



Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM)

School of Dreams Academy

Founders: Michael and Teresa Ogas

Mission:

To provide state of the art education emphasizing Career and College Readiness and Community Service through a STEAM instructional model for students of the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Vision:

To stand as the Rio Grande's pillar of student achievement, character, and success!

History:

- Established 2008, Opened August 2009
- 17 years in operation, three successful renewals
- NM State Authorized Charter School inspired by Avilio G. (Lefty) and Edna Otero (Teresa Ogas' parents)

Partners:

- Village of Los Lunas
- Hispano Chamber Valencia County
- Sisneros Brothers
- TLC Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electrical
- The Apricot Tree, LLC
- Social Innovation Strategies Group, LLC
- Chase Mechanical, LLC
- Young Guns Construction, LLC
- YearOut Mechanical
- Valencia County Juvenile Justice Advisory Board
- Children, Youth & Families Department
- Youth Development Inc.
- META
- Pueblo of Isleta
- UNM Valencia
- New Mexico Tech
- New Mexico State University
- Central New Mexico Community College
- Valencia County Community Wellness Council

Highlights

- Grades Served: PreK – 12th
- Enrolment: Approximately 500
- Cognia Accredited since 2012
- Only Charter School in Valencia County
- FFA – Award winning
- FFA Teacher = National FFA Ambassador
- CTE, Innovation Zone
- Only Early College High School (ECHS) in Valencia County
- NM PreK – Recognized as “Exemplar” by Early Child Education and Care Division (ECECD)
- Community School
- STEAM
 - Robotics
 - TSA
 - Video film making
 - Art
 - Music (Band and Guitar)
 - Dance

wNMCI

“The ranked list will display the schools in most need of repair or replacement, at the top of the list, sorted by wNMCI. Every year the state will work down from the top of the list and fund needs as available revenues allow. Once corrected, the school drops to the bottom of the ranked list, and lower-level needs accordingly move up in priority.”

- PSFA Database Ranking Methodology

**SODA’S wNMCI SCORE IS 114.72% RANK = #1 (for the past two years)
SODA’S FCI RANK = 85% (eligible for new facility when fci rank is 60+)**

What has SODA done so far to obtain a facility?

- Opened 2009, Riverfront Storefront Property, 1000 Main St., Los Lunas
- Established School of Dreams Education Foundation (SODEF) 2013
- Since 2011 SODA has turned down 3 deals from private lenders (not best use of tax dollars)
- 2012 Los Lunas Schools includes SODA in SB9 and HB 33 question. SODA begins receiving funds from tax rolls
- 2016 Village of Los Lunas helps SODA move onto site next to Transportation Center
- SODEF incurs debt for move to new site
- Lease Purchase Agreement between SODA and SODEF established
- During pandemic SODA requests PSFA to reevaluate facility and update wNMCI status
- 2021 SODA receives approx. \$4.528M from PSCOC to build a PreK facility
- Summer of 2024 PSFA recommended SODA rescind PreK award to qualify for the wNMCI ranking
- July 11, 2024, Village of Los Lunas Council unanimously approved adding SODEF the southern 10 acres to the Lease Purchase Agreement making total 20.5 acres
- FY25 SODA's wNMCI rank - #1
- August 2024 PSFA staff visits SODA campus and makes recommendations for possible awards request to prepare us to present to PSCOC in November 2024
- November 2024 SODA's presentation put on hold (issue w HB33 and SB9 funds)
- December 2024 SODEF / SODA speaks to NMFA regarding debt consolidation
- SODA and SODEF has pursued many funding avenues to both consolidate SODEF's debt and prepare for potential match. Mostly private lenders
- May 7, 2024, SODA meets with PSFA told max that PSCOC could award was \$8M because of LPA.
- July 10, 2025, SODA presents to NMFA Oversight Committee
- August 27, 2025, PSCOC votes on disposition of portables to SODA
- September 9, 2025, SODA presents to Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force (PSCOOTF)

Legislative Asks

- The item most crucial to funding a state-chartered charter school is the local match. It is difficult when it is the same as the local district requirement, although state charter schools don't have the taxing capacity. Maybe there can be a set local match for state chartered charter schools, with the ability to seek a waiver based on various factors including the amount of renewals a charter has had.
- The Lease Purchase Agreement (LPA) should not define the level of funding for a state chartered charter school.

“As a committed partner, the Village of Los Lunas plans to continue supporting School of Dreams Academy by facilitating the completion of a permanent school facility for SODA on Village-owned property south of the Los Lunas Transportation Center. We believe that our shared efforts will contribute meaningfully to student achievement, family well-being, and stronger community outcomes.”

-Charles Griego
Mayor, Village of Los Lunas

Current Facility



