



# Board News

Denver Public Schools Board of Education  
board.dpsk12.org

## Parent Involvement Policy Approved

"Denver Public Schools believes that parents (including those who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English, have limited literacy, are of any racial or ethnic minority background, or are parents of migratory children), are partners with teachers and other staff in the education of their children and that parent involvement and empowerment are essential at all levels throughout the school district."

That's the opening sentence of a new Parent Involvement Policy KB approved unanimously by the Board of Education this week.

The policy, which has its roots in a large gathering of parent stakeholders in August, spells out precise roles for central administration, principals, teachers, other school staff and parents.

Central administration, for instance, will enhance parent involvement by "respecting parents as partners in the education of their children."

Principals, teachers and school staffs

shall work in collaboration with parents by "respecting parents as partners in the education of their children and honoring their role as first and life-long teachers."

And parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning by "taking the initiative to seek the best educational opportunities for their children."

The policy also calls for establishment of a district-wide parent advisory council to make recommendations to the Board regarding strategies to implement and ensure success of the policy.

"This is an exciting night for parents in DPS and I think everyone in the community," said Board member Michelle Moss. "It's critical that we have the involvement of all the DPS staff and parents working together to improve the student achievement of our kids. We know this will have an impact."

Board member Lucia Guzman urged that the district take the policy seriously, particularly in regard to parents of migratory students. ■

## Enrollment for 2004-2005 School Year Begins Soon

Next August might seem far away, but now is the time to begin thinking about enrolling students for the next (2004-2005) school year. Parent information nights and school choice fairs begin in November, and enrollment deadlines start in December.

DPS offers a wide variety of choices including neighborhood schools, magnets, charter schools, and gifted magnet programs for first- through eighth-grade students with extraordinary academic needs, abilities and potential.

### Neighborhood Schools

Most students choose to enroll in their neighborhood school, where many excellent programs are offered. Start by calling your neighborhood school to find out if it meets the needs of your child. If you need help locating your neighborhood school, call the School Boundary Hotline at 303-764-3400, or search online by inputting your home address. Access <http://dps.schools.net> and choose "search by address."

### The Choice Process

First Round — Interested in a school other than your neighborhood school? Choice allows you to apply for a transfer

to another neighborhood school. Access <http://dps.schools.net> for detailed school profiles. For the best chance of securing a seat for your child in another school, completed enrollment forms for the 2004-2005 school year need to be returned by January 30, 2004. Beginning January 5, 2004, Choice forms are available at all schools. Forms may be returned to any school for central processing. A lottery will be conducted if there are more applicants than space available in a school.

Second Round — After January 30, you will need to return Choice forms to the specific school or schools that interest you. These may be completed through August 2004. Students are enrolled during this second round of the Choice process on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Note: transportation is not provided through the Choice process.*

### Magnet Schools

Magnet schools may emphasize a particular style of learning or serve students with a common area of interest. Some magnets are located within a school. Others are the school. Transportation is generally provided to designated sites; eligibility for

## 2003-2004 Priorities Set

The Board of Education formally approved nine priorities for district staff for the 2003-2004 school year. The priorities are:

- Improve the performance and image of the district through a responsive, customer-oriented, user-friendly organizational culture, and enhanced, district-wide communication practices and systems.
  - Implement improved processes and procedures for recruitment, retention, mentoring, evaluation, and compensation of teachers, principals, and all other district employees.
  - Support the extension and strengthening of consistent and rigorous district literacy and mathematics programs in grades ECE-12.
  - Integrate programs and curricula for English-language learners into the mainstream structure and academic programs of the district.
  - Develop a strategy to address the scope of educational choices including charter schools, school design and redesign, magnet schools, and opportunity contracts.
  - Implement the mill levy initiatives to include revitalizing neighborhood schools and supporting secondary school efforts to increase student achievement and the graduation rate, if the mill levy is approved at the November election.
  - Provide structure and support for the proposed teacher compensation plan.
  - Strengthen the school improvement planning process through such measures as support for Collaborative School Committees and meaningful parent involvement.
  - Align improvement initiatives and policies with the provisions of No Child Left Behind.
- The priorities provide some specific focus for district staff and relate directly to the district's three overarching goals to set high expectations, improve the performance of all students, and close the gap between better and poorer performing students.

