

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE INFINITY HIGH SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Infinity High School at the Little Village Campus.

DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools), the Chief Executive Officer recommends to the Board that, upon the timely submission of a Performance Plan within ninety days following approval of this Board Report, the Infinity High School open in the fall of 2005 at the new Little Village Campus located at 3120 South Kostner Avenue as a Performance School. If no Performance Plan is submitted, the Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Infinity High School open pursuant to Board Policy 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools).

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing on the opening of Infinity High School was held on Wednesday December 8, 2004 in accordance with the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree. The hearing was transcribed. A summary Report of the hearing is available for review.

Enrollment

Infinity High School will have an open enrollment process for students who live in identified boundaries, with a lottery process employed in case of an excess of applicants. Students at Infinity High School will come from both the South and North Lawndale communities. Infinity High School will accept 100 students in the 2005-06 school year in grade 9, and will add one grade per year thereafter until the school reaches a 9 – 12 structure. Each grade after freshman year will enroll 84 students, with no more than 352 students total in grades 9 - 12. Thereafter, Little Village Campus boundaries will be regularly reviewed to effectuate these enrollment requirements.

Curriculum

Infinity High School will be a small school with a community and student centered learning environment which focuses on students planning careers in math, science, and technology. The curriculum will have a multicultural focus based on understanding the cultural context of learning. Infinity High School has chosen Constructivism as a guiding theory of instruction, and will further Infinity High School's desire to have their students build their own understandings of new ideas. The school has established external partnerships with a variety of neighborhood institutions in specific areas. The Little Village Community Development Corporation will act as a comprehensive partner. Infinity High School will work with Northeastern University and DePaul University on professional development. Chicago Botanical Gardens, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Museum of Natural History and Shedd Aquarium will be used to address research-based learning projects and service learning. The Cook County Jorge Prieto Clinic, Projecto VIDA, YMCA Street Intervention Project, Little Village Boys and Girls Club, and Chicago Park District Piotrowski Park will partner for prevention, student support, and family services. Northeastern University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, DeVry University, and the West-Side Technical Institute will address distance learning and early college preparation.

Governance

An advisory governing body will be established in a timely manner pursuant to the guidelines and procedures laid out in Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools) or Board Report 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools Policy) and pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable

FINANCIAL: No cost to the Board at this time.

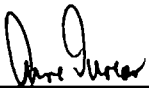
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: None

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel