

# Charter School Applications

## Public Hearing - May 6, 2025



# Charter School Application Process

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- Douglas County School District welcomes high quality charter school applications that will add to student and parent choice and increase the diversity of educational offerings in the District.
- Applications have been received from three (3) Charter Schools for this application cycle
  - Two (2) Replication Applications
  - One (1) New Application (from an existing DCSD authorized Charter School)
- All applicants have:
  - Submitted their application for review by April 1, 2025 at 4:00pm
  - Participated in a Capacity Interview where the full CARTeam was present
  - Prepared a short (15 min) presentation for the DCSD Board of Education

# Charter School Application Process

- In Alignment with DCSD [Board Policy LBD-R-1](#), all Charter Applications to the District are Reviewed in Accordance with Colorado Revised Statute (CRS 22-30.5-106).
- Components of the Application for a Charter School are:

Executive Summary	Mission and Vision	Goals, Objectives, and Pupil Performance Standards	Evidence of Support	Educational Program
Plan for Evaluating Pupil Performance	Budget and Finance	Governance	Employees	Insurance Coverage
Parent and Community Involvement	Enrollment Policy	Transportation and Food Services	Facilities	Waivers
Student Discipline, Expulsion, or Suspension	Serving Students with Special Needs	Dispute Resolution Process	School Management Contracts	

# Charter Application Review Team (CART)

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- **From Board Policy LBD-R-1: The District's CART Membership shall include:**
  - One person with demonstrated knowledge of charter schools; regardless of whether that person resides within the school district;
  - One parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in a charter school in the school district (preferably a parent/guardian of a child who is a member of the DAC)
  - At least two individuals who are members of the DAC
  - At least one individual who is a member of the Board's FOC
  - At least one individual who is a member of the Board's LRPC
  - Representative District Department leaders
  - An independent third party reviewer with demonstrated knowledge of charter schools
  - One person who is a charter school leader from a District authorized charter school

# Process and Next Steps

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- **April 22** - Capacity Interview for Applicants
- **May 6** - Public Hearing #1
  - Public Comment Opportunity for the Public
  - Presentation to the DCSD Board of Education by the Applicant(s)
- **May 27** - Public Hearing #2
  - Public Comment Opportunity for the Public
- **May 27** - DCSD Staff Recommendation (Following Cabinet Approval)
- **May 27** - DCSD Board of Education Meeting: Board Vote by Resolution to Approve or Deny the Application(s)

# Presentation by Renaissance PK-12 Charter School



15 Minute Presentation

15 Minute Questions and Answers by the Board of  
Education



*Education is not  
the filling of a  
pail, but the  
lighting of a fire.*

*-Commonly attributed to W.B. Yeats*



**RENAISSANCE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



FAMILY FAVORITES



EXCELLENCE



# mission

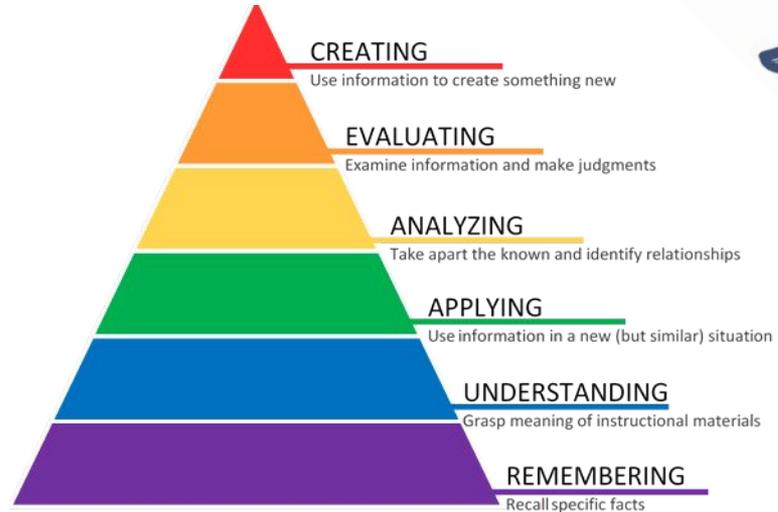
..to **empower** students to become **modern learners** who are:

- Critical thinkers
- Problem solvers
- Communicators
- Collaborators
- Creative innovators who contribute to the world around them.





