

JANE ENGLISH

SENATOR
13TH DISTRICT
(501) 257-7670
jane.english@senate.ar.gov

3 GREAT OAK COURT
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72116



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR:
EDUCATION

MEMBER:
TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
JOINT ENERGY
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JOINT BUDGET
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING

May 15, 2023

Ms. Dorie Summons
Charter School Office
Arkansas Department of Education
4 State Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Ms. Summons:

Please accept this letter in support of the Academies of Math and Science Little Rock as it applies to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Little Rock in the fall of 2024. The proposed charter school has plans to serve in a high-poverty area to provide a quality college preparatory education for all students. The Academies of Math and Science has developed and operated a successful charter model that has proven results with high-poverty populations in Arizona for over 10 years.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane English".

Jane English
State Senator
District 13

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



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 of support on behalf of the Academies of Math and Science Little Rock as they apply to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Little Rock in the fall of 2024. After speaking with their leadership about their academic plan, I have been impressed with their commitment to serve all students and specifically to target high poverty areas. Their track record of over 10 years in Arizona speaks to their expectations of success for all.

Their desire to open a new charter school in Arkansas and specifically in Little Rock will allow an additional quality school option that can transform the lives of families and their students. I request that you give their application full consideration. Thank you for the work that you and your team do.

Sincerely,

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

Michael Crouch

Senior Program Officer

Walton Personal Philanthropy Group

michael.crouch@wppg.org

Mobile: 479-544-7011



Business matters.

May 15, 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 Academies of Math and Science Little Rock as they apply to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Little Rock in the fall of 2024. The proposed charter school has plans to serve in a high poverty area to provide quality college preparatory education for all students. The Academies of Math and Science have developed and operated a successful charter model that has proven results with high poverty populations in Arizona for over 10 years.

The addition of a new 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,



Randy Zook
President and CEO

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 this letter in support of the Academies of Math and Science Little Rock as it applies to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Little Rock in the fall of 2024.

The proposed charter school has plans to serve in a high poverty area to provide quality college preparatory education for all students. The Academies of Math and Science has developed and operated a successful charter model that has proven results with high poverty populations in Arizona for over ten years.

I had the opportunity to personally meet with leaders of the new school and left very impressed by their vision and intentions for Arkansas and her students.

Students in Central 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. The Academies of Math and Science 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 the Academies of Math and Science. If local districts come with open hearts and minds, we believe the charter'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 the Academies of Math and Science 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 Academies of Math and Science Little Rock has submitted its application to the Arkansas Department of Education to open an open-enrollment charter school in Arkansas in the fall of 2024.

The Hispanic 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 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 Little Rock 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

