



New Mexico Public Education Department

Re-Organization of Grade Levels/Establishing and Closing Schools

Instructions: Please complete this form electronically and submit it via e-mail to Lorianne Romero, Lorianne.Romero@state.nm.us from the Superintendent's or designee's e-mail. Note: the boxes automatically expand as you add text.

Superintendent: M. Neil Terhune Ed. D.

District/School (if applicable): Raton School District

Mailing Address: 1550 Tiger Circle ST: NM Zip: 87740

Phone: 575-445-9111 Fax: _____ Email: Neil.terhune@ratonschools.com

Secondary Contact: Karen Walton Title: Assistant to the Supt.

Mailing Address: Same ST: NM Zip: 87740

Phone: 575-445-9111 Fax: _____ Email: Karen.walton@ratonschools.com

Is this a request for a new site? Yes No If yes, provide complete address (Street, number, city, zip).

Is this a request for a closure? If yes, provide complete address (Street, number, city, zip).

Date of Submission	January 27, 2015 (Alternate Option)
Effective Date of Re-Org	July 1, 2015

Does local school board policy require board approval prior to this request?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If yes, has board approval been obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Date of Board Approval	January 26, 2015			

In accordance with NMSA 22-23A-(1) through (8), the Indian Education Act:

Is the school to be affected on tribal lands?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the school to be affected serve a Native American community or substantial population of Native American students?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are tribal lands located within the boundaries of your school district?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes to any of the questions above, has the school board involved the tribal governing body or tribal education department in the final decision regarding this Re-Organization request?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

APPLICABLE STATUTE AND/OR STATE RULE:

NMAC 6.29.1.9	PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:
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F. Organization of grade levels and establishing/closing schools. Any change in a school district or charter school's organizational pattern, including the establishment or closing of a school, shall have the secretary's approval prior to implementation. Requests for change shall be submitted using the department's *organization of grade levels and establishing/closing school waiver request form*. This form shall include: name of superintendent; district/school; mailing address; phone; fax; email address; name of a secondary contact person including the same information; date of submission; local board policy requirement and approval, if required; date of board approval; statement of applicable district or charter school policy and rationale for request. The waiver request shall outline the expected educational benefits.

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APPLICABLE DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY:

Instructions: Insert specific local policy here.

Not Applicable

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**What is current grade configuration?
What will new grade configuration be?**

Current:	Proposed:
Longfellow Grade School PK-1	PK-2
Columbian Grade School grades 2-3	Closed
Kearny Grade School grades 4-5	Closed
Raton Middle School grades 6-8	Raton <i>Intermediate</i> School grades 3-6
Raton High School grades 9-12	Raton High School grades 7-12

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Anticipated Enrollment into New or Reorganized School

Complete one table for each reorganized or new school.

Sending Schools ¹		Receiving School						
		Name: ² ___ Longfellow ES ___						
		Counts of Students, by Grade ³						
School Name	Code	PK	K	1st	2d	Total		
Columbian ES (grades 2-3 all inclusive) Sending grade 2 to Longfellow	038	14	111	96	71	292		

¹ List all New Mexico public schools (*Sending Schools*) that will be contributing any students to the receiving school

² The *Receiving School* is the new or reorganized school; place the school's name in the table.

³ Only include anticipated enrollments for these grades; where there are no students enter a zero



Anticipated Enrollment into New or Reorganized School

Complete one table for each reorganized or new school.

Sending Schools ¹		Receiving School					
		Name: ² ___ Raton Middle/Intermediate School ___					
		Counts of Students, by Grade ³					
School Name	Code	3d	4 th	5 th	6th	Total	
Columbian ES (grades 2-3 all inclusive) Sending grade 3 to Middle School Building	038	62	74	82	80	298	

¹ List all New Mexico public schools (*Sending Schools*) that will be contributing any students to the receiving school

² The *Receiving School* is the new or reorganized school; place the school's name in the table.

³ Only include anticipated enrollments for these grades; where there are no students enter a zero.

Anticipated Enrollment into New or Reorganized School

Complete one table for each reorganized or new school.

Sending Schools ¹		Receiving School						
		Name: ² ___ Raton High School ___						
		Counts of Students, by Grade ³						
School Name	Code	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12	Total
Raton Middle School (grades 6-8 all inclusive) Sending grades 7-8 to HS	135	78	64	62	62	58	58	382

¹ List all New Mexico public schools (*Sending Schools*) that will be contributing any students to the receiving school

² The *Receiving School* is the new or reorganized school; place the school's name in the table.

³ Only include anticipated enrollments for these grades; where there are no students enter a zero

Is this a new capital project? If so, please include a description. Example: ground breaking, or addition to existing building.