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## ► Enrollment from page 1

transportation is subject to general district guidelines.

Each magnet school manages its own application process and deadlines. Ask for application information from the magnet school that interests you. The deadline for all 2004-2005 middle and high school magnet applications is December 12, 2003. The deadline for elementary applications is January 30, 2004.

## Highly Gifted Magnet Program

The district also provides a magnet program for first- through eighth-grade students with extraordinary academic needs, abilities and potential. Elementary and middle school highly gifted nomination forms for 2004-2005 are due December 12, 2003, and are available in schools, online at <http://gt.dpsk12.org> or from the Gifted and Talented Education Department at 303-405-8272.

Students who qualify as "high achieving students" through the same nomination process may attend the Highly Gifted Program Magnet on a space-available basis at Carson, Crofton, Gust or McGlone elementary schools and Morey Middle School.

## Highly Gifted Magnet Program Information Nights:

All meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Nov. 4, Gust Elementary, 3440 W. Yale Ave.
- Wednesday, Nov. 5, Edison Elementary, 3350 Quitman St.
- Thursday, Nov. 6, Crofton Elementary, 2409 Arapahoe St.
- Wednesday, Nov. 12, Southmoor Elementary, 3755 S. Magnolia Way
- Thursday, Nov. 13, Carson Elementary, 5420 E. 1st Ave.
- Tuesday, Nov. 18, Cory Elementary, 1550 S. Steele St.
- Wednesday, Nov. 19, McGlone Elementary, 4500 Crown Blvd.
- Thursday, Nov. 20, Morey Middle School, 840 E. 14th Ave.

## Charter and Other Schools

DPS offers charter schools and other choices such as the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning and online education. Charter schools manage their own applications. Electronic versions of comprehensive school report cards are posted online at <http://dps.schools.net>. ■

## School Fairs

- Many DPS schools will be featured at the School Fair on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave.
- The southeast area will host a school fair from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at South High School, 1700 E. Louisiana Ave.
- Palmer Elementary School will host a middle school night for fourth- and fifth-graders from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 at Palmer Elementary School, 995 Grape St. Information about the following schools will be available: Gove, Grant, Hamilton, Hill, Merrill, Morey and Place middle schools; Denver School of the Arts; and the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning.
- An information meeting about the Choice process is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 at East High School, 1545 Detroit St.

## Board Honors Ten Years of Summer Scholars

A week before the Summer Scholars tenth anniversary gala, the Board of Education on Thursday officially recognized the decade of work the organization has provided Denver students.

Summer Scholars is a community-based program for northeast Denver elementary students who are below grade level in reading. The program began in 1993 with 20 students in one

school and has grown to 1,200 students in 20 schools.

The Board praised the summer reading program, highlighting in a formal resolution that each year pre- and post-reading tests are administered to measure the program's effectiveness, and an average of 78 percent of students making demonstrable gains in reading after participating in Summer Scholars.

"This is a wonderful group to work with and see working," said Board member Kevin Patterson.

The program became a neighborhood response to the dramatic increase in teenage crime and Denver's 1993 Summer of Violence. Since then, almost 10,000 students have participated in the six-week, full-day summer program. ■

## Board Notes

**In other action this week, the Board:**

- Approved revisions to Policy JLCD –Administering Medicine to Students.
- Recognized a group of Grant Ranch School students who won state and national honors in "Project Citizen," a program that helps young people learn how to monitor and influence public policy.

## 66 More Nonpublic Schools Approved For Opportunity Contracts

The Board of Education accepted 66 more applications from nonpublic schools to participate in the 2004-2005 Colorado Opportunity Contract Pilot Program. The total number of schools accepted is now 69. Those schools accepted still must provide a variety of documents and additional information – related to health and safety, food service, and fire department regulations.

The Board of Education also denied 12 additional non public school applications for a variety of reasons. Some schools failed to provide the necessary documentation on the history or administrative structure, said Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning and Special Projects. One additional school was denied Oct. 2. All schools that were denied have the opportunity to submit new information.

A list of participating nonpublic schools will be posted on the district's web site, [www.dpsk12.org](http://www.dpsk12.org), by Nov. 1, under "updates" on the main page.