



**Southwest Community  
Public Charter School**

**Serving The Greatest Need**

**Arkansas State Charter Authorizing Panel**

**December 15, 2021**



## Mission Statement

The Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock (EASW) prepares students from educationally under-served areas of Southwest Little Rock for competitive colleges and advanced careers from an early age by ensuring mastery of the core subjects and developing the key behaviors required for success, citizenship and leadership in their communities and beyond.

# Charter Renewal Presentation



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# Governing Board of Directors



Name	Term	Affiliations
LaTonya Austin Honorable (Chair)	3 Years	Managing attorney and owner of The Austin Law Firm, PLLC
Maria Weyrens (Vice Chair)	2 Years	Hispanic Community Outreach and Business Development at First Security Bank
Tim Zimmerman	7 Years	Entrepreneur and owner of several local businesses
Kevin Scribner (Treasurer)	1 Year	Chief Risk Officer & Executive Vice President at First State Bank
Dr. Ruth Nash	2 Years	Retired Educator and Administrator
Terrance Long (Secretary)	2 Years	Senior Church Plant Pastor at The Mercy Church
Maurice Osborne	2 Years	Assistant Vice President for enrollment at Wiley College



## School Leadership

### Administrative team brings deep expertise in all major aspects of school management.

In 8 years of operation Exalt Academy has successfully retained strong, consistent leaders.

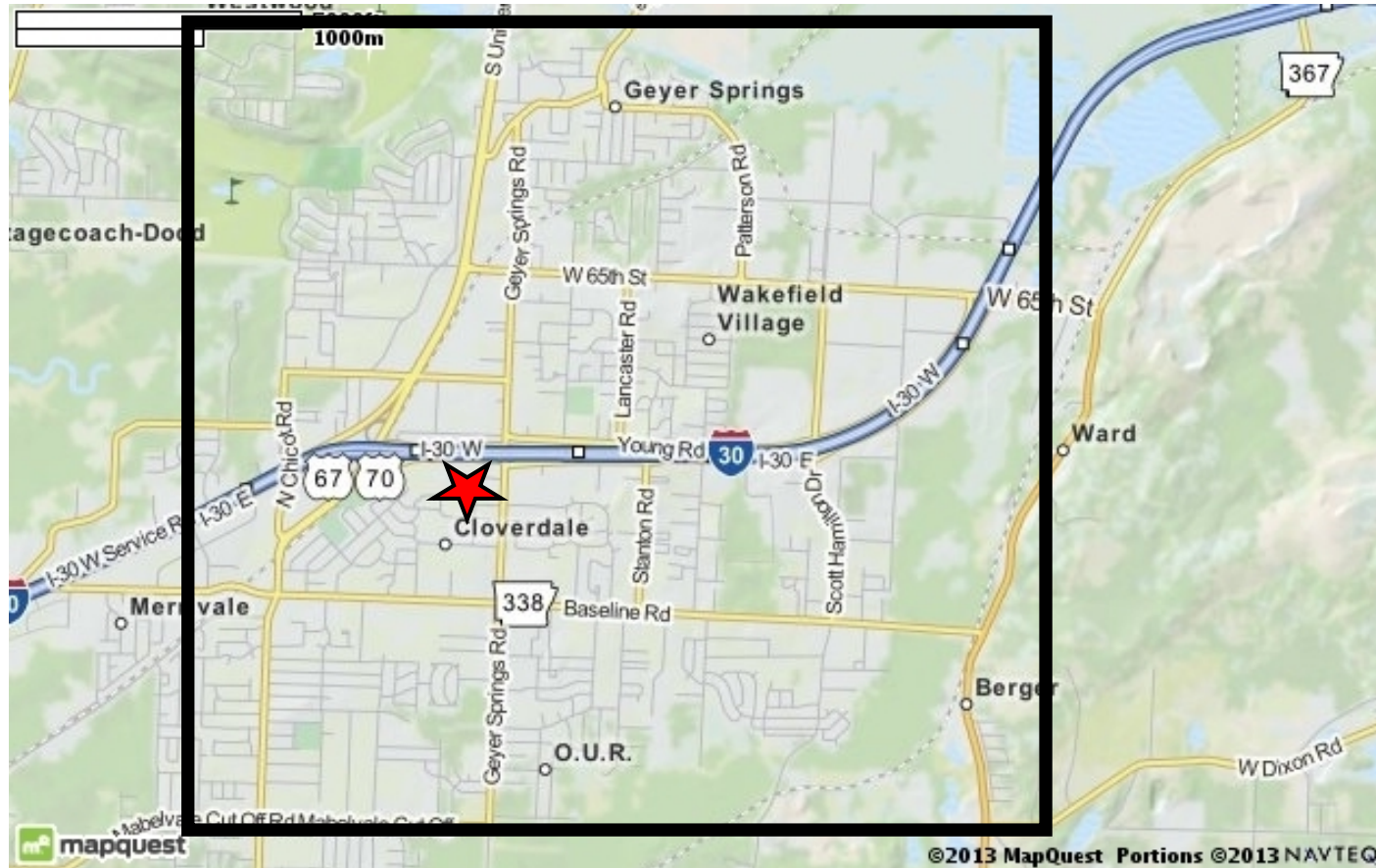
Name	Position	EASW Service	Name	Position	EASW Service
Tina Long	Superintendent	8 Years	Houston Yuille	Dean of Students	3 Years
Dr. Darryle Hinton	School Principal	3 Years	Karliss Chapple	ELA Coach (Grades 2-8)	5 Years
Jesse Wilson	Vice Principal	4 Years	Magali Farfan	ESOL Coordinator	2 Years
Vicki Aas	Instructional Coach (K-1)	5 Years	Linda Mooney	Director of Finance	4 Years
LaRhonda Cook	Math Coach (Grades 2-8)	4 Years	Dennis Tiede	Chief Operating Officer	7 Years
Rebecca Riley	Director of Student Services	4 Years	Joshua Mills	Director of Assessment & Technology	4 Years