No Note: 1. some minor construction to allow adequate toilet and washing for 3d and 4th grade students in RMS, 2. playground equipment will need to be added or moved to RMS in accordance with appropriate and insurable standards

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Will this reorganization have any impact on current facilities, existing capital expenditures, or expected future capital outlay? If so, please explain.

No
The trend in Raton's economy is such that the current decline in school enrollment is expected to decline. The long term plan is to consolidate to a PK-6 and 7-12 configuration. There is no expectation of near term capital outlay other than a new roof for RMS which was already planned. Long-term plan is to consider local bonding for a third time to consolidate PK-6 to one campus. At that point there may have to be some modifications to better accommodate the current HS the proposed a 7-12 campus better.



Identify any possible transportation impact the proposed reorganization could have on the current level of school bus transportation or funding, routing, and/or equipment.

Transportation is contracted with Durham Bus Services. The bus routes under this proposal will be minimally impacted in favor of the district budget due to the elimination of bussing to Columbian ES. Columbian is located north of all other schools by several blocks. The Kearny school is located two blocks north of RMS on 3rd street. Students will be transported to RMS which is already served by Durham. The 7th and 8th grade students will continue to the RHS which is also served by Durham.

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RATIONALE FOR REQUEST:

Instructions: Explain what you want to do and how a waiver will help you. Include how the waiver's overall intent fits into school and district policy. Identify any supporting documentation on file.

SEE ATTCHMENTS:

1. Superintendent narrative
2. District Vision/Mission/Goals Statements (PLC Emphasis to increase test scores)
3. Board Resolution 2015 and Draft Minutes
4. Budget and Demographic Trends
5. PSFA Adequacy Standards and email
6. POMS liability issues with Kearny ES
7. Audit Statement
8. Raton Map with location of schools

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FOR PED USE ONLY

Analysis by: School Budget and Financial Analysis Bureau

The Raton School District requests approval to close Kearny Elementary and move grade 4th and 5th to Raton Middle which will be renamed Raton Intermediate. Columbian Elementary will also be closed; the 2nd grade will be moved to Longfellow Elementary. The 3rd grade will be moved to Raton Middle School. In addition, the students enrolled in the 7th and 8th grades at Raton Middle will be moved to Raton High.

The requested reorganization will have an impact on the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) funding formula of a decrease of approximately \$386,082.59 since the district will lose 96.33 size units. Raton is proposing this reorganization to address the current decrease in membership which is expected to continue declining.

If approved, please update STARS to delete Kearny Elementary and Columbian Elementary. Longfellow Elementary will need the 2nd grade added. For Raton Middle School, it will be renamed Raton Intermediate and add grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and delete grades 7th and 8th. For Raton High the 7th and 8th grade will need to be added.

If approved, this reorganization will not go into effect until July 1, 2015. Due to prior year funding, the district's SEG will not be impacted until School year 2016-2017.

Catrina Chavez, Executive Budget Analyst Senior
School Budget & Finance Analysis Bureau



Analysis by: Transportation Bureau

There will be minimal impact if any to transportation as indicated on the request form. Transportation is contracted with Durham Bus Services. The bus routes under this proposal will not be impacted however there may be some student who may no longer be eligible to ride if they are now within the statutory walking distances of the new school. The Kearny school is located two blocks north of RMS on 3rd street. Students will be transported to RMS which is already served by Durham. The 8th grade students will continue to the RHS which is also served by Durham.

Antonio Ortiz, Director
Transportation Bureau

Analysis by: Assessment and Accountability Division

Raton School District is planning to reorganize Raton Middle School by sending the 7th and 8th grade students to Raton High School, but keeping the 6th grade students at Raton Middle School. The reorganization will have one sending school, Raton Middle School with approximately 144 students (80-day 2014 enrollment count for 7th and 8th graders) and one receiving school, Raton High School with approximately 240 students (80-day 2014 enrollment count). As a result, less than 61% of students in PARCC tested grades at Raton High School are inherited and will therefore have no effect on the receiving schools' designation status of "NONE". Raton High School will serve a grade span from 7th grade to 12th grade. The impact on the School Grading Report grade for Raton High School is expected to be moderate.

In addition, Raton School District is planning to close Columbian Elementary School and Kearny Elementary School by sending the 3rd graders of Columbian Elementary School and the 4th and 5th graders of Kearny Elementary School to Raton Middle School, renamed to Raton Intermediate School. The reorganization will have two sending schools, Columbian Elementary School and Kearny Elementary School with approximately 61 students (80-day 2014 enrollment count) from Columbian Elementary School and with approximately 156 students (80-day 2014 enrollment count) from Kearny Elementary School. The receiving school, Raton Intermediate School with approximately 80 students left (40-day 2014 enrollment count), after sending its 7th and 8th graders to Raton High School, receives more than 61% of students in PARCC tested grades from the two closing elementary schools and will inherit the designation status of Kearny Elementary School of "NONE".

