

September 29, 2010

To: Douglas County Board of Education  
RE: Ben Franklin Charter School Application Notification  
From: Pat McGraw, Executive Director of Development and Innovation  
Kindra Whitmyre, Director of Charter School Partnerships

Executive Summary-

The Douglas County School District Charter School Office has received an application for a kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) charter school in northwest Douglas County. The Ben Franklin Academy group is requesting to begin operations in August of 2011. Additional introductory information concerning Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) follows:

*Ben Franklin Academy's mission is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged.*

*To do this, we will focus on individual students by implementing flexible ability groups and by teaching the students and letting test scores follow. Our students will excel academically through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes math, science, and literacy. We also recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering the arts, sports, nature, and character.*

*We note that the Douglas County School District's (DCSD) practice is to name new facilities after physical locations, geographical areas, desirable conditions, or significant or pertinent events.<sup>1</sup> As will be demonstrated throughout this application, Benjamin Franklin embodies much of what we want our students to become; hence, we request waiver of this policy on page 91.*

*Ben Franklin Academy will serve the students of northwest Douglas County. In particular, the Academy has focused on the communities of Roxborough, western Highlands Ranch, Louviers, Sedalia, and portions of Jefferson County.*

BFA's full application is attached. DCSD staff will present information concerning the review of the application at the October 19, 2010 meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Board File: FF, Naming New Facilities, under District current practice codified 1978 and revised August 19, 2003.