

What's it going to take to convince Rio Rancho Public Schools that parents have the right to choose a school of their choice for their kids? And, more importantly, who are they to *deny* our freedom to make that choice?

Over 600 families attended the recent Albuquerque's Institute for Math and Science @ UNM Open House for 2018 prospective students. While hopeful to get their child into the national and internationally recognized charter school, they're aware of the reality - AIMS projects only 20 available spots!

This doesn't have to be the case. Rio Rancho Board of Education voted in 2014 to sue the state Public Education Department over a waiver it granted to the Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science, and it did so in private rather than in a public meeting. The waiver would have allowed AIMS to open a second location at UNM West, within Rio Rancho's boundaries.

Rather than welcome healthy competition and try to emulate best practices that deliver results, the RRPS board not only sued to keep AIMS out; it lost that suit in state court and has decided to appeal.

AIMS is rated by the Washington Post as the best school in New Mexico and 43rd in the nation. Its students just beat every nation – including Japan, China, Taiwan and Finland – on the international PISA test. Students at AIMS@UNM enroll concurrently at the UNM during their junior year and begin working on their college education while earning their high school diploma.

Wouldn't you want that as an option for your kids? Clearly many parents do – AIMS has around 2,000 students on its wait list. And the Rio Rancho City Council has also endorsed AIMS! Take a look at this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrGhqHNLFe8>

Hey RRPS, don't our kids deserve this same opportunity?