

Charter Day School



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New Charter School Planned For Southeastern North Carolina

Following its December 14 meeting in Raleigh, the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Committee has endorsed an application for a new charter school pending final approval by the State Board of Education on Feb. 3, 2000, according to Mr. Charles Connell, Trustee for Charter Day School. "We have been asked to come to Raleigh on February 3 to sign our charter agreement and receive our check for initial funding," Mr. Connell added.

The Charter Day School plans to open in Brunswick County in August 2000 and will accept students in grades K-1 for the 2000-2001 school year. The school plans to add a grade each year thereafter.

"The Charter Day School will serve students in Columbus, Brunswick, and New Hanover Counties," states Mr. Baker Mitchell, chairman of the seven-person board of trustees. "The school will be publicly funded and will be tuition-free and enrollment is open to all students, under provisions of statutes governing the state's charter schools," he added.

Upon final approval by the SBE, the new school's Board of Trustees plans to contract with The Roger Bacon Academy for staffing and operations, including development of a newly-acquired 50-acre campus located near the junction of Highways 74-76 and Highway 87 in northern Brunswick County. Site development will benefit from considerable infrastructure already in place, with classroom construction to begin following final state approval of the charter and acquisition of the necessary permits.

Mr. Mitchell emphasized that Charter Day School and The Roger Bacon Academy will stress a disciplined, caring classroom environment in operating the school. Traditional values and direct instructional methods to meet the educational needs of each

child will be major factors in the educational program. Curriculum offerings will parallel, but will not be restricted to, the North Carolina Standard Course of Studies. Extensive use of computer technology for assisting the teachers in record keeping and multi-media presentations for the students is planned. A school uniform will be adopted for all students. Student guidance-counseling and parental involvement in school activities also will be emphasized.

A public meeting for all parents interested in enrolling students in this state-funded school has been set for Saturday, February 5 at 3 P.M. at the Hood Creek Community Building on H87 South at H74 (Maco Road). In the meantime, anyone interested in attending the school or in a position on its staff may visit the web site at www.RogerBacon.net for more information and to be placed on the mailing list. Or interested parties may call and leave their name and number at (910) 796-1214 to receive more information.

Charter schools were initiated in North Carolina in 1997, following approval by the state legislature. At present, there are 86 such schools throughout the state. Classified as public schools and operating on state funds, they may be chartered by the SBE, a local board of education, or by a unit of the State University system. They are governed by statute and SBE regulations, but are allowed considerable flexibility in matters of curriculum, operations, and governance. They must administer end-of-grade and end-of-course tests under the State ABC Accountability Plan. They are considered an adjunct to the local educational authority, and offer to parents and students an alternative educational program, as authorized by the state. They must be non-discriminatory in their admissions policies.

Charter Day School will work closely with Mr. Marion Wise, the Superintendent of Schools in Brunswick County, and the county board of education in coordinating with the county's educational goals. "Our ultimate goals are the same: to do what is best for the education of our students," summarizes Mr. Connell.