



P.O Box 742 - Red River, NM 87558 • 575.754.6117 • administration@redrivervalleycs.com

Testimony in Support of SB 2242

March 11, 2025

Dear Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee.

My name is Kimberly Ritterhouse, and I am the executive director/superintendent of Red River Valley Charter School. I have been an educator at Red River Valley Charter School for 20 years. I began my journey here as a first grade teacher and throughout my tenure have taught grades 1st through 8th. I moved from the classroom to the executive director/superintendent position 6 years ago and am happy to tell you a little about our school and our journey from part of a district school, to a district authorized charter school, and finally to a state authorized charter school.

Red River Valley Charter School Mission and Academic Program

Red River Valley Charter School is an educational institution nestled in the beautiful rural town of Red River, New Mexico, and serves grades PreK through eighth grade. Red River has approximately 540 residents. Our school's mission is to foster a nurturing and stimulating environment where every student can excel academically, develop critical thinking skills, and embrace their creativity through the Core Knowledge Curriculum, developed by E.D. Hirsch. We offer a comprehensive academic program that combines rigorous core subjects with enriching extracurricular activities, ensuring our students receive a well-rounded education.

Location & School Outcomes

Red River Valley Charter School is located in the rural community of Red River in the Southern Rocky Mountains. Our rural setting provides unique opportunities for students to connect with nature and the local community, enhancing their learning experiences. Red River Valley Charter School's location and proximity to bordering communities provides an additional choice that goes beyond the Red River boundaries and the traditional school district. The Core Knowledge Curriculum supports growth in the community (near and far), at school, and at home. All our students PK-8 participate in service learning at least once a quarter, ski for 3-4 weeks in January, mentor within our school, participate/volunteer at town events, and reflect upon their contributions to the community and to themselves.

Establishing Red River Valley Charter School

Red River Charter School was established to address the educational needs of our rural community, providing families with an alternative to traditional public schools. Our founding vision was to create a learning environment that honors the unique cultural and environmental heritage of our region while preparing students for higher education, whether that be academic or vocational.



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Community Support and Value

The support from our community has been instrumental in the success of Red River Charter School. Our school is a vital part of the community, offering educational opportunities that contribute to the overall well-being and growth of the area. The value of our rural charter school extends beyond academics; we serve as a hub for community activities, fostering connections and collaborations among residents.

As a charter school principal, I encourage you to support SB 2241 so that rural communities in North Dakota may begin exploring whether a public charter school is right for them. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kimberly@redrivervalleycs.com. Thank you.