



Southwest Community  
Public Charter Schools

**Serving The Greatest Need**

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**Arkansas State  
Charter Authorizing Panel  
April 17, 2025**

A group of diverse young children, likely of Asian descent, are gathered in a classroom. They are wearing blue and white school uniforms. Several children are smiling and waving at the camera. The background shows classroom desks and other students. The text "Part One. Who We Are." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Part One. Who We Are.

Exalt Academy's mission is rooted in our **Southwest Little Rock** community.

Exalt Academy prepares students from **educationally underserved** 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.

Our Governing Board of Directors are **pillars** of our community.

Name	Start Date	Affiliations
Hon. Latonya Austin-Honorable (Chair)	1/10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circuit Judge for the State of Arkansas</li> </ul>
Maria Weyrens (Vice Chair)	12/17/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Security Bank;</li> <li>• Mamas Unidas</li> </ul>
Kevin Scribner	2/25/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First State Bank of Lonoke</li> </ul>
Ashley Barnes	10/26/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT&amp;T</li> </ul>
Chanda Young-Olive	3/21/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arkansas Department of Education</li> </ul>
Toni Brown	10/26/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Arkansas at Little Rock</li> </ul>
Sandra Camona-Jobe	7/16/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Arkansas at Little Rock;</li> <li>• TRIO Program;</li> <li>• Mamas Unidas</li> </ul>
Ashley McDonald	7/16/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Excel Center</li> </ul>

Exalt Academy currently provides services for 775 students in our K-8 school.

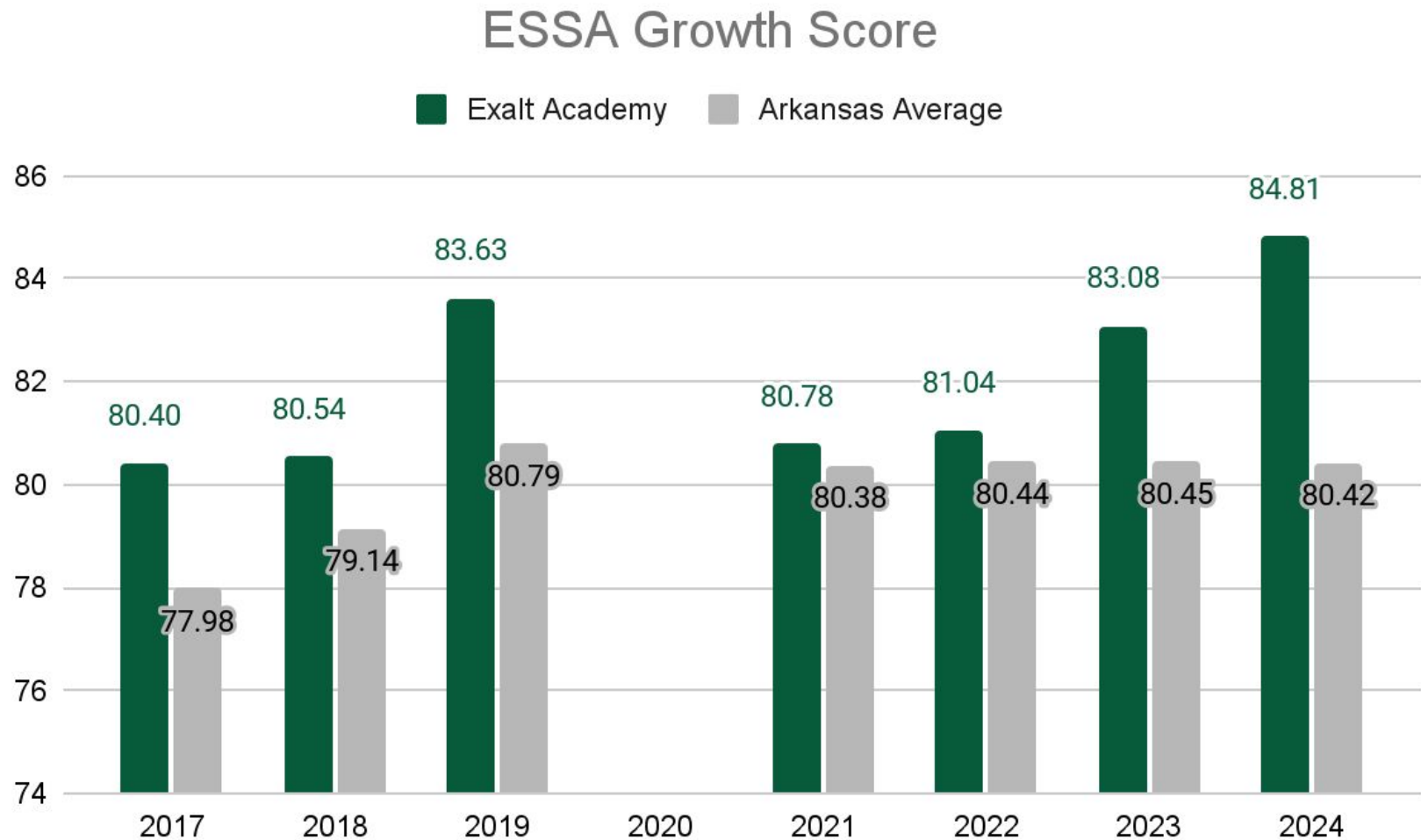
Student Attributes	Exalt Academy	Little Rock School District	State of Arkansas
Number of Students	775	19,565	474,337
Free & Reduced Lunch	96%	72%	60%
African American	14.9%	57%	19%
Hispanic	82.9%	18%	15.4%
White	1.5%	18.8%	57.1%
English Language Learners	70%	17%	9%

