



TIM GRIFFIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 4, 2021

Deborah Coffman
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Ms. Coffman and the Charter Authorizing Panel,

I am writing in strong support of the charter application of the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy (AMFRA). In my time as Lieutenant Governor, I have advocated strongly for school choice and workforce education because I know additional education options for Arkansas families will make our state stronger.

The AMFRA will be a military academy that uses the junior ROTC curriculum with a "first responders" (fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, etc.) elective concentration and focuses on a college-preparatory instructional framework. The "first responders" academic and extracurricular program will introduce students to an array of work-study occupations and provide work-study opportunities with existing public and private institutions. The AMFRA sponsors have opened 11 military academies operating in four states and these states have seen great results. The academies on average serve a student population which is greater than 80% minority and 80% below the poverty line, with high academic achievement. Specifically, the Phoenix and Rickover academies (both in Chicago) outperform the district average in reading and math scores by 25-100%.

The AMFRA will provide a unique learning opportunity for students to develop discipline, work ethic and leadership. The opportunities this Academy will provide to students of all backgrounds to pursue military and other service-oriented careers are commendable.

Thank you for your service and leadership in Arkansas education. Please contact me at 501-682-2144 if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Griffin".

Tim Griffin
Lieutenant Governor