

SEVEN CHARTERS SCHOOLS APPROVED

Here are the seven charters schools approved this week by the State Charter Schools Commission:

Amana Academy West: This west Atlanta school will be a replication of the existing Amana Academy in Alpharetta, which was approved 15 years ago and serves only students in Fulton County. The new school will be open to any students in Georgia, although Amana West expects to draw students largely from Atlanta, Cobb, Fulton, Douglas, Paulding, and DeKalb.

Atlanta SMART Academy: The new middle school will open in 2020 in southwest Atlanta and be open to any student in Georgia. The school will focus on science, math and art and feature four extended days and a shortened fifth day.

Atlanta Unbound Academy: This K-8 school will have statewide attendance and be located in Fulton County. There will a literacy focus and smaller classes with extended learning. The school's web site also explains: "AUA will be an official affiliate and lab school of the Black Teacher Collaborative, which trains teachers to leverage their shared racial identity with students to develop transformative learning environments."

Collegiate Academy of Albany: The academy will open as a K-3 school and be based in a church in downtown Albany with a statewide attendance zone. The school will be part of Sabis, a global education network, and intends to expand to high school.

D.E.L.T.A. STEAM Academy: A multi-county school based in Douglas County, this K-8 will focus on science, technology, math and arts. Its name stands for "Deliberate Excellence Leads to Achievement."

Furrow Charter School: This is an existing Sumter County charter school that is now becoming a state charter school. School leaders pledged to expand diversity in the Americus school that serves 65 percent white students in a county that's 53 percent African American.

Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School: Serving students from middle to high school, the school will accept students statewide but the focus will be refugees and English language learners. The charter school will embrace the approach already in place at the Fugees Academy, a private school for refugee children in Clarkston begun by Luma Mufleh. The private school grew out of a soccer team for refugee boys that Mufleh coached. A soccer program will also be an integral part of the new public charter school.

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