**Exalt Academy compared to Little Rock School District and State Data.**



Our **academic growth** is among the best in the state.

Our K-8 School has exceeded the state growth goal for the last **SEVEN** tested school years. In 2024, we earned our highest growth score, 84.81!



84.81

Overall Value-Added Growth Score

# 83/1054

Exalt Academy's Rank among **All** Schools

# 94th

Percentile Rank for Overall Growth  
among Middle Schools

# 88th

Percentile Rank for Overall Growth in  
Math and ELA Combined Content

# 74th

Percentile Rank for Math Growth

# 96th

Percentile Rank for ELA Growth



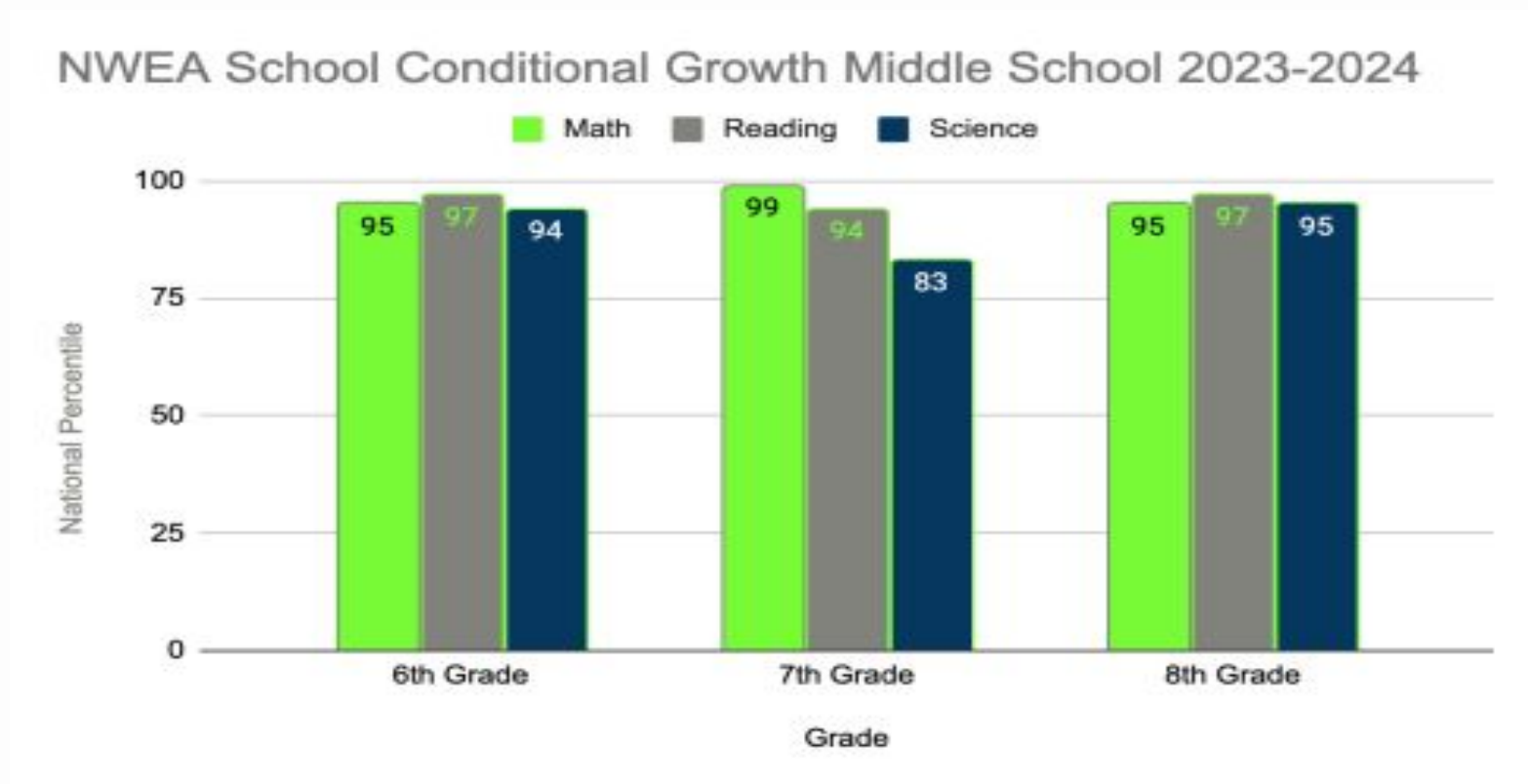
# 2nd

Our Gifted and Talented program Ranked  
2nd in the State for Highest GT Growth for  
Districts serving under 1000 Students



Office for  
Education  
Policy

Exalt Academy's middle school ranks among the top performers nationally on the NWEA MAP assessment. While the national average for conditional growth is the 50th percentile, EASW middle school students consistently score around the 95th percentile in reading, math, and science—meaning they outpaced 95% of their peers across the country.



