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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Mexico Connections Academy Approved for 2013-2014 School Year; Accepting Enrollments Now

Statewide Virtual Public Charter School Offers Tuition-Free Grade 4–12 Education for New Mexico Families – Information Sessions Going on Now

SANTA FE, N.M. (June 17, 2013) — A new, innovative public school option is now available throughout New Mexico for students in grades 4–12 from across the state. Delivering personalized public schooling to students online, [New Mexico Connections Academy](http://www.NewMexicoConnectionsAcademy.com) received final approval for the 2013–14 school year from the New Mexico Public Education Commission at its meeting on June 6.

The tuition-free virtual public charter school is now accepting enrollments for the upcoming academic year which begins August 12, 2013. **A series of in-person and online [information sessions](#) with school representatives are taking place across the state and online to meet the requests of families seeking information about full-time, tuition-free, online school from home.** More information is also available at www.NewMexicoConnectionsAcademy.com or by calling (800) 382–6010.

New Mexico Connections Academy can initially enroll up to 500 students from across the state and grow in subsequent years. Its administrative teaching and learning center is located in Santa Fe. The virtual school has hired a principal and is building its local team of teachers and administrators in preparation for its inaugural academic year.

A [virtual classroom approach](#) serves a wide range of students, including those who are significantly ahead or behind in the classroom, those who need a flexible schedule or learn at a different pace from their peers, and those who need more individualized attention or live in isolated rural settings. Homebound and previously home-schooled students can also thrive in New Mexico Connections Academy's program.

All students of New Mexico Connections Academy will participate in the nationally accredited [Connections Academy](#) program that combines high quality resources from leading publishers with cutting-edge, yet easy-to-use, technology and hands-on materials. Learning from home or other locations, students will work closely with licensed New Mexico teachers using detailed daily lesson plans that are [personalized](#) to meet individual student needs. A parent, or another adult "Learning Coach," monitors student progress in the home.

In addition to core academics the school offers a variety of exciting [courses](#) for students including:

- Foreign Languages (Chinese, Japanese, Latin, Sign Language and more)
- Advanced Placement
- [Juilliard eLearning](#) music courses
- [Career technical education courses](#) such as Intro to Law and Intro to Early Childhood Education
- Plus a special STEM (science-technology-engineering-math) "school within a school" Academy

“We are thrilled that New Mexico Connections Academy has been approved to serve students throughout the state,” said former Senator Mark Boitano, a founding board member of New Mexico Connections Academy and author of the state’s 1999 Charter School Act. “With state-certified [teachers](#), individualized learning programs, standards-aligned curriculum and the leading digital learning resources, New Mexico Connections Academy will help fill gaps found in traditional public education settings.”

The school offers a high-quality, highly accountable, tuition-free, public education option. Its program will combine New Mexico-certified teachers, a standards-aligned [curriculum](#), unique technology tools, an extensive selection of electives and clubs, and community experiences to create an individualized alternative to the bricks-and-mortar classroom.

Interaction between teachers and students will be frequent. [Accountability](#) is central to the school’s mission and students must meet the same levels of accountability and complete the same state standardized tests as students in traditional public schools.

New Mexico Connections Academy is governed and operated by an independent Governing Council of New Mexico business, community, and parent members and contracts with Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC, an affiliate of Connections Education LLC, for curriculum, technology and other services, in compliance with New Mexico statute.

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About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual schooling for students in grades K through 12. Through tuition-free public schools, and full-time and part-time private school programs, Connections Academy delivers superior, personalized education for students, with the freedom and flexibility to experience our online learning community from anywhere. The combination of certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences creates a supportive and successful online learning opportunity for families and children who want an individualized approach to education. In the 2012–13 school year, Connections Academy will serve students in 22 states via 24 virtual public schools. It serves students worldwide through the online private school, National Connections Academy. Connections Academy offers grades K through 12, though some public school programs do not offer all grades. For more information, call 800–382–6010 or visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com. Connections Academy and its parent company, Connections Education, are part of the global learning company Pearson (NYSE:PSO).