

## **The Denver Post - denver and the west**

### **2 new school programs OK'd**

#### **The selections were among 20 proposals in DPS reform efforts.**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_9712842](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_9712842)

**By Jeremy P. Meyer**

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Denver's school board Thursday approved two new school programs to open in 2009, including one based on a successful Bay Area charter program.

As part of the district's reform efforts, Denver Public Schools had put out a request for proposals from groups wanting to start new school programs. It received 20 proposals for this cycle. More schools are expected to be approved by September.

The district had specifically requested proposals for middle-year programs and alternative schools.

The schools approved Thursday are:

- West Denver Preparatory Charter School. The already successful charter in southwest Denver will add another middle school, beginning in 2009 with sixth grade and adding a grade every year. Once the second middle school is fully operational, the organization plans to open a high school. Students: 300 by 2011.
- Envisions School Colorado. The Donnell-Kay Foundation and Piton Foundation are combining to offer a charter school based on the Envisions model, which has been successful at pushing student achievement up in California. The plan is for two schools, sixth grade through 12th grade, for children who would be the first in their families to go to college. The first school would open in 2009 and the second in 2010. Students: 705 for the first school by 2013 and 705 for the second school by 2014.

Decisions on two other proposals were deferred until this fall:

- Denver Language School. This preschool through eighth-grade program, also an innovation school, will offer Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. It is being proposed by the Stapleton Foundation and two parents, Camilla Modesitt and Kristy Fantz. It will open in northeast Denver with kindergarten through second grade, adding a grade a year. Students: 576 by 2013.

- A STEM school run by the Denver Teachers Classroom Association. This K-8 school is classified as an "innovation school," a separate district program operating within a typical district school.

The union's STEM Leadership Academy will blend disciplines known as STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It begins in 2009 as a kindergarten through second-grade program, adding a grade every year up to the eighth grade. A teacher/leader would head the school. Students: 617 by 2013.

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