Exalt Academy is a **safe choice** for our community's families.

Exalt Academy's goal is simple—minimize distractions and create a learning environment where every student feels safe, supported, and ready to succeed.

# Our Discipline Data Compared to LRSD Schools

School	Total Enrollment	Out-of-School Suspensions	Expulsions
Dunbar	346	334	6
J A Fair K-8	801	421	11
Mabelvale MS	565	414	18
Mann Magnet	641	525	62
Cloverdale	655	575	20
<b>Exalt Academy</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>

Exalt Academy currently has an enrollment cap of 1,080 students.

At 775 students, our facilities are at capacity, and every square foot is working overtime.





# Why Expansion is Urgent

- Only **one shared space** for gym & cafeteria
- **12+ staff members** without office space
- **6 mobile teachers** rotating through prep-time classrooms
- **No room to grow** enrollment or expand programming to reach our cap

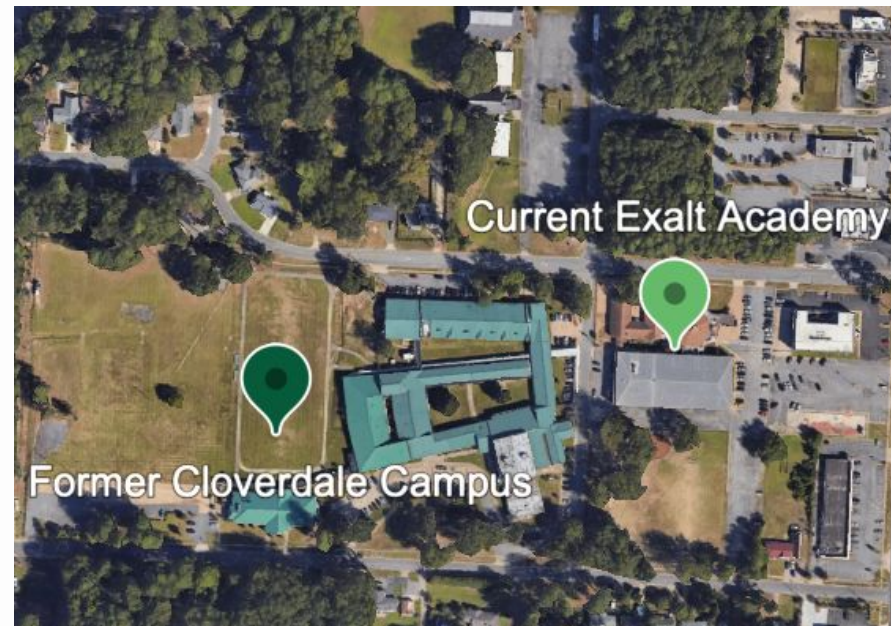
# We Need

- More Classrooms
- More Common Areas
- More Learning Labs
- More Room for EAST and PLTW
- More Science Labs

Our **solution** is to purchase and renovate the former Cloverdale school.

