and Richard’s experience with the PSFA and charter schools with Facilities, Master Plans, educational specifications, facility design and knowledge of the issues charters face with facilities is an invaluable resource. If you have any facility needs, please contact Richard at Richard.R@nmaces.org.

Grants, Grants, Grants!

Dr. Lou Lafrado, a member of the ACES Cadre, each week on Tuesdays, emails a newsletter on available grants. Many of the grants allow for proposals from consortiums of charter schools. Applying as a consortium of schools, with the same needs, actually helps the chances for success. Additionally, the cost of writing the proposal is shared among the schools participating and makes applying for a grant even more cost effective. To receive Dr. Lafrado’s weekly grants email, and to learn more about available grants, please contact him at Lou.L@nmaces.org.

ACES Membership

Besides the services listed above, ACES offers a wide variety of support and technical assistance to New Mexico’s charter schools. If you have a need, please contact us to discuss how we can help address that need.

Membership in ACES is free if you are a member of the NM Coalition for Charter Schools. If you are not a member, the yearly membership fee is \$250.00. For more information on ACES, and/or to become a member, please contact Dr. Bruce Hegwer at Bruce.H@nmaces.org or Dr. Max Luft at Max.L@nmaces.org.