



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT



12/22/2015

2016 CALL FOR NEW QUALITY SCHOOLS

The official 2016 Call for New Quality Schools will be released on January 22, 2016. This document provides preliminary guidance for applicants interested in opening new schools in 2017 and beyond.

Guidance Document

2016 CALL FOR NEW QUALITY SCHOOLS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Dear School Developers and Community Members:

Denver Public Schools ("DPS") typically releases its Request for Proposals for new schools in December of each year; we call it the "Call for New Quality Schools." The official "Call" document will not be released until January 22, 2016, however, because of the late release of school performance data on CMAS.

We recognize that school developers and community members often expect information from us at this time of the year, and this Guidance Document shares what we know at this point:

1. The Denver Board of Education ("Board") passed two important policies this year that will impact DPS's approach to the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools. This Guidance Document introduces our new policy context and approach.
2. DPS will request a new middle-school provider in the Far Northeast, to open in fall 2017, because of enrollment capacity needs. This Guidance Document defines that priority need.
3. This Guidance Document includes a basic timeline for the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools process that is based on the Board taking action in June 2016.

DPS expects additional needs and/or available facilities will be identified in the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools when it is released on January 22, 2016. That document also will include the final timeline and describe opportunities for community engagement in the process.

As the Board specified in the [Denver Plan 2020](#), the creation of new, high-quality schools is a key strategy to ensure DPS can and will offer "great schools in every neighborhood."

On behalf of DPS, I thank you for your interest in supporting this important work.

Sincerely,



Kelly

Kelly Kovacic

DENVER'S EMERGING POLICY CONTEXT

In 2015, the Denver Board of Education ("Board") passed two important policies that, when combined with the longer-standing [Charter Quality Authorizing Policy](#), place the Call for New Quality Schools in new procedural light:

1. The [Facility Allocation Policy](#) defines key factors DPS staff must consider when bringing facility placement recommendations to the Board.
2. The [School Performance Compact](#) establishes a transparent framework through which DPS must identify [persistently underperforming](#) schools, both charter and district-run, for restart, replacement or closure. This policy will go into effect beginning in fall 2016.

Moving forward, community members and school developers can now expect that DPS will:

1. Identify needs for new schools based on enrollment growth using the [Strategic Regional Analysis](#) ("SRA") -- a new SRA will be released in January 2016;
2. Identify needs for new schools based on performance gaps through the framework of the School Performance Compact, beginning in fall 2016;
3. Identify facilities available to new and previously approved schools, within and outside of need areas, through the terms of the Facility Allocation Policy;
4. Request new school applications – and/or placement applications from previously approved providers – to meet these needs and/or serve at other available facilities, through the Call for New Quality Schools process;
5. Evaluate new school applications for quality under the tenets established by the Charter Quality Authorizing Policy, the terms of which DPS also extends to district-run applicants to ensure equity of access;
6. Evaluate placement applications based on the tenets of the Facility Allocation Policy; and
7. Make recommendations to the Board that are aligned to these policies and reflect "[the best interest of pupils, the district and the community.](#)"

Still, this new policy construct is emerging. [Implementation Guidelines for the Facility Allocation Policy](#) are in the process of being revised, based on feedback received following the policy's first use in [fall 2015](#). In addition, the Implementation Guidelines for the School Performance Compact are currently in development, following the Board's passage of that policy on December 17, 2015. The 2016 Call for New Quality Schools will include updated information when it is released on January 22, 2016.

During the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools process, DPS will accept applications from school developers interested in serving as replacement providers to meet future needs.