# The Former Cloverdale Campus: A Strategic Opportunity

- Located next door to our current campus
- Perfectly positioned for seamless expansion
- Allows us to stay rooted in our community





# Smart, Sustainable Growth

- Current mortgage paid off by April 2026
- Second campus lease ends July 2026
- No existing debt
- Cost-neutral transition:  
Savings from mortgage + lease  $\approx$  New  
Cloverdale mortgage
- Term Sheet submitted
- Budget Projections submitted

***We're growing without adding new financial burden.***

# A Campus Designed around Student Needs

## Learning Spaces

- 54 additional classrooms
- Science labs
- OT & PT spaces



# A Campus Designed around Student Needs

## Arts and Support

- Band rooms
- Nurse's office
- Additional cafeteria





# A Campus Designed around Student Needs

## Athletics

- Full Gym
- Many sports rooms
- 11 acres of athletic fields



# Building for the Future

Our renovation includes a full structural and environmental upgrade to ensure our students learn in a safe, efficient, and welcoming space:

- Structural and plumbing analysis for building longevity
- Lighting upgrades for energy efficiency and visual comfort
- Increased natural light to support well-being and engagement

# Safe. Secure. Ready.

Every detail of the Cloverdale renovation plan is built around student safety:

- Comprehensive safety analysis
- Life safety system installation
- Updated camera and alarm systems
- Restructured for single-point building access
- Safety corridors for secure internal movement

In Our Backyard.  
In Our Community.

This expansion keeps us close to home.

Exalt Academy is ready to grow—not just in size, but in impact.