# Southwest Little Rock Region



## Boundaries

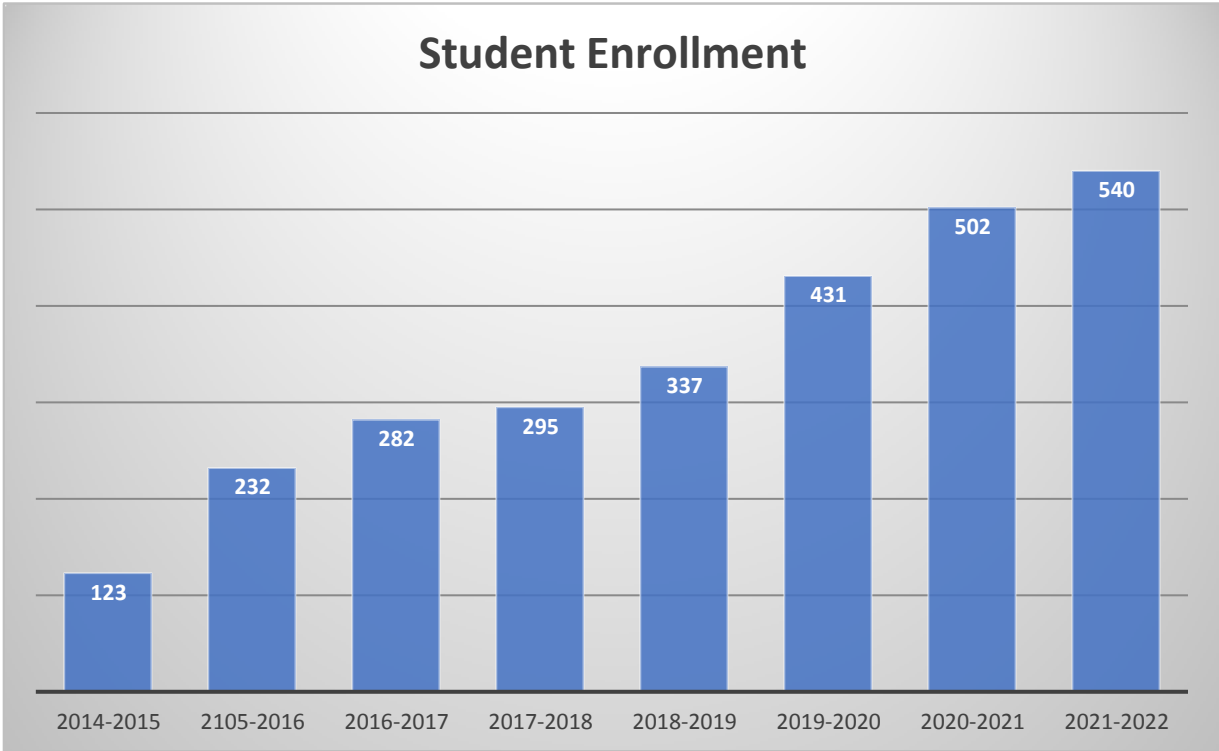
- Asher to North
- Mabelvale Cutoff to South
- City Limits to East
- Stagecoach to West



