

Advocate editorial board opinion: Educational option on horizon for city

By the Advocate Editorial Board

Originally published December 13, 2011 at 6:51 p.m., updated December 13, 2011 at 6:51 p.m.

- **LEARN MORE**

- For more information about the charter district or to inquire about leasing a building to the school, contact Andrea Benedict at ABenedict@responsiveed.com.

Or contact Vista Academy of Victoria Director Keith Garcia at 361-652-9550.

We were excited to learn that Vista Academy, part of Responsive Education Solutions, which is the largest charter school district in Texas, is working to open a school in Victoria.

After the loss of Outreach Word Academy, it is encouraging to see another school willing to step in and fill that place providing more educational options to Victoria families.

While we understand this school will be totally separate from what Outreach Word Academy was, we look forward to seeing how they develop and progress in this area. The company has already hired a director, Keith Garcia, to head the new school.

"I've had a chance to visit their schools in the Dallas metroplex area and you can see how well their system works." Garcia said.

Garcia is currently working to find an appropriate location for the school. In many other locations across the state, the district's charter schools are inside churches or retail spaces. He says he wants to find a space that will represent the school's high standards and give a positive image of Victoria as well.

The challenge for Garcia will be to find a space that will provide enough room for 150 students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade. He says the building needs enough space to house at least a minimum of 12 classrooms, a common area for the students and a meeting space for staff.

We would encourage the community to get involved in this process and help the search for a usable space for this new school. Not only would it fill an unused space that could otherwise be an eyesore, but it also will serve our community by offering another option for children to receive their education.

Garcia said he's noticed a misnomer about charter schools in Victoria.

"But this one wants to and will meet high expectations," he said. "It's really, really key on high expectations."

Garcia said not only is the school focusing on collaboration to provide a quality education, but there is also a desire to instill good morals and values, as well as teaching students to choose right from wrong.

We think having multiple options for education in our area can be an advantage for parents and students, and we look forward to seeing how this new establishment will affect education in Victoria.

This editorial reflects the views of the Victoria Advocate's editorial board.