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Mann, Carolina highs to start New Tech program this fall

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Collaborative, project-based learning. Real-world problem-solving. Creativity and critical thinking.

Those are the buzz words in science, technology, engineering and math education these days, and the keystones of a new program set to begin this fall at J.L. Mann and Carolina high schools.

The two schools will join the New Tech Network, a program used in 134 schools in 23 states and Australia, in which 97 percent of [students](#) graduate and 98 percent of graduates are accepted to college.

Applications are being accepted this month for ninth-graders to attend New Tech @ J.L. Mann, which will operate as a school-within-a-school, adding a grade each year through 12th grade.

It's not a magnet [school](#), although students accepted into J.L. Mann's magnet program for science, math and technology will be eligible to apply, said Jeff McCoy, the Greenville County School District's educational technology director.

Carolina High's program will be implemented on a school-wide basis, also beginning with ninth grade this fall and adding a grade each year, he said.

"We've been looking at some innovative options for career and college readiness programs," McCoy said. "Ultimately we settled on New Tech because they've been in existence the longest, and the people we've talked with, the results we've seen have been kind of where we'd like to go, especially with Carolina."

New Tech was founded in Napa, Calif., in 1996 and is being used in two South Carolina schools – Cougar New Tech in Walterboro and Scott's Branch High in Summerton. Both schools joined the program at the beginning of the current school year with a \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

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“These first two New Tech schools, and those that will follow, will help transform the I-95 corridor into a corridor of innovation for education and economic development in the state,” said Jacki Martin, director of the Center for Education Policy and Leadership at Furman University’s Richard W. Riley Institute, which helped secure and implement the grant.

Greenville, official say

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