# Consistently Increasing Demand



Exalt Academy has enjoyed growth in enrollment year over year since our inception.



**Community Public Charter School**  
**Serving 540 Students in Grades K-8**



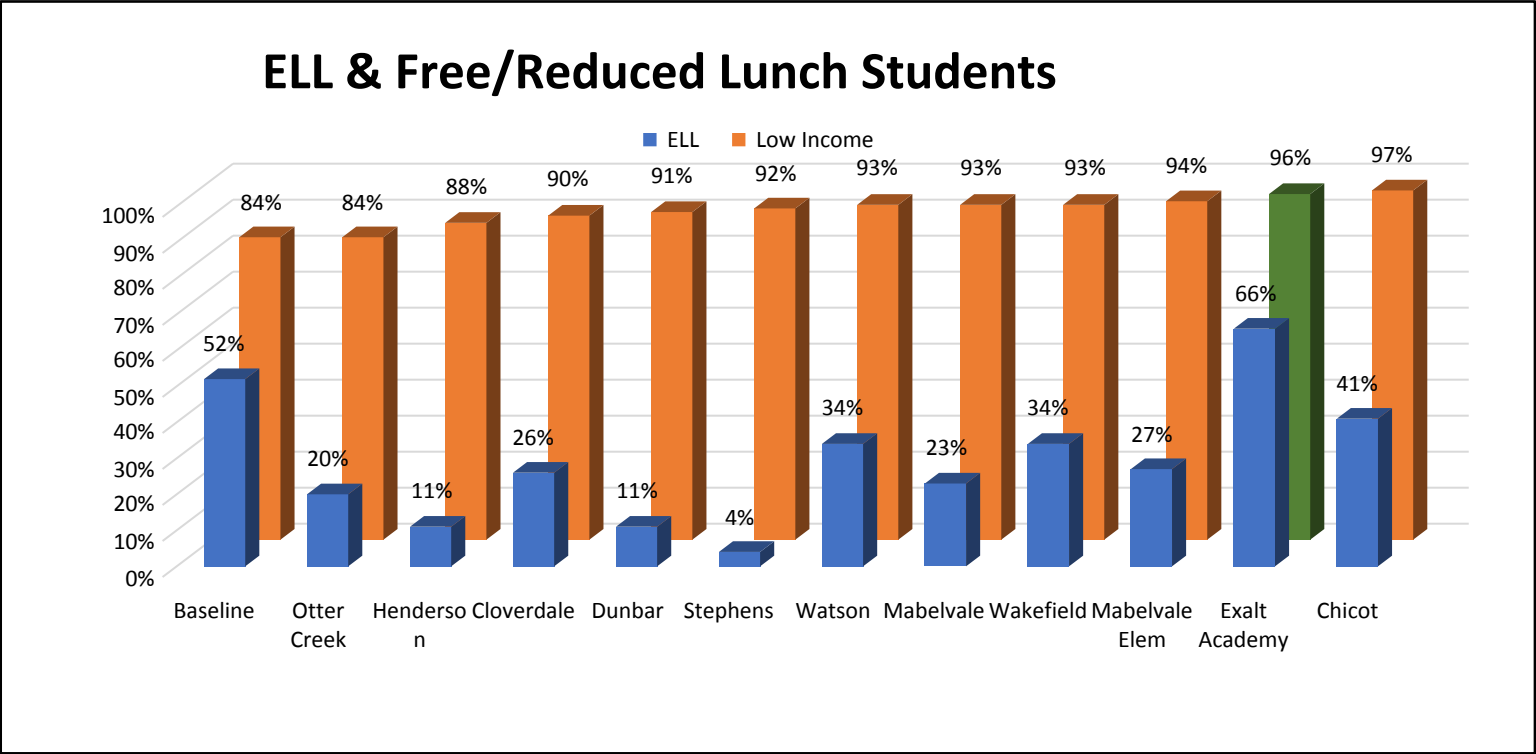
**The table compares Exalt Academy with the surrounding district & state.**