# deeper learning





C•R•E•W



*We are crew, not passengers - and strengthened by acts of consequential service to others.*

*-Kurt Hahn, Outward Bound Founder*



*Adventure*





# *Crew in Action (Video)*



*What's next...*

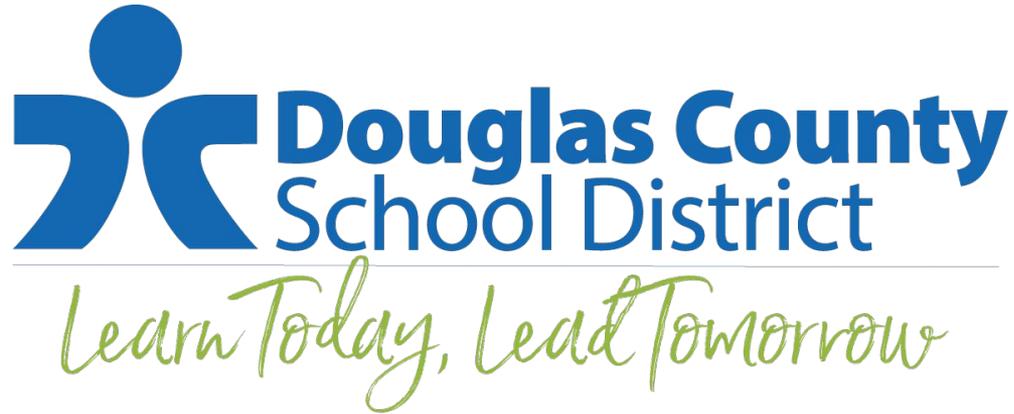


# Questions?





# Questions?



# Presentation by Lemman Academy of Excellence



15 Minute Presentation

15 Minute Questions and Answers by the Board of  
Education

# Leman Academy

*offers a rigorous  
Classical education  
where all the  
disciplines are  
interrelated*



# Leman Academy

*allows  
scholars  
to think  
independently  
and critically*



# Leman Academy

*purposes to  
partner with  
supportive parents*



# Leman Academy

*provides a safe  
and challenging  
environment*



# Leman Academy

*instills morals & values in pursuit of wisdom & virtue in order to produce tomorrow's leaders today.*



# Leman Academy

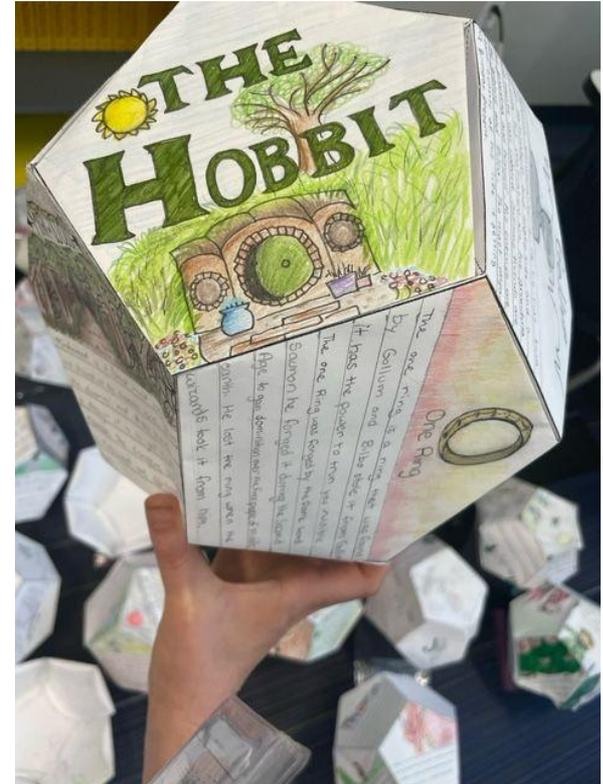
- +Experience with replication & construction
- +Consistently growing demand
  - Stroh: 1,200
  - Bayou Gulch: 500
- +SSN program