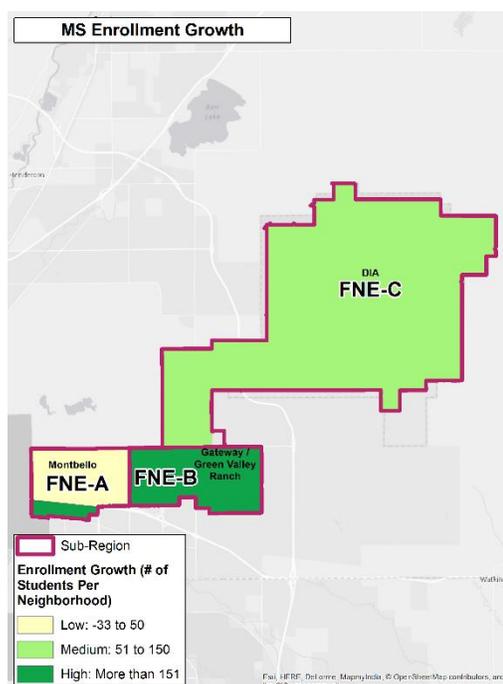
DPS will accept proposals during the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools process from applicants interested in serving as replacement providers to meet needs that may be identified following the first use of the School Performance Compact next fall. Such applicants, if approved through the 2016 quality review process, will complete placement applications as early as fall 2016 for potential service as a replacement provider. School developers interested in such service should contemplate school designs that include:

- English Language Acquisition models that provide Spanish-language instruction ([K-5](#), [6-8](#), and [9-12](#));
- [Center program](#) service;
- Accelerated phase-in (i.e., opening K-2 in the first year, growing to K-5 in the second) or a full restart in which all existing students re-enroll in the new program;
- Enrollment practices that afford equitable access for late- and mid-year arrivals, across all grade levels being served, and immediate participation in an enrollment zone or service to a boundary; and
- A detailed research base for the “turnaround” approach incorporated in the design.

PRIORITY NEED: FAR NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

To meet enrollment demand, DPS seeks a new middle school to open in fall 2017 in the Far Northeast. In order to be considered for placement in a district facility to meet this need, a 6-8 school must:

- Offer an [ELA-S resource program](#) for English Language Learners;
- Demonstrate a capacity for, or demonstrated track record of, serving English Language Learners at any time of enrollment, as well as attracting and serving an equitable share of ACCESS level 1 to 3.5 students;
- Offer an [MI-S Center program](#);
- Demonstrate the capacity to open in fall 2017;
- Provide 450 seats on a phase-in basis or on a more accelerated timeline; and
- Be eligible for immediate participation in the [Far Northeast Middle School Enrollment Zone](#) and offer equitable access for late- and mid-year arriving students across all offered grade levels.



TENTATIVE TIMELINE: 2016 CALL FOR NEW QUALITY SCHOOLS¹

DPS Responsibilities

Applicant Responsibilities

Shared Responsibilities

Tuesday, December 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New School Applications Released
Friday, January 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for New Quality Schools document released • Placement application & rubrics released
Thursday, February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of intent due for new schools & placement applicants
Friday, April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications due
Week of April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Community Meetings
Week of April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Group: Application Review Team convenes*
Week of April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Group: Interviews
Weeks of May 2 & May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Group: Application Review Team convenes **
Monday, May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Recommendation to DPS Board of Education • Applicant Presentations to DPS Board of Education
Thursday, May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment • DPS Board of Education Votes on First Group Quality
May 17-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Review Team convenes
Friday, May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community matching process launches with quality applicants
Week of May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Review Team interviews
Week of May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Group: Interviews
Week of May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Review Team reconvenes
Week of May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Group: Second Application review team meetings (if necessary)
Monday, June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Recommendation to BOE • Applicant Presentations to BOE • Family and Community Engagement Team (FACE) report on community matching process
Thursday, June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment • DPS Board of Education Votes on Second Group Quality & All Placements

¹ This calendar is tentative. The final timeline will be released in the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools on January 22, 2016.

*Group 1: New school applications that are aligned to a need in the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools and seek placement.

**Group 2: New school applications that are not aligned to a need in the 2016 Call for New Quality Schools.

The 2016 Call for New Quality Schools will provide the final timeline when it is released on January 22, 2016.

Questions?

Email Jennifer Holladay, Director of School Development and Support, at jennifer_holladay@dpsk12.org.