Student Attributes	EASW	Little Rock School District	State of Arkansas
Number of Students	540	24,048	494,601
Free & Reduced Lunch	96%	70.78%	63%
African American	21.9%	63%	20%
Hispanic	75.9%	15%	13%
Two or More Races	2.0%	1%	2%
White	0.2%	18%	61%



# Who We Serve

The Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock Student body boasts a 96% Free and Reduced Lunch rate and has grown our English Language Learners population every year.



# Environmental Challenges



What environmental challenges do our children face?

Personal Challenges	
• Parent absence	• Domestic violence
• Family member incarceration	• Physical, sexual or emotional abuse
• Parent joblessness	• Exposure to pornography
• Drug and alcohol abuse	• Explicit violence
• Health challenges	• Family illness
• Early sexual exposure & teen pregnancy	• Systematic poverty
• Illegal adult immigration	• Custody disputes
• Transportation	• Residential transitions

# The Exalt Academy Model



The Little Rock, AR greater metropolitan area is home to 32,696 low-income individuals.\* Our program is specifically designed to address the needs of our students.

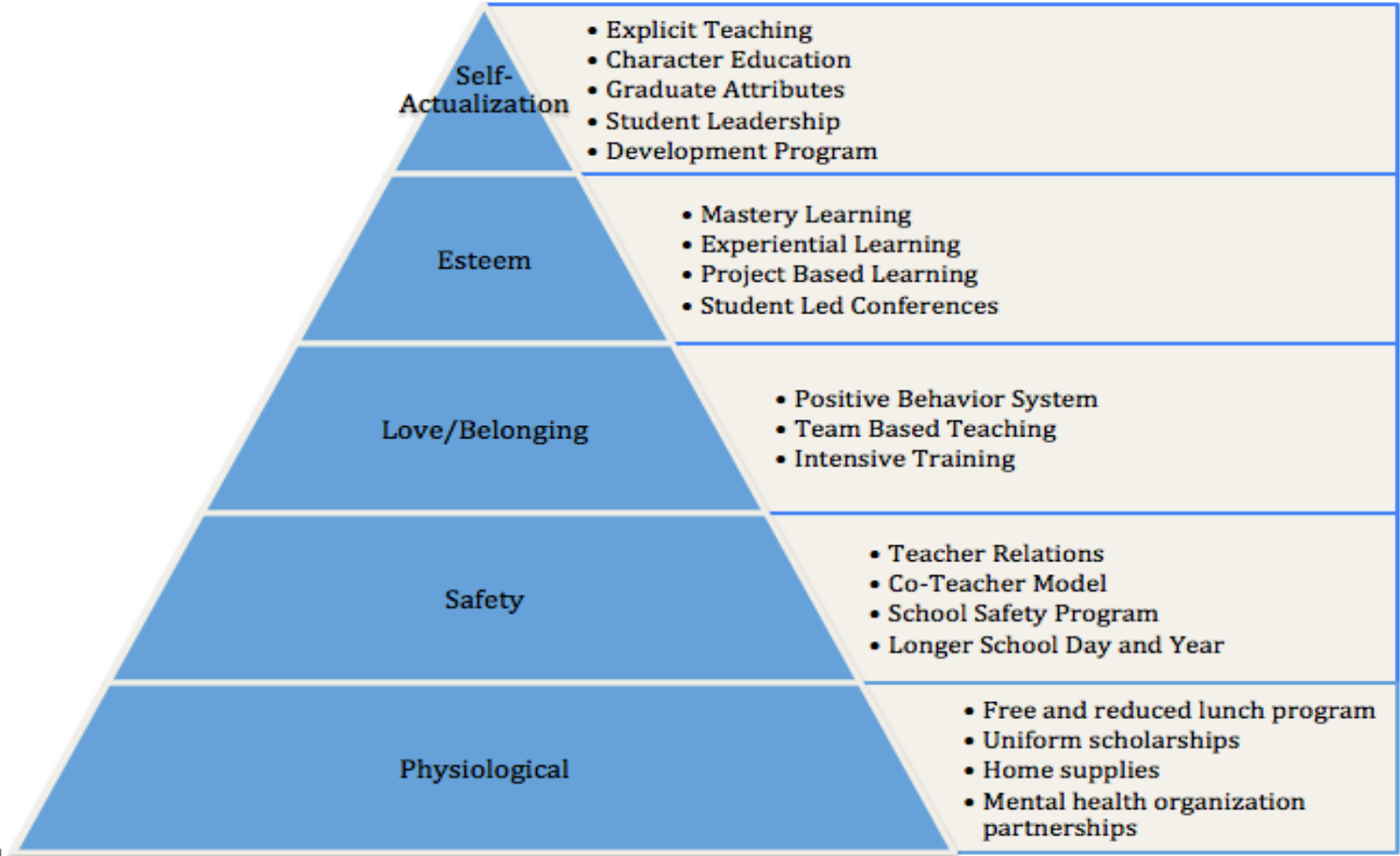
Specialized Features:

