

# Preparation of Educational Specifications for Piñon Elementary School and Chamisa Elementary School for Los Alamos Public Schools, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Chamisa Elementary School and Piñon Elementary School are two of five elementary schools in the Los Alamos Public Schools (LAPS) district. Located within the unincorporated community of White Rock, nine miles southeast of Los Alamos, NM, the school boundaries encompass the northeast sector of the community. White Rock is the second-largest population center in Los Alamos County. The US government originally built White Rock to house construction workers for Los Alamos National Laboratory, and residents established a permanent community in 1962.

The district assigned few capital improvement projects to these schools since their construction in the 1960s.

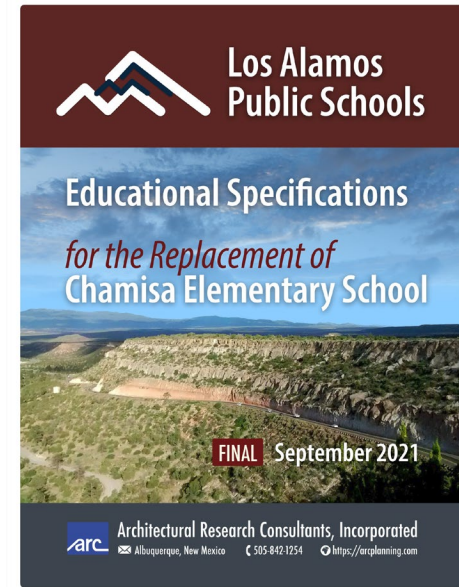
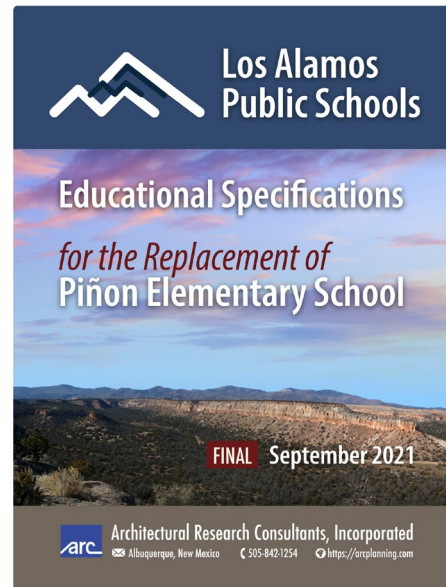
Based on the district's 2019-2023 Facility Master Plan, the district determined that replacing these schools would be more cost effective than implementing major renovations.

LAPS tasked ARC to prepare Educational Specifications for the replacement of both schools. The schools reside near each other, so ARC combined site visits and community meetings. The White Rock community to actively participated in the merged planning sessions. These commonalities also allowed ARC to prepare both documents simultaneously.

ARC's interactive processes and demographic and enrollment studies produced strategies for the district's consideration. These approaches include equalizing the size of the schools in a manner that would preserve the unique programs housed in each school. While the two schools had the same demographics, their distinctive programs lead to unique designs to best serve the White Rock community and provide options for their students.

**Client:** Los Alamos Public Schools

**Completion:** September 2021



*Above and below: Excerpts from plans for Piñon Elementary School and Chamisa Elementary School*

