

BATESVILLE

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

409 Vine Street | Batesville, Arkansas 72501 | www.batesvilleareachamber.com

July 15, 2020

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Learning Services
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #3
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commissioner Key,

It is my pleasure to express support from the Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce for the Batesville School District conversion charter school. The purpose of the conversion charter is to prepare students for success by offering individual college and career pathway opportunities through a strategic advising program. The program will also offer support in participation in paid internships & apprenticeship opportunities.

The vision for the charter school is directly in line with the county strategic plan, IMPACT. The grassroots plan, developed by our citizens, encourages progressive initiatives to address community and economic development priorities. Batesville School District has embraced the plan and incorporated the initiatives into the new proposed program to meet the needs of our students and our community.

In collaboration with business and industry leaders, healthcare providers, and institutions of higher education, students are able to discover, experience and prepare for their future by participating in the new educational and career pathway opportunities.

We look forward to working with Batesville School District on this innovative learning experience that will improve the lives of our students.

Sincerely,



Crystal Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

— BATESVILLE  —
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Stu Smith
2605 Franklin Street
Batesville, Arkansas 72501-7738

870-612-3974 Business
stu22200@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 63

Counties:

Part Independence

COMMITTEES:

Revenue and Taxation

Vice Chairperson,

Sales, Use, Miscellaneous Taxes and
Exemptions Subcommittee

Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
and Military Affairs

Legislative, Military and Veterans
Affairs Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Public Retirement
and Social Security Programs

July 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to give my full support for the Batesville High School Conversion Charter School application. The Conversion Charter School will prepare students for individual college and career pathways by giving them experience through Batesville High Schools' partnerships with community business and industry leaders, healthcare providers, and institutions of higher education. This will be achieved by implementing a strategic Guided Pathway System (GPS) for advising, which will direct students into various Pioneer Future's Academies and participation in paid internships and apprenticeships.

Over the last few years, Batesville School District has worked to provide innovative approaches to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or the workforce. As a result, Batesville High School has been recognized for its achievements throughout our state. Additionally, their work directly aligns with the IMPACT Independence County initiatives organized by the Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce that is designed to improve the quality of life, quality of place, and economic opportunities for all county residents.

I look forward to working with Batesville High School on this innovative project and am excited to see the positive impact it will have on students and the community. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart A. Smith".

Stu Smith
State Representative
District 63

SS/mjs



July 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (UACCB) is proud to fully support Batesville High Schools' request for Conversion Charter status. The request exemplifies the district's continued desire to seek a variety of methods to promote educational goal obtainment for all learners.

The Batesville High Schools' request for Conversion Charter status will allow the district to continue to develop innovative approaches to preparing students for post-secondary education and/or the workforce. The Conversion Charter will provide in-depth information on career fields, allowing students to receive deliberate guided academic advising interactions. Students will receive direct exposure to post-secondary education and the skill sets necessary to be successful in particular career pathways via internships and apprenticeships established by the school district. With this foundation students will affirm whether or not the career field meets their professional goals, saving time and money. Additionally, the students are provided the opportunity to earn industrial certification and college credit hours as some students choose to enroll in the UACCB Secondary Area Career Center.

The Batesville School District aligned the Conversion Charter with educational and community goals of the IMPACT Independence County initiatives, the county's strategic plan. Batesville School District's Conversion Charter will allow the development of well-prepared students that possess skills necessary for success in the workplace, a technical school, a community college or a university. In today's economy the opportunity to leverage resources for families, the school district and the college is a much-needed outcome.

These goals will be achieved by providing an environment that promotes the importance and value of each student's potential through a collaboration with students, parents, the school district and UACCB. Again, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support on behalf of Batesville School District's request to seek conversion charter school status. I will be glad to address any questions regarding this opportunity. I can be reached at 870-612-2001 or debbie.frazier@uaccb.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah J. Frazier".

Deborah J. Frazier
Chancellor

University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

P.O. Box 3350 / Batesville, Arkansas 72503-3350 / 870-612-2000 / Fax 870-793-4988
UACCB is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



July 13, 2020

Dr. Michael Hester
Superintendent, Batesville School District
2473 East Main Street
Batesville, AR 72501

Dear Dr. Hester,

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July 20, 2020


To Whom it May Concern,

The continual growth and investment in the future of our youth and our community is vital. Batesville School Districts has worked diligently to research evidenced-based methods that will not only improve the knowledgebase, but the skillset of our youth, which will one day impact the community and all others' that they engage with. From this interaction with Batesville School Districts, we have been informed of opportunities that can be provided for our youth. Specifically, those individuals that may in other circumstances, not have the opportunity to seek additional education, training, and skillset that will assist them in their futures. This advantage will provide them with a jump start on preferred career pathways, college entries, and future employment opportunities. White River Health System supports Batesville High Schools' Charter Conversion and the opportunities it will provide the youth of today and tomorrow, as well as the benefits our community will receive from this advanced method of education.

As mentioned above, the Charter Conversion will allow students an advancement in college and career pathways. Early program starts and financial advantages of these programs make them attainable for the youth of all backgrounds and interests. Batesville School District works with the student's and their families to make the best match possible for the students' guided pathways and college/career pathways. Personal interests and goals are considered when developing these scholastic plans to uniquely fit the students' needs and desires. These innovative approaches and applications will make a significant impact on the students as well as prepare them for collegiate programs and the workforce.

As mentioned previously, White River Health System has worked closely with the surrounding districts to improve the involvement and field exposure of the students in order to assist in their scholastic and career journeys. We look forward to a continued partnership with Batesville School Districts and assisting them to progress the education and foundation of its students.

Respectfully,



Gary W. Paxson, RN, BSN, MS
President & CEO
White River Health System