- Longer School Day and Longer School Year
- All School RTI (Response to Intervention) Model
- Explicit Instruction
- Low Teacher to Student Ratios
- Key Behaviors:
  - Responsible, Respectful, Trustworthy, Hard - Working, Caring, and Citizenship



Source: \*World Population Review, Little Rock, AR, 2021

# How We Serve Our Students



# Individualized Explicit Instruction



- All Instruction is intentionally designed and delivered based on the learning gaps students may have.
- Students are grouped in fluid homogenous ELA and Math levels to ensure targeted instruction occurs.
- All students are taught to mastery. If students do not learn the materials taught, they will be retaught until demonstrated mastery independently.
  - Professional Learning Community (PLC) School
  - Data Informed Instruction

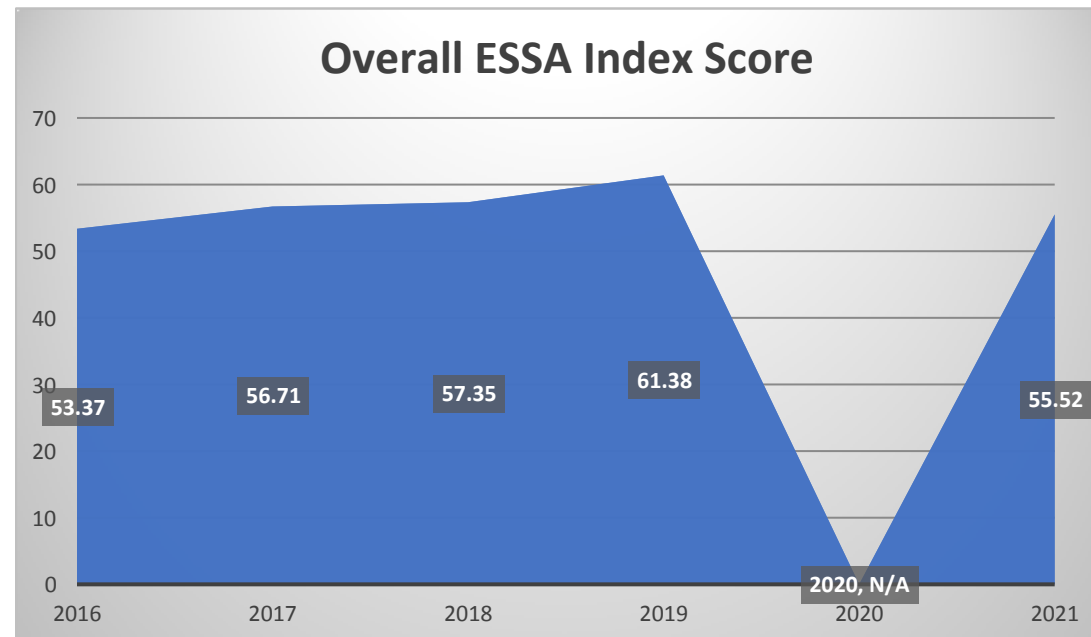
