

Once a Plainfield industrial building, now home to 2 city schools

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Photo: Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, fourth from left, at the ceremonial ribbon cutting for Plainfield's two advance science and technical schools in what was once and industrial building in the city. (Tom Haydon | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

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PLAINFIELD — In a building that first housed an adhesive manufacture there are two new city schools providing advance courses in science and technology.

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno joined city school officials Friday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the schools in a building that was originally home to the National Starch Company.

The building at 1800 West Front St. will now house schools for advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics program, commonly called STEM classes.

"This doesn't happen unless everyone comes together, and I can't think of a better reason for everyone to come together than the students that are in this room right now," Guadagno told parents, teachers, students and school board officials.

The building was first acquired by the state Schools Development Authority -- formerly the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation -- in 2003. The state permitted city school officials to use the property to house students from the Clinton School during renovations of that building, and later to house students from the Jefferson School when that building was renovated.

The school board then created the Plainfield Academy for the Performing Arts and Advance Studies, which now has 400 students using a portion of the former National Starch building.

Last November, the state sold the building to the school board for \$1.

"The acquisition of this wonderful facility is extremely important to our district," said city schools Superintendent Anna Belin-Pyles. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring our students additional resources.

The new schools, which have not been named, will have advance courses for students at Plainfield High School and at the Barack Obama Academy for Academic and Civic Development