

May 15, 2023



Charter Authorizing Panel  
c/o Ms. Dorie Summons  
Charter School Office  
Arkansas Department of Education  
4 State Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Members of the Charter Authorizing Panel and Ms. Summons:

Arkansas Learns is the *Voice of Consumers* of education, advancing student-focus, transparency, accountability, rewards and choice in Arkansas. Please accept our letter in support of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies as it applies to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Northwest Arkansas in the Fall of 2024.

The proposed charter school plans to provide a rigorous, high-quality, college preparatory education for all students. The Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will be a part of the BASIS Charter Schools network, which is a top performing nationwide network of 40 schools in Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, D.C. BASIS has been operating schools since 1998, and its schools have consistently ranked among the Best Charter High Schools list by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Students in Northwest Arkansas deserve another excellent, free, open-enrollment school. Demand for better options is evidenced by the persistent waitlists for charter schools in the area. We need more schools that can meet this demand, and that can raise the bar for academic excellence. Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies is just such a school, and its academic program will help set a higher bar in our state.

It is also our hope is that school districts will want to partner with Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies. If local districts come with open hearts and minds, we believe BASIS's arrival can herald improved results for all of our children.

In our experience, choice improves not only the school chosen, but those competing. And choice should be between or among good to great options.

Our state will be stronger, and our students better prepared for college and citizenship, once Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies is serving Arkansas's children. We thank you for your service and respectfully urge you to approve this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Newton", is written over the typed name and title.

Gary Newton  
President & CEO

# THE LIBRE INSTITUTE

May 15, 2023

Ms. Dorie Summons  
Charter School Office  
Arkansas Department of Education  
4 State Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR

Dear Ms. Summons,

The Libre Institute is excited to hear the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies has submitted its application to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Northwest Arkansas in the fall of 2024.

The Hispanic/Latino families in our community understand the life-changing value of educational opportunities. And they know that every student in America deserves a quality education that fits their unique talents. Time and time again, polls have shown that Hispanics rank education as a top issue for their families.

Hispanic/Latino families also know that their children have different learning styles, abilities, and talents that are best met when they can access several educational options. As evidence of this, Hispanics consistently show higher support for educational opportunity policies compared to other demographic groups. Our diversity strengthens our country and communities, and we deserve educational options capable of fully leveraging it.

Adding another high-performing charter school organization in Arkansas can open doors for many underserved students to access outstanding educational opportunities. Please give their application every possible consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Israel Rodriguez  
Director  
The Libre Institute – Arkansas



WALTON FAMILY  
F O U N D A T I O N



May 11, 2023

Ms. Dorie Summons  
Charter School Office  
Arkansas Department of Education  
4 State Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR

Dear Ms. Summons,

Please accept this letter in support of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies as they apply to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Northwest Arkansas in the fall of 2024. The proposed charter school has plans to provide a rigorous, high-quality, college preparatory education for all students. The Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will be a part of the BASIS Charter Schools network, which is a top performing nationwide network, with 40 schools in Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, D.C. BASIS has been operating schools since 1998 and their schools have consistently ranked in the Best Charter High Schools list by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The addition of this high performing charter school organization in Arkansas will open doors for many underserved students to have access to outstanding educational opportunities. I respectfully ask you to give their application every possible consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Crouch".

**Michael Crouch**

Senior Program Officer

Walton Personal Philanthropy Group

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