# Full Immersion For Every Student



- English Language Immersion – All Students receive explicit language instruction in small performance groups daily.
- Top tier students who are non English speakers receive a second block of instruction during intervention time.
- All Teachers are trained in sheltered instruction to ensure they are teaching language standards in every subject throughout the day.
- Special Education Immersion where teachers and therapists push into classrooms to execute student IEPs, minimizing pull outs.

## Academic Achievement

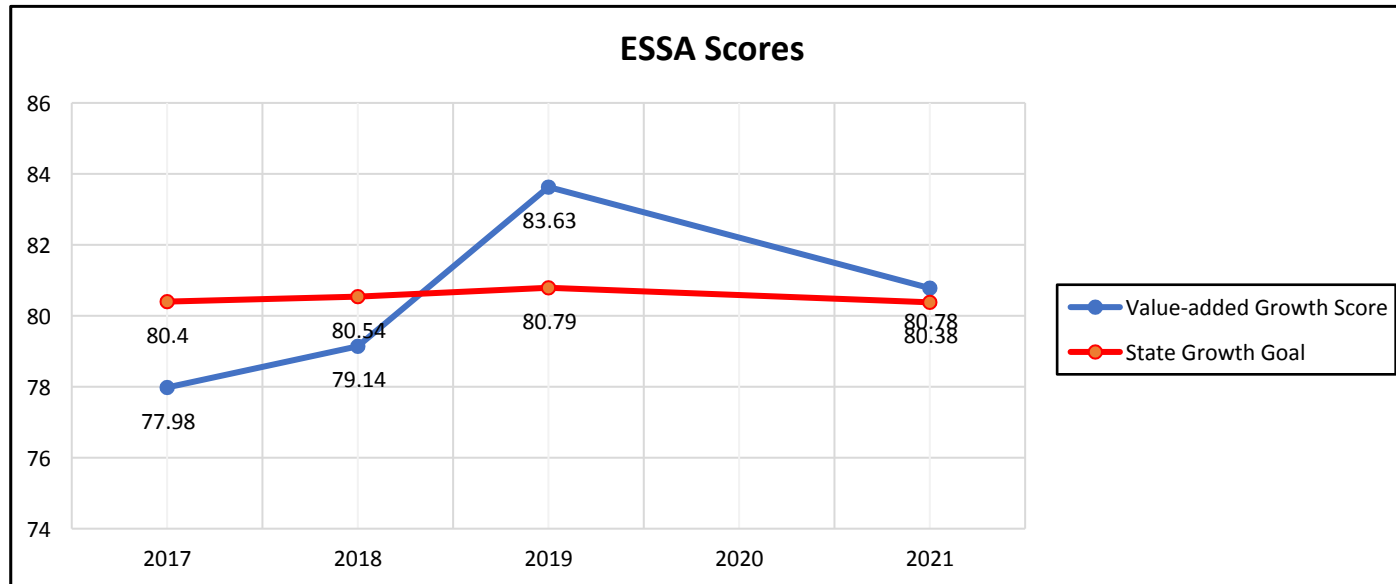
Prior to the pandemic, Exalt Academy was on an upward trend in Overall ESSA scores. After 2020, in which state tests were not conducted, our students performed at a level that proved much learning regression had transpired and there is work to be done in order to recapture pre pandemic progress.