# Leman Academy

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*+10.4 % of scholars in our general ed population have IEPs (Special Education needs)*



# Leman Academy

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- +Broad appeal—not a niche program*
- +Only Pre-K through 8th grade to help feed strong students into DCSD's High Schools, supporting enrollment*



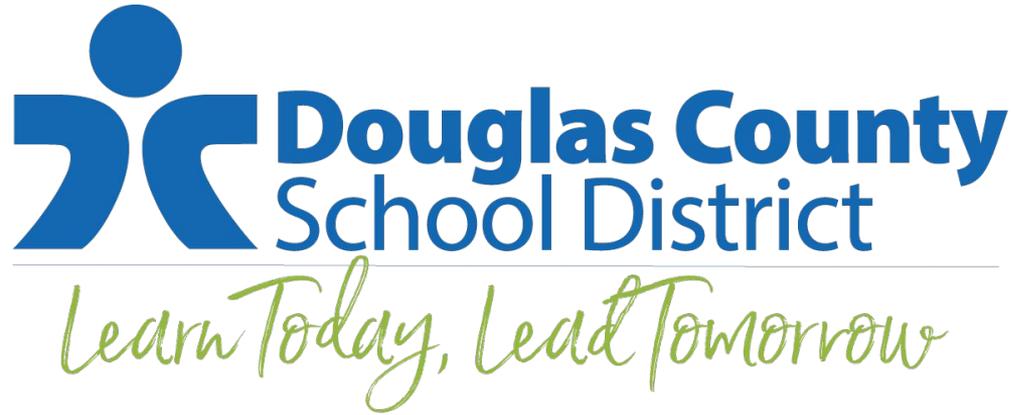
# Leman Academy

*Thank you!*





# Questions?



# Presentation by KOSON Schools/STEM School



15 Minute Presentation

15 Minute Questions and Answers by the Board of  
Education

# THRIVE LEAD SUCCEED

THE NEED FOR A PREK - 8TH GRADE KOSON SCHOOL



DCSD BOARD MEETING | MAY 6, 2025

# FROM VISION TO EXECUTION

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**1**  
THE KOSON WAY

**2**  
THE RIGHT SCHOOL - AT THE RIGHT  
TIME

**3**  
READY TO EXPAND

**4**  
PROPOSED TIMELINE

# **REDEFINING EDUCATION**

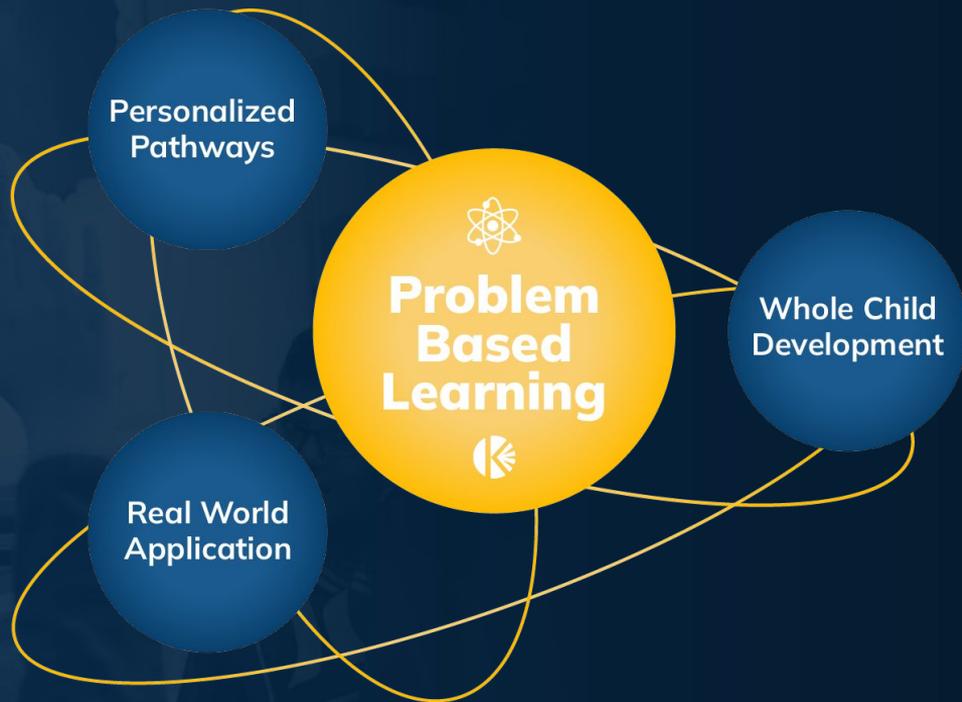
## **THE KOSON WAY**

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**KOSON Schools is the network behind STEM School Highlands Ranch—Colorado’s top-ranked, problems based, STEM-focused charter school. By focusing on real world problems students develop a strong sense of self as they experience successes and failures while creating innovative solutions that do good in the world. This approach creates meaning and passion in their lives which translates into students who thrive, lead, and succeed in their lives and in their communities. Our model doesn’t just prepare students for the future—it equips them to solve real-world problems, lead with confidence, and overcome in a ever changing world.**

# OUR PROGRAM MODEL

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# WHO ARE WE?

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## PROBLEM BASED LEARNING REAL WORLD PROBLEM SOLVING

**We are a skilled group of passionate leaders and teachers who deeply care about creating a safe environment where all students have equal value and an opportunity to redefine their limits and unleash their potential as a learner, but more importantly as a person.**

# OUR WHY

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## SO STUDENTS CAN...

