

The Intown Academy

New Charter School Opening July 2010

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What is the school's mission? The Intown Academy offers Atlanta parents a real neighborhood school that provides children a quality and safe learning environment. Its mission is to ensure that students experience a world-class education in an innovative, community based public school setting, and to create an educational center of excellence that embodies the diversity, creativity, and the global and entrepreneurial character of its surrounding Atlanta communities.

Where is the school located? The Intown Academy Site Selection Committee is negotiating on several properties located in the Old Fourth Ward, including surplus Atlanta Public School facilities.

How do charter schools compare to traditional public schools in terms of academic achievement? Charter schools are free public schools that have greater flexibility to respond to their students' individual needs. Charter schools have certified teachers, challenging academics, and performance-based accountability measures – in many cases, greater than those for traditional schools.

In fact, the majority of charter schools in Georgia out perform traditional schools in the communities they serve, and boast a graduation rate of 90 percent. Atlanta's first public charter school – Drew Charter School – works in partnership with EdisonLearning. The Drew Charter School is consistently rated a "Distinguished School" by exceeding the standards established by state and federal education agencies.

How does The Intown Academy differ from traditional public school? The Intown Academy will participate in the International Baccalaureate (IB) beginning in Year Two. IB offers a high-quality program of international education to a worldwide community of students. IB is an inquiry-based instructional program that encourages students to be active, compassionate and lifelong learners.

Intown Academy will be a year round school following the APS year round calendar. During scheduled breaks, intersession programs will be available to students and families.

Can anyone enroll? The Intown Academy is open to students in grades K– 6 within Atlanta Public School boundaries and will grow to be a K-8 over the next two years.

Is there an entrance exam? No.

Is there tuition? No, The Intown Academy is tuition-free.

What is the length of the school year? The Intown Academy will be on a year round school calendar. School will start in July 2010.

What are the hours of school? School hours will be determined near the start of school. Enrolled students will be notified ASAP.

Are there enrichment courses? Yes! The school offers electives including art and music.

Is there an English as a Second Language (ESL) program for non- and limited-English speaking students? Yes! The Intown Acad-

emy provides an ESL program.

Can the school accommodate children with special needs? Yes! EdisonLearning utilizes the inclusion model for teaching students with special needs. This allows students with special needs to learn alongside their peers whenever possible.

Is there a uniform policy? Yes. The policy is yet to be determined, enrolled families will be informed when a decision is made.

Will The Intown Academy provide transportation to students? The Intown Academy is not planning to provide transportation the first year of operation. We will investigate and consider transportation in subsequent years. However, for local field trips, The Intown Academy will be eligible for contracted bus transportation services through APS and can also contract with APS for special needs students requiring transportation. The Intown Academy is committed to carpooling and promoting other green transportation options like walking and biking.

Will hot lunches be served? Yes! Students will be offered a hot lunch program.

How do I enroll? Enrollment forms are available by calling (404) 270-9788. Enrollment forms will be accepted once we begin the enrollment process after receiving State approval.

What documents do I need to enroll? You will need to submit a copy of the child's birth certificate, proof of address, updated immunization records and you must also bring a copy of the child's IEP if he or she has one. If you are

About The Intown Academy ★ opening July 2010 ★

A Tuition-free, Public Charter School Serving K-6th Grade, growing to K-8 over two years.

- EdisonLearning™ world-class educational curriculum
- Highly Qualified teaching staff
- Enrollment open to K-6th grade students

Unique and Rigorous Academic Programs

- Literature, Math, Science & Social Studies classes
- Foreign Language
- Art & Physical Education
- Character Development-centered curriculum
- International Baccalaureate beginning Year Two
- Technology rich instructional environment

The Intown Academy is built on the *Four Cornerstones*™ of highly effective schools

- Top Talent
- A Culture of Engagement and Aspiration
- Demanding Content and Customized Instruction
- Achievement-Driven Management

not the parent, you must bring proof of legal guardianship.

Is there an enrollment deadline? Within the yet to be defined enrollment period, enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis until enrollment capacity is reached, at which time a lottery process would be instituted.

For more information, or to enroll, call (404) 270-9788 or text keyword Intown to 41513.