# Academic Growth



Exalt Academy has shown an upward trend in ESSA's Value-Added Growth Score each year that we have participated in testing.

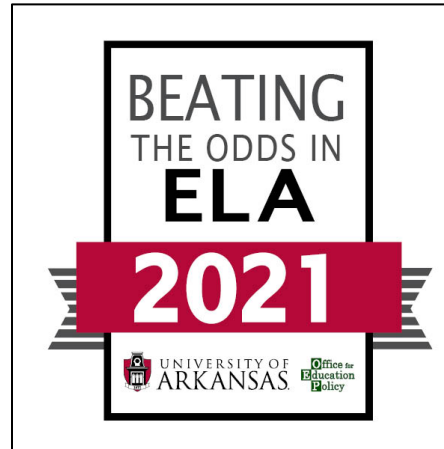




## Academic Growth



Due to the student growth Exalt Academy has been awarded the “Beating The Odds” ELA Growth: Middle Level (Central Region) from the University of Arkansas Office of Educational Policy.



# Summer Academic Regression



Exalt Academy has a longer school year that is designed to provide additional instructional time and limit academic regression over the summer.

2020-21 Spring to 2021-22 Fall RIT Comparisons		
Reading		
	Exalt Academy RIT Comparison	National Average RIT Comparison
KG to 1st	1.95	2.84
1st to 2nd	4.62	0.95
2nd to 3rd	0.81	1.05
3rd to 4th	3.73	-0.45
4th to 5th	0.79	-0.35
5th to 6th	3.33	-0.81
6th to 7th	1.62	-1.18
7th to 8th	0.93	-0.35

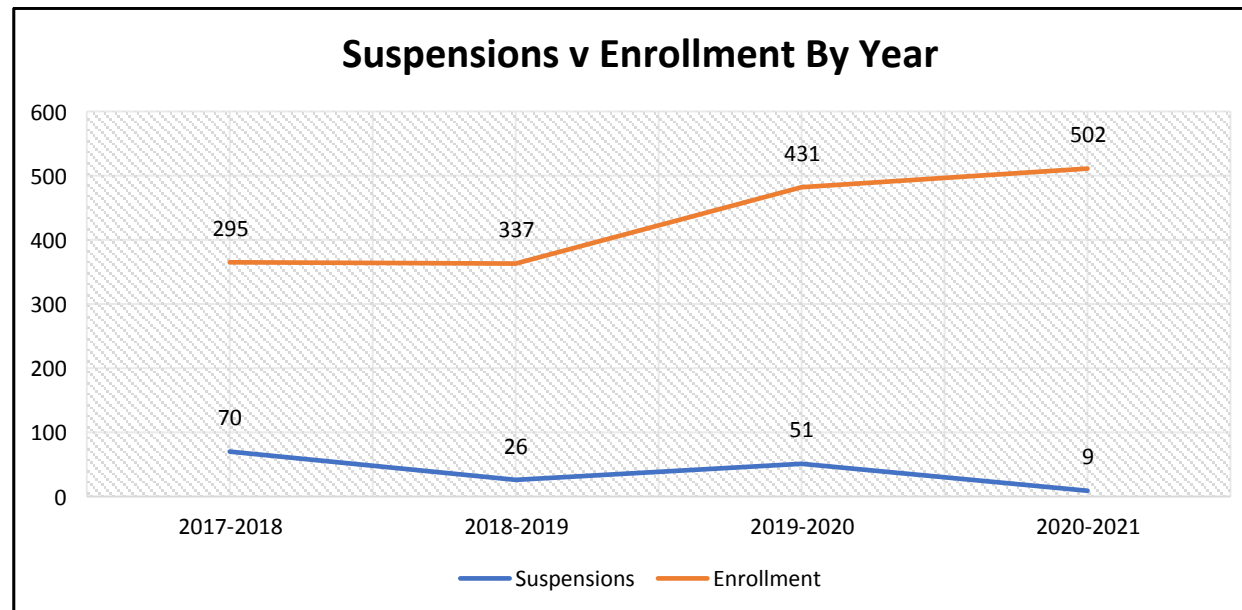
2020-21 Spring to 2021-22 Fall RIT Comparisons		
Math		
	Exalt Academy RIT Comparison	National Average RIT Comparison
KG to 1st	1	2.94
1st to 2nd	0.69	-1.36
2nd to 3rd	1	-0.94
3rd to 4th	0.71	-1.53
4th to 5th	0.81	-1.38
5th to 6th	0	-4
6th to 7th	0.15	-2.67
7th to 8th	-2.2	-1.81

