Parental Acknowledgement of

Potential Academic Deficits

Complete only if your child will be enrolling

as a new student at NMIS for grades 1st-6th grade

Date: _____

I am interested in my child, _____, in attending New Mexico International School (NMIS) beginning _____ in the _____ grade. I understand such an opening exists. I also understand, however, that NMIS is a one-way dual language immersion school in English and Spanish. This means that in _____ grade _____% of the day is taught in Spanish. Further, I understand that the Spanish is not at an introductory level, but rather consists of instruction at a rigorous academic level.

My child has very limited Spanish skills. Much of the academic content my child is expected to learn will be taught in Spanish. Because my child doesn't speak the language of instruction, I understand that it is possible that he/she will not have full access to the curriculum being taught. This could result in him/her falling behind grade level expectations in any or all of the content areas.

Additionally, there may be future academic concerns that normally would warrant pursuing Student Assistance Team (SAT) or Special Education interventions for a child. However, prior to proceeding with such interventions and supports for my child, the school will need to "rule out" the possibility that the difficulties he/she might be experiencing are due to issues regarding second language acquisition and my decision to enroll my child in an immersion program without the requisite language skills.

I also understand that much research behind immersion education suggests that after age 6, it is much more difficult to acquire the second language. Research also suggests that, on average, it takes 5-7 years for a child to achieve academic proficiency in a second language. Thus, the school's goal of having children exit bilingual and bi-literate by the end of fifth grade may not be a reality for my child.

I have been advised of all of this by NMIS administration. Nonetheless, I am deciding to enroll my child at NMIS.

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Parent Signature

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