Raton Intermediate School will serve a grade span from 3rd grade to 6th grade. The impact on the School Grading Report grade for Raton Intermediate School is expected to be minimal.

In addition, Raton School District is planning to close Columbian Elementary School by sending the 2nd grade students to Longfellow Elementary School. The reorganization will have one sending schools, Columbian Elementary School with approximately 71 2nd grade students (80-day 2014 enrollment count). The receiving school, Longfellow Elementary School with approximately 221 students (80-day 2014 enrollment count), receives no students in PARCC tested grades from Columbian Elementary School. Longfellow Elementary School does not have a designation status since it does not serve PARCC tested grade levels.

Longfellow Elementary School will serve a grade span from PK to 2nd grade. The impact on the School Grading Report grade for Longfellow Elementary School is expected to be minimal.

Pascal P Buser
Research Analyst
Assessment & Accountability Division



Analysis by: Capital Outlay Bureau (if school construction is involved)

Raton Public School District 2013-2017 Facility Master Plan (FMP):

- The District's 2007-2012 FMP and 2013-2017 FMP identified the three elementary school consolidation into one "new" elementary school as their number one priority.
- Neither of their Re-Organization Primary or Alternate Option requests are consistent nor in alignment with their current FMP, since the District is taking a different direction not to build a new consolidated elementary school as adopted in their FMP.
- The District shall update their FMP to reflect the final option.
- The District's enrollment is projected to continue to decline.
- All three elementary schools are ranked in the State's Facility Assessment Database (FAD) in the top 100 schools.
- The middle school is ranked 161 in FAD and the high school is ranked 579.

Alternate Option Summary:

- a. **Distributed 2014-2015 Certified 40th Day Count enrollment based on proposed Alternate Option:**

Alternate Option				
Proposed Distribution Enrollment and School Capacities				
School	Grades	Using 2014-2015 Certified 40th Day Count	Capacity	Available Capacity
Longfellow Elementary School	Pre-k thru 2nd	191	329	38
Columbian Elementary School	Closed	Closed	0	0
Kearny Elementary School	Closed	Closed	0	0
Raton Middle School	3rd - 6th	197	319	22
Rator High School	7th - 12th	386	643	257
Total		974	1291	317

Recommendation:

- The District has a surplus of gross square footage (gsf) and the PSCOC encourages a decrease of excessive gsf to improve better utilization of all spaces, especially with current and projected enrollment. It appears that either option should not adversely affect additional capital investment needed, however if capital is needed, minimal capital investment should be spent, since the elementary schools and middle school are all high in the FAD ranking and possibly funded in the near future. The proposed options will have Longfellow Elementary School and the Raton Middle School to be almost at maximum capacity; however the district enrollment has been in decline, which will allow available capacity and flexibility in the future. This will reduce the Districts surplus capacity and excessive overall gross square footage. The proposed options would improve Raton schools utilization. The District shall update their FMP to reflect this new direction of consolidation.

Antonio Ortiz, Director
Capital Outlay Bureau



FOR PED INTERNAL USE ONLY:

PED PS # **TER0203201536175**

Reviewed by:

Date: 03.20.15

RATIONALE FOR APPROVAL:

Date: 03.20.15

The Raton School District requests approval to close Kearny Elementary and move grade 4th and 5th to Raton Middle which will be renamed Raton Intermediate. Columbian Elementary will also be closed; the 2nd grade will be moved to Longfellow Elementary and the 3rd grade will be moved to Raton Middle School. In addition, the students enrolled in the 7th and 8th grades at Raton Middle will be moved to Raton High.

The requested reorganization will have an impact on the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) funding formula of a decrease of approximately **\$386,082.59** since the district will **lose 96.33 size units**. Raton is proposing this reorganization to address the current decrease in membership which is expected to continue declining.

Capital Outlay states proposed options will cause Longfellow Elementary School and Raton Middle School to be almost at maximum capacity. However the district enrollment has been in decline and this should create additional capacity and flexibility in the future. This will reduce the district's surplus capacity and excessive overall gross square footage. The proposed options would improve Raton schools utilization.

Assessment & Accountability states the impact on the School Grading Report grade for Raton High School is expected to be moderate. Raton Intermediate School with approximately 80 students remaining after transferring its 7th and 8th graders to Raton High School receives more than 61% of students in PARCC tested grades from the two closing elementary schools and will inherit the designation status from Kearny Elementary School of "NONE".

The impact on the School Grading Report for Longfellow Elementary School is expected to be minimal.

Based on these analyses, the recommendation is for approval.

Concur with staff recommendations for approval:

Date:

4.1.15

Hanna Skandera
Secretary of Education

RATIONALE FOR NON-APPROVAL:

Date:

Concur with staff recommendations for non-approval:

Date:

Hanna Skandera
Secretary of Education

Returned to Superintendent by:

Date:

4/2/2015

New School Code (if applicable):