# Student Behavior



Exalt Academy staff consistently teach behavior and prepare students for success by teaching the key behaviors needed to prosper in middle school, high school, college and as citizens in their communities.

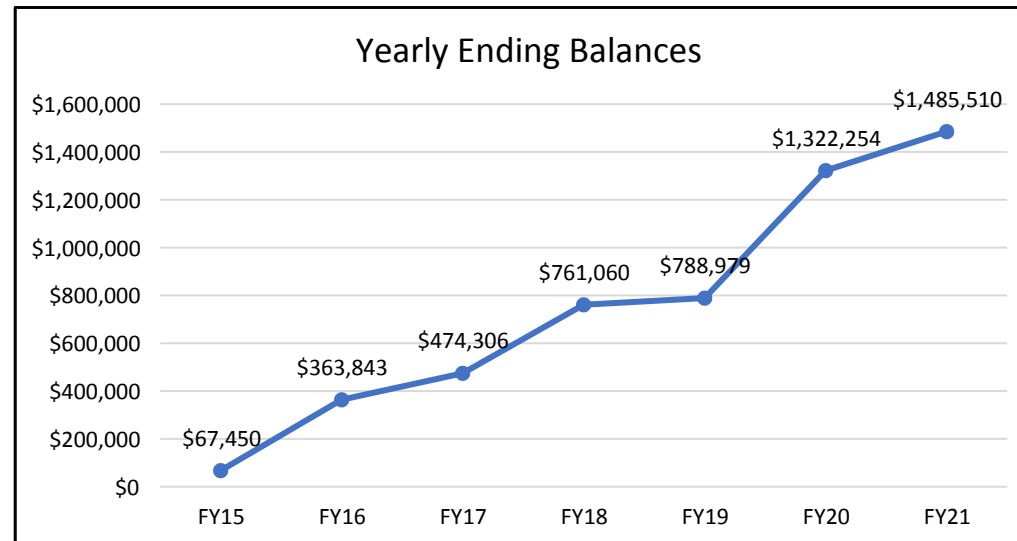
Implementation of the positive behavior plan directly correlates to the steadily decreasing numbers of behavior infractions from year to year.



## Financial Strength

Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock carried a balance of more than \$1,400,000 into the 2021-2022 school year. This carryover balance has been achieved through extensive financial procedures and the focus of the following:

- Director of Finance and Compliance – Full Time
- Chief Operating Officer – Full Time
- Arkansas Public Schools Resource Center (APSRC) - Contract





## Permanent Educational Home

One of the most difficult obstacles charter schools face is finding stable, affordable facilities in their target location for the long term education of students.

The chief obstacle Exalt Academy students face is a lack of stability in their home life. That is why we are proud to provide that stability in their educational home.

In May 2021 Exalt Academy purchased the property located at 6111 W 83<sup>rd</sup> Street in Little Rock. This is the same location that has been leased since the beginning of operations.

- Reduced annual occupancy cost by 39%
- Saving over \$150,000 annually
- Property will be fully purchased in five years
- Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock carries a \$1,485,510 fund reserve after closing on purchase.



## Our Request

- Approval of a Ten Year Charter Renewal.
- Increase of Enrollment Cap of 108 Students Per School Year, Total of 540 additional.

Exalt Academy has shown year over year enrollment increases since the beginning of operations, currently sitting at the cap of 540 students. In order to continue to broaden impact on the Southwest Little Rock community, Exalt Academy requests the enrollment cap move to 1080. This would be an incremental change adding 108 students to the cap every year for five years.



**QUESTIONS ?**