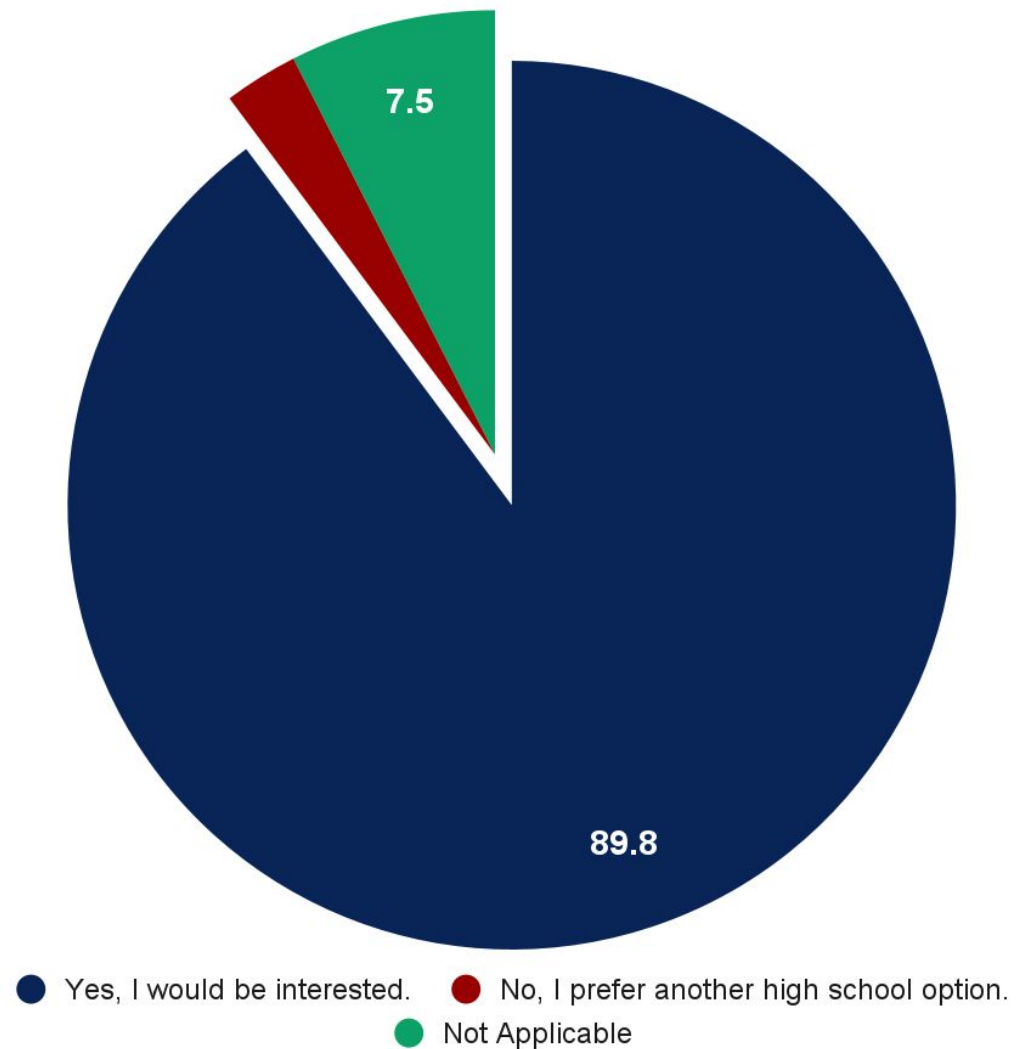


# Part Three. The Need for Exalt Academy High School.



# Recent Family Survey Results

“If Exalt Academy expands to include a high school, would you be interested in your 8th grade student continuing with us for high school?”



Governor Sanders and DESE have called on schools to ensure that **every high school graduate** has access to the additional **credentials, skills, or certifications** needed to succeed in today's economy.

Exalt Academy's High School model is a direct answer to that clarion call.





We are committed to ensuring that each student graduates with both a diploma and a plan for success.

We will offer **three tiers of graduation**, each aligned with college, career, and workforce readiness:

- **High School Diploma**
- **Diploma with Merit**
- **Diploma with Distinction**



Regardless of tier, all Exalt Academy graduates will complete:

- ✓ A Success-Ready Pathway
- ✓ 75 documented hours of community service
- ✓ CPR certification
- ✓ A passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam



### **Our graduation goal:**

- 50–60% of students earning a **Diploma with Merit**
- 5–10% earning a **Diploma with Distinction**

### **Exalt Success-Ready Pathway Guide** (provided with Executive Summary)

- 18 different pathways for students
- Academic, Mental Health, and Basic Needs Supports
- Extracurricular Activities.



When asked which **Success-Ready Pathways** Exalt families wanted most for their students, these were the top five selected:

1. **Nursing** – 57.8%
2. **Engineering** – 57.1%
3. **Banking and Finance** – 47.6%
4. **Architecture / Construction** – 44.2%
5. **Computer Science – IT, Software Development, and Cybersecurity** – 36.7%

To honor this clear and direct feedback from our families, **Exalt Academy will include all five of these pathways** in our high school programming.

A huge part of a high school's success begins in a school's elementary and middle school programs.

As we planned for high school expansion, Exalt Academy intentionally began building **early momentum** in our middle grades.



Our current 8th graders can already earn **five high school credits**:

- English 9
- Algebra I
- Pre-AP World History and Geography
- Pre-AP Biology / Physical Science
- Pre-AP Art

Beginning next year, 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to earn **additional high school credits**:

- Spanish 1 or Heritage Spanish 1

This means that some Exalt students will enter high school a **full year ahead** of their peers in traditional models.



This is important for two reasons:

1. It enables students to **graduate early** or **dual-enroll sooner**, accessing college-level coursework ahead of schedule.

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2. It also gives students the **flexibility** to extend their senior year at Exalt Academy—earning **advanced credentials, certifications, or apprenticeship** experience before graduation.



Exalt Academy's proposed master schedule shifts to a 13-week trimester system:

**The extended year mirrors our current K-8**

- **More** instructional time
- Fewer daily prep obligations for teachers
- Easier **credit recovery**
- Greater elective and work-based **learning opportunities** are available, especially for upperclassmen

**Math & ELA taught all year**; science includes a dedicated trimester for labs



**Honoring the heritage of 70 percent of our current student body:**

- Preparing students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy
- Biliteracy advances academic achievement across all domains.





Our proposal reflects an expansion grounded in:

- Starting in 2026-2027 School year
- High Community interest
- Existing success at the middle school level
- Strong student support services (mental health, academic tutoring, mentorship)
- Commitment to CTE and College Readiness
- An innovative Success Ready Pathway Guide
- Financial Start-up Support
- History of strong financial management and clean audits
- Visionary leadership and staffing aligned with Exalt Academy's Core Values

We're not starting from scratch. We're building on success—with a community that's ready, and a vision that's clear.

# Our Requests



1. Purchase of Former LRSD campus to Exalt Academy Buildings
2. Approval to add grade levels 9-12 and 800 High School Students



# QUESTIONS?