



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

David Ray
22 Hudson Bay Drive
Maumelle, Arkansas 72113-5900

501-916-0286 Residence
david.ray@arkansashouse.org

DISTRICT 40

Counties:

Part Pulaski
Part Faulkner

COMMITTEES:

Public Transportation
Public Transportation and Rail
Subcommittee

Insurance and Commerce
Utilities Subcommittee

Joint Performance Review

1st Alternate,
Arkansas Legislative Council

August 8, 2021

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Public School Accountability
Four Capitol Mall, Box 21
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Members of the Charter Authorizing Panel:

I wholeheartedly believe that every child, regardless of their ZIP code and income level, deserves the opportunity to receive an excellent education. Unfortunately, not all of our children in central Arkansas are zoned for a high-performing, free, public school. Additionally, I believe strongly that parents deserve a multitude of options in order to meet the unique, individual needs of their children.

To that end, we should welcome any district or non-profit organization that has a track record of educational success, particularly for underserved children. One such organization is IDEA Public Schools. IDEA has helped 100% of its seniors gain college acceptance for the last fifteen years while maintaining a student body that is typically between 85%-90% low income. Additionally, IDEA has helped 30% of its seniors earn the AP Scholar Distinction. We should be eager to welcome anyone with that track record of success. Therefore, I support the approval of more schools like this in our state.

Thank you for strongly considering IDEA's application, as well as any other exceptionally high-performing public charter schools that can deliver high quality educational options for Arkansas children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Ray".

David Ray
State Representative
District 40

DR/tp