**THRIVE  
SUCCEED**



**LEAD**



# STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH KOSON FLAGSHIP CAMPUS

**#11**

Largest Charter School  
in Colorado of 262

**#1**

Public Elementary &  
Middle School in DCSD

**#1**

Most Diverse School  
in DCSD

**88**  
%

K-2 Students Above  
Grade Level in Math

**86**  
%

K-2 Students Above Grade  
Level in Reading

**11%**

SPED Students

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

Revitalized Leadership  
Team Driving Impact

Enrollment Turnaround Reflects  
Renewed Community Trust

Significant Gains in  
Teacher Retention

Significant Gains in  
Teacher Retention

Strong Academic  
Performance and  
Assessment Metrics

Strategic Planning with  
Clear Vision for the  
Future

Recognized for  
Excellence Through  
Strong Ratings



# **THE RIGHT SCHOOL AT THE RIGHT TIME**

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- **Douglas County's Population Growth Demands New School Options**
- **The Workforce Needs Are Urgent – and Students Need Early Exposure**
- **Charter Offerings Are Narrow – Families Deserve Expanded Choice**

# OPPORTUNITY BEGINS WITH OPTIONS

14

**CORE KNOWLEDGE & CLASSICAL**

*Includes Parker Core Knowledge, American Academy, Sky View, Ben Franklin, and Leman*

3

**PROGRESSIVE**

*Includes STEM School Highlands Ranch*

3

**OTHER**

*Includes Parker Performing Arts and DCS Montessori*

2

**LANGUAGE**

*Includes World Compass and Global Village*

# **THE RIGHT SCHOOL** **AT THE RIGHT TIME**

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- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Require a New Kind of School Culture
- The Workforce Needs Are Urgent – and Students Need Early Exposure
- Douglas County's Population Growth Demands New School Options



 **EXPANDING ACCESS** **EXPANDING FUTURES**

# A PROVEN MODEL READY TO

Expands Learning Opportunities for all Students

Encourages Diverse Approach To Learning, Using Different, Proven, And Innovative Teaching Methods

