

19 new public schools wanted in next 2 years
EDUCATION | Effort is part of city's Renaissance 2010

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Chicago hopes to add 19 public schools in the next two years, including a school for the arts for gifted kids and three schools linked to area universities, Chicago Schools CEO Arne Duncan announced Tuesday.

These are part of Renaissance 2010, a plan to create 100 new schools by 2010. About 55 have opened so far. Fifteen of the 19 schools hope to open next fall if approved by the Chicago Board of Education Oct. 24.

The proposed Chicago High School for the Arts would put Chicago on par with New York, Los Angeles and most other large cities that have public performing arts high schools.

A committee of 120 dancers, actors, musicians, visual artists and arts patrons dreamed up the school, which hopes to open in 2009. Students, who must audition to get in, will spend eight hours a day in school and work with partners from the Art Institute, Ravinia and the Joffrey Ballet. Three other schools will partner with the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The Noble Street Charter School is getting help from UIC to develop its curriculum for a new campus it plans to open next fall. The U. of C. Center for Urban School Improvement is proposing its fourth South Side campus, and IIT is linked with a new Perspectives Math and Science Academy that also hopes to open next fall.

The latest crop of Renaissance 2010 schools also includes a school with an African-centered curriculum, named for the first president of Ghana, a school for students with autism and developmental disabilities and a high school emphasizing help for homeless and foster children.