



## Plainfield gets OK for new charter school

BY MARK SPIVEY • STAFF WRITER • OCTOBER 3, 2008

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**PLAINFIELD** —A city charter school serving grades 6 and 7 could open as early as September 2009 after State Department of Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy announced the approval of six applications around the state yesterday.

The Dr. Ellen G. Pressman Charter School's application, received by the state in April, requested approval to serve an initial enrollment of 160 students in grades 6-7 and ultimately grow to a projected 240 students in grades 6-8, according to the application.

"I congratulate the founders of these proposed schools for completing an important first step," Davy said. "Starting a charter school is a complex process that involves attention to many details. We review each application in great detail before making determinations on which applications are ready to move forward."

The six approved projects were selected out of a pool of 25 applications received by the state in March in the latest selection round. They were the first to be approved under a new timetable for the charter school selection process that was changed to allow additional time for applicants to plan and conduct start-up activities.

A charter school is a public school open to all students on a space-available basis that is funded by taxpayers but operates independently of district board of educations under a charter granted by the commissioner. Once the charter is approved, the school is managed by a board of trustees deemed to be public agents authorized by the state

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to supervise and control the school.

The 62 charter schools currently operating around the state are receiving \$247.9 million in state aid, with total combined enrollment approximately 16,000.

Mark Spivey can be reached at [mspivey@mycentraljersey.com](mailto:mspivey@mycentraljersey.com) or 908-707-3144.

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