Provides Parents And Students With Expanded Choices

Built On Strong Community Involvement

Compelling Academic Model That Has Demand Nationally And Locally

Strong Governance Structure

Financially Secure

Experienced and Passionate Leadership Team



# OUR TEAM STRUCTURED TO EXPAND



# OUR TEAM READY TO LEAD

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24

Average Years Of  
Professional Experience

9

Successfully Launched  
New Schools

17

Educational Facilities  
Constructed Under Our  
Leadership

10

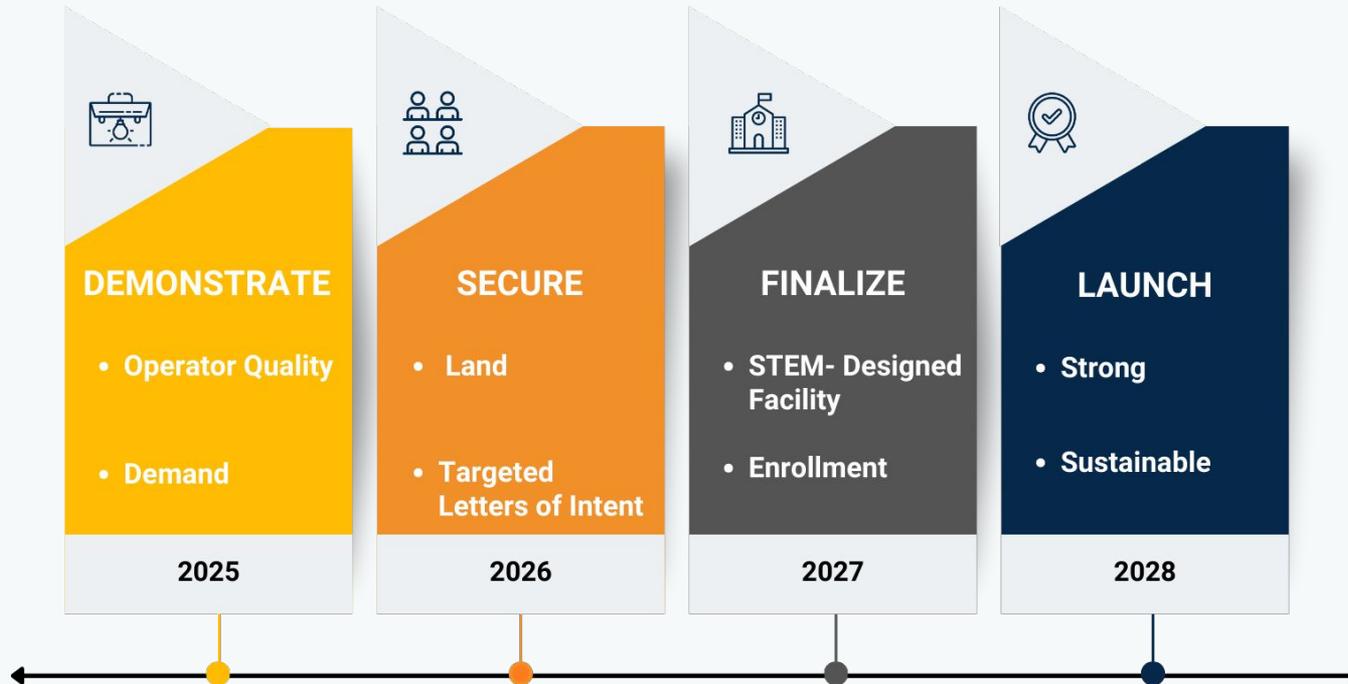
School Teams Recruited  
And Trained

4

Custom Academic Curricula  
Designed And Implemented

SCHOOL  
HIGHLANDS RANCH

# PROPOSED TIMELINE



# TIMELINE RATIONALE

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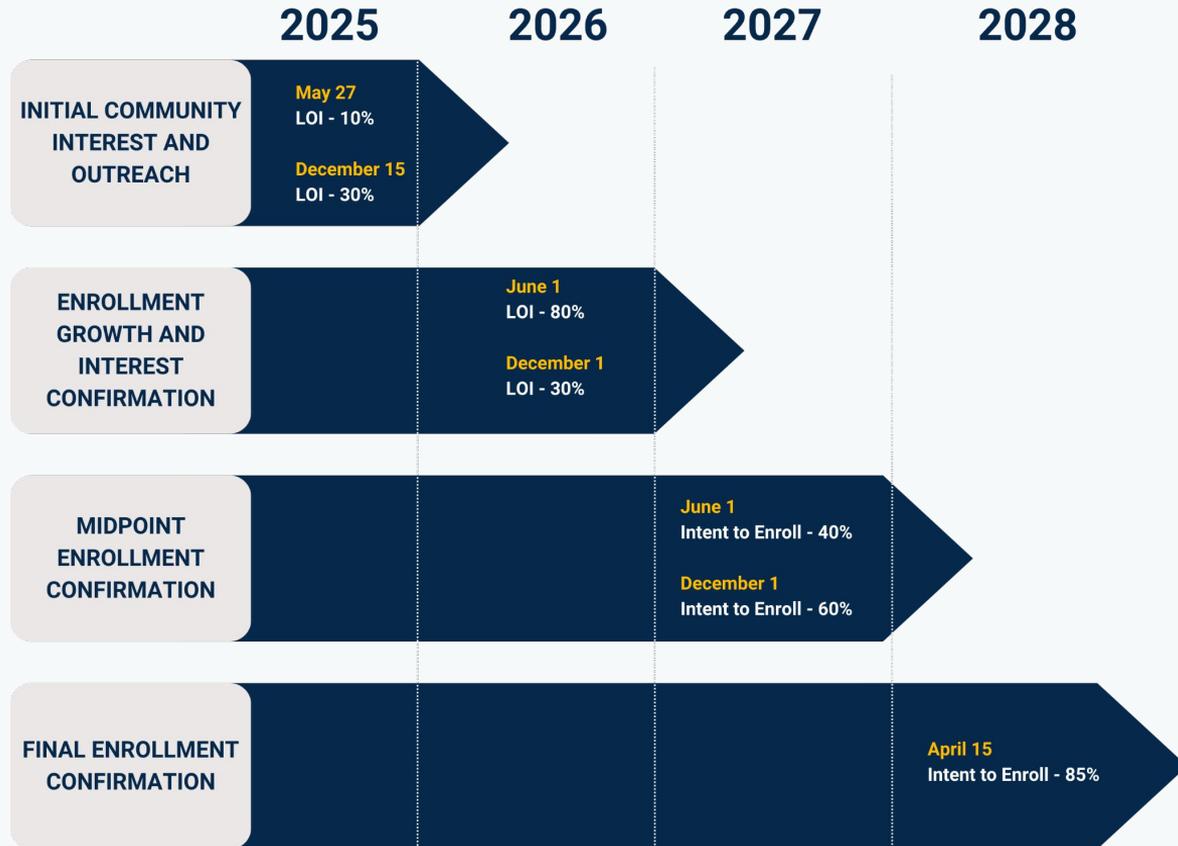
- Aligns **Strategically With Douglas County Growth Projections** And The Need For Schools In Growth Areas
- Allows For **Efficient Land Acquisition** And Facility Planning
- Provides Time To Address **Design And Construction Needs**
- Enables **Deep Community Engagement** And Builds **Enrollment Momentum**
- Strengthens Organizational **Capacity And Readiness For Launch**



# FACILITIES MILESTONES



# ENROLLMENT MILESTONES



# READY TO EXPAND

- We've **Revitalized** Our Identity and Vision for the Future
- Our Leadership Team Is **Proven and Ready**
- We Have a **Trusted** Relationship with Our Authorizer
- Our Academic Model Is **Established and Effective**
- We Are Financially Sound and Positioned for **Growth**
- The Demand — **Nationally and Locally** — Is Clear





# Questions?

