

Government of Alberta News Release

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Three Charter Schools Given Green Light for 1996/97

Three charter schools are approved to begin operation in the 1996/97 school year, bringing the total number in Alberta to eight.

"Each of these charter schools is taking an innovative approach aimed at increasing the academic success of students," said Education Minister Gary Mar.

The three new charter schools are:

Almadina Charter School, Calgary, grades 1-9: This school focuses on increasing the academic success of students for whom English is a second language by actively involving their parents.

Aurora School, Edmonton, grades 1-8: This school focuses on high academic expectations.

Global Learning Academy, Calgary, grades 1-12: This school focuses on meeting the individual learning needs of students, by increasing opportunities for independent learning.

The Almadina and Aurora schools will operate through a charter with the Minister of Education while the Global Learning Academy will operate through a charter with the Calgary Public School Board.

Two other charter schools were approved in 1995 and will begin operation in 1996/97:

- Boyle Street Co-op School, Edmonton, ages 12-19, a school for socio economically disadvantaged students
- Action for Bright Children, Calgary, grades 1-3, a school for gifted children

Three charter schools began operation in 1995/96:

- New Horizons, Sherwood Park, grades 1-12, a school for gifted children
- Suzuki Elementary School, Edmonton, grades 1-6, a school integrating a basic education with a music curriculum centered on Suzuki methodology
- Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence, Medicine Hat, grades 1-9, a school focusing on academic and personal excellence

Alberta is the first province in Canada to establish charter schools. They offer a basic education in a different or enhanced way to improve student learning. Charter schools may not charge tuition fees, and are open to any interested Alberta student as long as space in the school is available.-

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